



news from

Norwich Road Academy



Summer - 2026

Welcome to our Academy Newsletter - Summer - 2026



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Principal's Introduction

Welcome to our end of Summer term newsletter

Our focus academy Value this half term has been 'Transform'.

We focus on this value during the summer term as we have many changes to prepare for at this time of year. We prepare for our new classes after the summer break and, for our Year 6, new schools! We encourage the children to reflect on how far they have come and to celebrate their achievements. There are often many! Changes that occur as we grow are covered too. This includes physical changes and the increasing responsibility as we become more independent.

I am very proud of our school and the children's achievements. We are able to see this every day, as they apply themselves in the classroom and in their work. They are kind and helpful with each other too. **Norwich Road Academy ALWAYS receives lots of positive feedback**, when we are out in the wider community or when visitors meet them. Children are regularly praised on their manners and conduct. We all work hard on this. However, this term we have had more public recognition too! You will see this further in the newsletter.

I am pleased to be able to share with you that we are having a number of substantial building works completed over the summer. These works will have a further positive impact on our school community when they are completed. It has been a personal mission of mine, to address the negative aspects of the site that I inherited. I am pleased that I have been able to secure many improvements so far and have more plans, moving forward. This is to provide a school that is pleasant and supportive to your children so they can achieve their best, and one to be even more proud of!

Thank you for your ongoing support. The great things we achieve is not possible alone. It comes with the support of the school community around it and everyone working together. We are all sharing the same aim: for the success of the children at Norwich Road Academy.

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable Summer break. The 1st and 2nd September are school training days. Our office will be open. Children return for learning on Thursday 3rd September.

Julia Miles

Principal

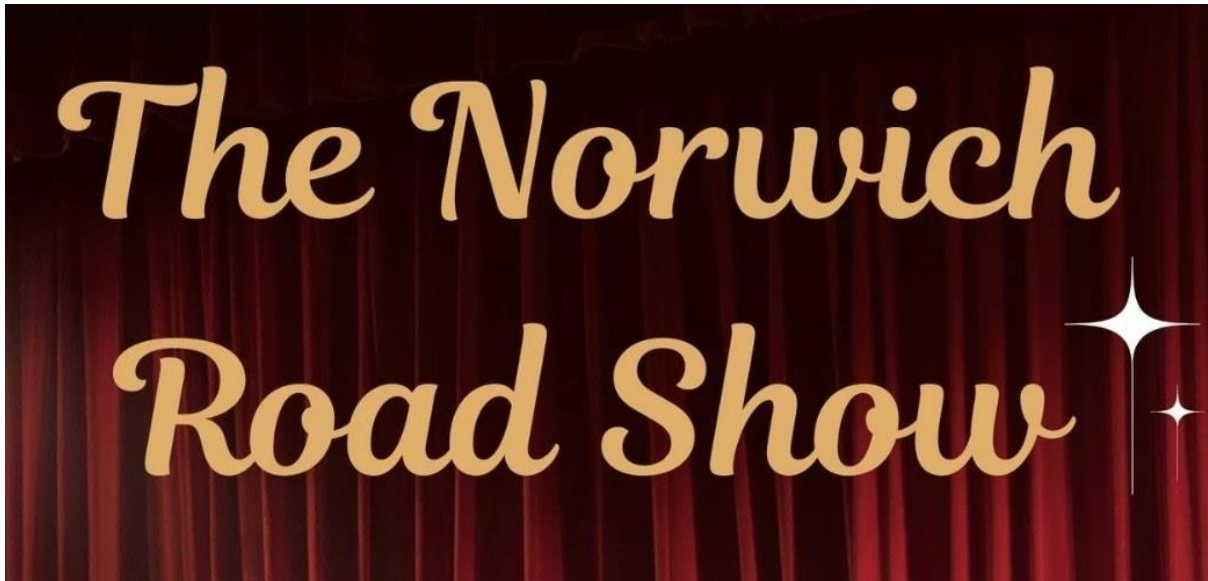
P.S. Please remember to sign up for Class Dojo, and that we have Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. We often post pictures of our busy young people, along with academy updates on these platforms. Give us a follow





holidays

'The Norwich Road Show'



A big 'Thank you' to our School Council, and Miss Archibald for organising the **Norwich Road Show** this year.

This was a great opportunity for children to be able to show off their talents. We do have some very talented children here! School Council held auditions and all of the children across the academy were able to vote for their chosen winner after the grand final.

3rd place went to a very talented pupil, Jakub, who demonstrated that he could solve a Rubik's Cube in record time!

2nd place was awarded to an amazing cheerleading and gymnastics duo, Julia and Maja. We were blown away by their skills!

An incredible singer, Ibrahim, who performed his rendition of Billie Jean, was crowned the winner! He really did steal the show with his stage presence and dance moves!

All funds raised were donated to the RSPCA, our School Council's chosen charity.

Everyone had so much fun, and with money being raised for a great cause, this is something that we aim to repeat next year!

(Our School Council members are: Gabriele (Gabby), Maria, Lilyrose, Thomas, Hudson, Alana-Mae, Alexandra, Benjamin, Jacob, Ezmai, Alex, Olivia, Joao, Amelia, Mia, Laney, Zenayah, Michael, Finley and Christianah)



1 - The winners



2 - The finalists



3 - NRA School Council 2025-26

Poetry Competition Winners



As part of our quality Literacy offer, each year we take part in the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education's Poetry Award (CLiPPA). This is a national competition , with many children across the country taking part.

Children across our school will enjoy a range of poetry and are then are recorded performing, with performances being submitted to the competition. We were so pleased that from all the entries nationally, two pupils from Norwich Road Academy were chosen as winners!

Arnoldas and Memphis from Grasshoppers class were then invited to perform their poem in front of an audience at the National Theatre in London!

Before their performance, they started the day with a voice workshop where they worked with other schools and worked hard to practice projecting their voices. They then rehearsed the show. Both the boys had their microphones fitted and practiced performing their poem on the stage. They even had a walk backstage to look at the production areas of the theatre. What an amazing opportunity!

You can access a link to an EDP article about their success here¹



¹<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/26282629.children-thetford-school-win-prize-london/?shem=dsdf,sharefoc,agadiscoverddl,,sh/x/discover/m1/4>



Our Year 4 Times Table stars

x	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

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'Practice makes the master!'

A big 'well done' to our Year 4 children in Otters. They have been working hard to embed their multiplication facts this year, in preparation for the national Multiplication Tables Check. They have made fantastic progress, with the support of Mr Ingham. Half of Otters class achieved full marks! This is well above the national average of 37% achievement of full marks.

Fluency in number facts and quick recall supports confidence and success in Mathematics. Keep practicing!

School Trips and Enrichment



We want children at Norwich Road Academy to enjoy an engaging and enriching curriculum.

These opportunities not only improve children's curriculum knowledge but they also build skills and confidence. These are central to our 'Super Learner' ethos.

Lots of these opportunities would not be possible without YOUR support. Whether this is contributing to the cost of a school trip or supporting our fundraising activities, it does make a difference! Thank you.

Here are some pictures of just a few things that we have been up to over the last few weeks!

















Staffing Updates



NEWS STAFF UPDATES

This term we have welcomed Teaching Assistants, Mr Freddie Barber and Miss May Harvey. They have completed their inductions and are enjoying working with your children.

Sadly, Mrs Huntley remains unwell and hasn't been able to return to school before the end of the academic year, despite her best efforts.

As we move towards the end of an academic year, we have some staff team members moving on too. Unfortunately, we say 'good bye' to Dragonflies class teacher, Miss Hannah Gordon. We are very grateful for Miss Gordon's support to the children in Dragonflies, after Mrs Stone moved on, and wish her well in her next step.

We also wish Reception teacher, Mrs Rebecca Sangster, all our best as she has decided to make a change. Mrs Sangster has been a member of the team for a number of years and has been a strong part of our success. We thank her for her contribution.

Miss Emily Hilder has also decided to step away from her role here. You may be aware that she has recently returned from maternity leave. Unfortunately the challenge of travel for her, as well as the demands of a little one now has contributed to this decision.

We will therefore welcome new joiners in September. Mrs Anna Glover, an experienced Year 1 teacher will look after Grasshoppers class and Mrs Iona Thomson will look after Robins in Year 2. They have both had a chance to meet your children and we are looking forwards to welcoming them to the NRA Team!

Building Works



During the holidays, school will still be very busy while the children are away! We have lots of major works planned that should have a positive impact for everyone. These works include:

Demolition of the mobile next to the library, near the KS2 playground. Not only will this remove an eyesore but it will also free up some space.

Brick works and pointing around the older, main school building.

A new perimeter fence to be installed on our sports field.

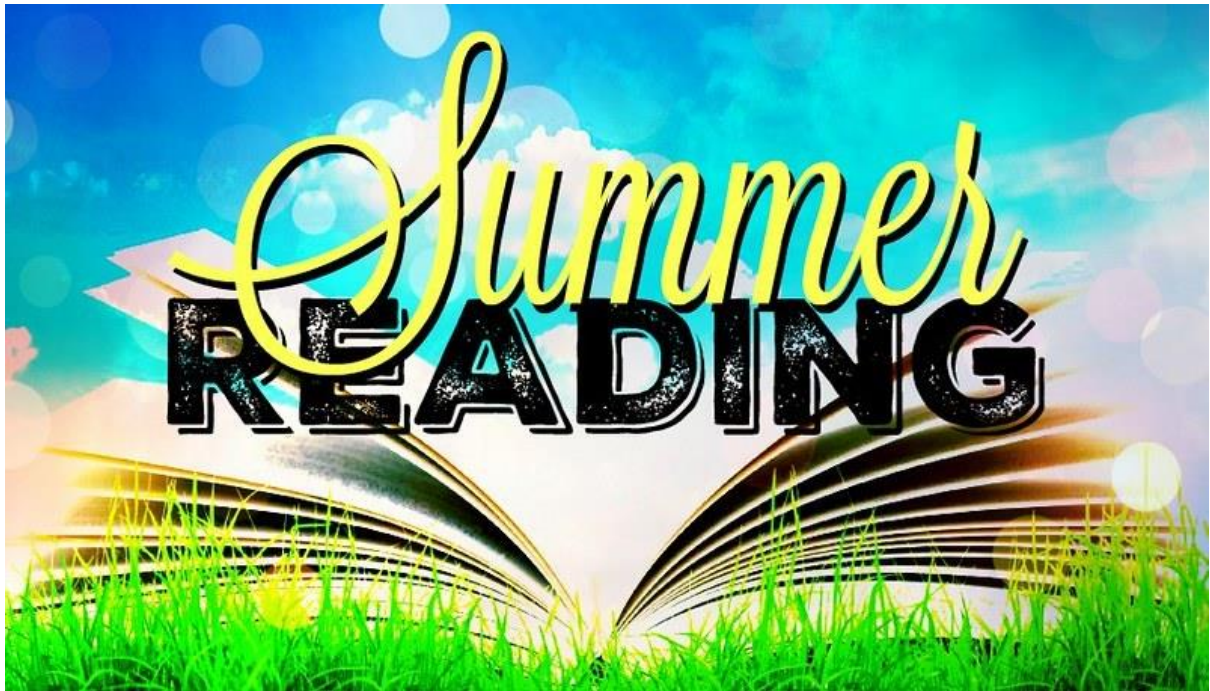
Installation of new features in Early Years outdoor area.

Decorative works inside and out.

Complete refurbishment of our main hall. This will include the addressing of plasterworks, a new floor, decoration and acoustic installations to improve the sound experience.

We are looking forward to see the finished projects and the positive impact of the environmental improvements for your children.

Summer Reading



Reading is such an important skill, that can not only raise attainment and improve future success, but it also contributes positively to wellbeing. Being a confident reader only comes with lots of practice, so it's important that children (as developing readers) have lots of reading opportunities.

Over the summer, there are two initiatives to support your children with this whilst they are away from school. We have the Fonetti 'Read Aloud' challenge and there is also the local library 'Reading Challenge' too!

When we return, we look forward to hearing all about the children's reading and their favourite reads over the summer!

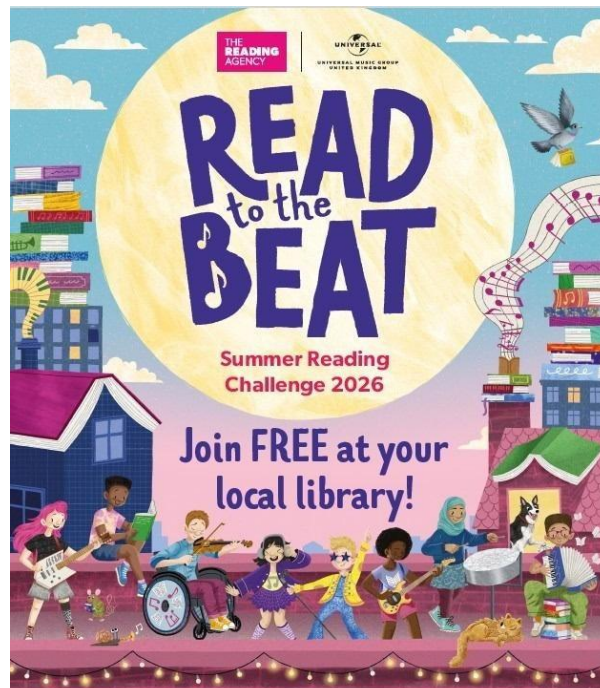
National
Read-Aloud
Challenge 2026
Powered by **Fonetti**



We're reading aloud this summer
and competing against schools
around the UK

Norwich Road Academy

readaloudchallenge.co.uk
#BeProudReadAloud



National
Year of
Reading
2025



Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Join our Academy Committee



We have vacancies on our 'Academy Committee' for parents who wish to support the governance of the school. The committee is a group of volunteers, who meet once, half termly, to support and evaluate school strategy and direction. If you are interested in joining this team, please get in touch. **We would love to hear from you!** Training is provided to support the role.



JOIN OUR ACADEMY COMMITTEE AS A PARENT VOLUNTEER

We have parent vacancies on our Academy Committee!
The Academy Committee supports the governance of the school and has a valuable role in steering its positive direction.



WHAT WE WOULD NEED FROM YOU

- The completion of an application form for the role.
- To be able to attend a meeting each half term. This will be during the school day.
- To undertake training and complete a DBS check.
- A genuine commitment to the success of our school and wider community.

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

- Provide full training.
- Offer a supportive network.
- Facilitate visits and the time to meet with our dedicated staff and lovely children.
- The opportunity to make a difference and to positively contribute to your community.

CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO FIND OUT MORE ON: 01842 753279

Good Luck, Year 6!



As our Year 6 children move on to their respective high schools, we give thanks for the opportunity to work with them and shape their lives. They have made such an active contribution to our school. This was very much on show during our 'Summer Spectacular'. The Year 6 children planned and led activities for the younger children across the school. This gave them all the opportunity for a fun end of term activity as well as raising valuable funds. The money raised will contribute to their leaver's celebrations. These include a bouncy castle and ice cream van!

Over the year, they have led play activities for the younger children, been 'Helping Hands', 'Maths Mentors' and much much more.

Thank you to teachers Miss Archibald and Miss Barber, and Teaching Assistants Mrs Jeanes and Miss Hardy for helping them on their way.

Thank you, parents and carers, for making Norwich Road Academy the choice for your child. They have played a full and active part of school life here and been a pleasure to work with.



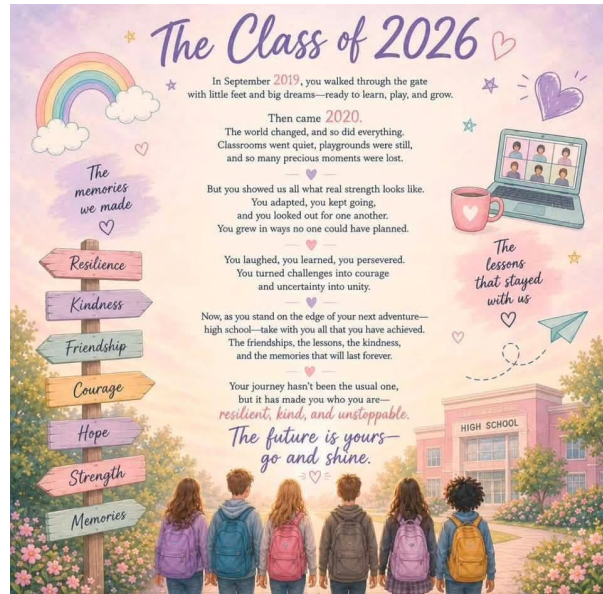
4 - Summer Spectacular



5 - Summer Spectacular



6 - 'The Jungle Book'



Some reminders to help keep our academy running smoothly

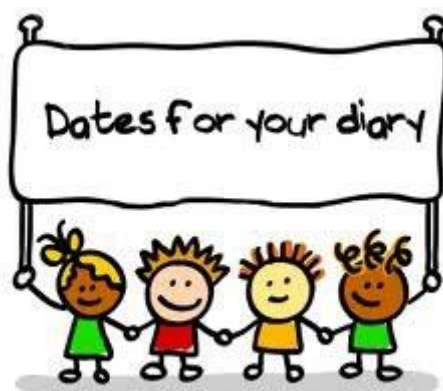


- **Our school day starts at 8:45am. This is when registration is taken.** Children are allowed into classes from 8:40am. If a child arrives after 8:45am, they must go to the academy office in order to make lunch arrangements and be marked in late. Our gates open at 8:35am to support drop offs. **Our school day ends at 3:15pm.**
- **All children should bring a water bottle to school each day.** This should contain water only, unless a medical professional advises differently. Please speak to your child's teacher regarding this.
- **Key Stage 2 children are permitted to bring in a snack for morning break.** This should be a 'healthy' choice, chocolate and sweets are not permitted. Snacks for breaktime should be separate and not be left in lunchboxes, as the lunchbox trolleys are moved to the dining hall.
- **Please do not send cash for lunch payments.** All payments should be made through Aspens Select system. If you need any help with this, please get in touch with our office. We are happy to help.
- **School trips should be paid for via the Scopay app.** If you need any help with this, please get in touch with our office. We are happy to help!
- **All Key Stage 2 children must wear a tie. Ties are available to purchase from the academy office.** These are environmentally friendly, as they are made from recycled materials.
- **Keep us up-to-date with any changes in your personal details or arrangements.** If you move or change contact numbers it is imperative that we have accurate

information for you. It is important that we are able to contact you, without delay, in case of emergency.

- **Label all of your child's belongings, including PE kit, Water Bottles & Lunch Bags.** Things very easily go astray in busy classrooms. It is much easier for us to get things back to their owners if they are named.
- **We have uniform expectations for PE lessons.** All earrings should be removed and long hair should be tied back.
- **Keep in touch via Class Dojo.** Are you signed up? We post academy messages here and can contact you directly. Let us know if you need help with this.
- **We are here as partners,** with any queries or challenges that you may have. Working together positively supports your child. Please get in touch if you feel that we can help in any way.
- **Pupil absence, queries or complaints?** Please direct these through the academy office to office@nor.eastern-mat.co.uk² These are not managed through Class Dojo.
- **Children should not bring in toys and playthings from home.** This can cause disagreements and upset. Please do not send them in.
- **Our car park is a private facility for staff and prebooked visitors only.** Parents and carers should not be utilising our car park unless prior arrangements have been agreed beforehand. We are able to assist where support may be needed for a disability. If this would be helpful to you, please get in touch with our office.
- **Our school is a no smoking and no vaping site and mobile phones should not be used when on the premises.**

Dates For Your Diary



Summer holidays

²<mailto:office@nor.eastern-mat.co.uk>

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - INSET Day staff training, academy office open

Wednesday 2nd September - INSET Day staff training, academy office open

Thursday 3rd September - Children return to school

Monday 21st September - Y6 height and weight checks

Wednesday 23rd September - Book Fair visiting

Thursday 24th September - Y6 National Manufacturing Day

Monday 19th October - Y3 to Grimes Graves

Friday 23rd October - Training Day - School closed to children

Monday 26th October - Half term break

Monday 2nd November - Children back to school

Thursday 5th November - Flu vaccinations - 1

Friday 6th November - Individual photos

Monday 16th November - Anti-Bullying Week

Thursday 19th November - Flu vaccinations - 2

Friday 18th December - End of term

Monday 4th January - Training day - school closed to children

Tuesday 5th January - Term starts, children return

Tuesday 12th January - Whole school theatre performance

Friday 12th February - End of half term

Monday 15th February - Half term break

Monday 22nd February - children return

Thursday 25th March - End of term

Friday 26th March - Easter holidays

Monday 12th April - Training day - school closed to children

Tuesday 13th April - Start of term. Children return

Tuesday 20th April - Reception vision and hearing checks - 1

Thursday 22nd April - Reception vision and hearing checks - 2

Monday 26th April - Bikeability

Tuesday 27th April - Whole Class photos

Monday 3rd May - Bank holiday

Friday 28th May - End of half term

Monday 31st May - Half term break

Friday 11th June - Proposed date for Y6 overnight to London

Wednesday 21st July - End of school year

Thursday 22nd July - start of summer holidays

Please note that, as we are part of Eastern Multi Academy Trust, we do not follow the Norfolk County Council date calendar.

We do not authorise term time holidays.

Our term dates can be found [HERE](#)³

Pupil Wellbeing and Safeguarding



³<https://www.norwichroadacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=24>

The wellbeing and safety of children is extremely important to us. We have a dedicated team to oversee this in the academy. All staff have regular training to ensure that our curriculum is balanced and supports a healthy lifestyle. Our Pastoral Team is able to support parents with advice and is able signpost to other agencies too, if needed. If you need any support or guidance, please contact Mrs Marshall or your child's classteacher.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children. If you have a safeguarding concern, you can speak with one of our Designated Safeguarding Leaders. These are: Mrs Miles, Mrs Purvis, Mrs Marshall, Mr Ingham, Mrs Abbott and Ms Riddiford.



7 - We are an Operation Encompass school. Find out more here⁴

⁴<https://www.operationencompass.org/>

If you have positive feedback for us, we would be grateful if you could complete Ofsted Parent View

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>⁵



Parent View resets every year so even if you have given feedback before, we would be very grateful if you could do this again.

If there is something that we can improve or that you think we need to know, please get in touch with us directly. We are always happy to help!

⁵<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Contact Us



Norwich Road Academy

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Thetford

IP24 2HT

office@nor.eastern-mat.co.uk

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook,⁶ Twitter⁷ and Instagram!⁸

Visit us on the web: www.norwichroadacademy.co.uk/⁹

⁶<https://www.facebook.com/Norwich-Road-Academy-100468331441186>

⁷<https://twitter.com/NorwichRoadAca>

⁸<https://www.instagram.com/norwich.road.academy/>

⁹<https://www.norwichroadacademy.co.uk/>