

Northstead News

Issue 12

18 July 2025



Headteachers Message



"Its our choices...that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities"

J.K Rowling

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we close the chapter on another fantastic year at Northstead, we reflect not only on the incredible journey we've been on, but also the exciting story that's still unfolding. This year has been a real page-turner—filled with achievement, creativity, and community spirit worthy of any great novel.

A Story of Success

In the words of Matilda, *"somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world."* This year, our pupils have done just that. We are proud to report that academic achievement and progress across the school is now above national averages in most areas—the result of hard work, great teaching, and a commitment to excellence. It's been three years of sustained growth, and we're only at the beginning of the next thrilling volume.

Whether exploring science through hands-on experiments, performing in dazzling productions, taking part in sporting events, or attending unforgettable school trips, our children have seized every opportunity with curiosity and joy. Their enthusiasm reminds us of *Anne of Green Gables'* spirit *"it's not what the world holds for you. It's what you bring to it."*

Excellence in Every Chapter

At Northstead, we strive every day to live up to Atticus Finch's advice on *To Kill a Mockingbird*. *"The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."* We teach our children to act with integrity, to take responsibility, and to aim for excellence in everything they do.

None of this would be possible without our incredible staff. Their dedication, creativity, and care are the link that fills every page of our school's success. From teaching and support to leadership and operations, they have gone above and beyond to make Northstead a special, safe and inspiring place to learn. To each and every one of them: thank you. You make magic happen.

Our Community, Our Strength

As *Charlotte's Web* reminds us, *"It is not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a good writer."* At Northstead, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a community of true friends—parents, carers, grandparents and supporters—all working together to help our children flourish.

As we look to next year, we ask for your help in one area where we still need to grow: attendance. Our figures are 1% below the national average, and we know that every day missed is a missed opportunity to learn and connect. Just like in *The Secret Garden*, growth happens when we're present, nurtured and supported—every child, every day.

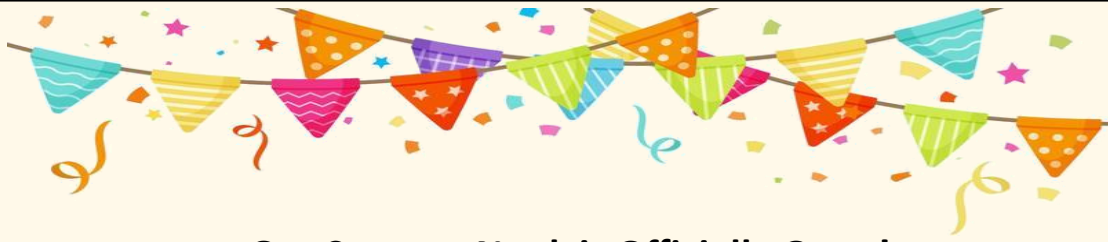
Turning the Page

As we turn the page on this year, we are filled with pride for all we've achieved together. But this story isn't over—far from it. With our shared values of community, opportunity, responsibility and excellence, the next chapter promises even more. The future is unwritten, but we know it will be something truly special.

Thank you for your continues support. Wishing you a relaxing, joyful summer break—and we'll see you in September, ready to begin the next exciting adventure.

With Warmest Wishes

Shaun Hopper



Our Sensory Nook is Officially Open!

We are thrilled to announce the official opening of Northstead Community Primary School's brand-new **Sensory Nook** — a calming, inclusive space designed to support children's emotional and sensory needs.

The Nook was opened by rugby player and coach **Darren Fearn** and has already become a valuable resource for pupils who benefit from a quiet, nurturing environment during the school day.

This fantastic project was made possible thanks to the **Wooden Spoon Charity**—the children's charity of rugby—which provided major funding. Wooden Spoon supports life-changing projects across the UK for children with disabilities or facing disadvantage. We're honoured to be part of their incredible work.

We'd also like to say a huge thank you to:

- **HGM Property Services**, who built the summer house free of charge
- **Calverts Carpets**, for donating and fitting flooring and artificial grass
- **SALT Charity, Boyes, Hare Engineering** and **Cooplands Bakers** for their generous support

But our biggest thanks go to the amazing **Mrs. Tracy Squire**, who led this project from start to finish with incredible care and determination.

Headteacher Mr. Shaun Hopper said:

"Tracy has been nothing short of phenomenal. Her vision, drive, and compassion have brought this project to life. She has created a lasting legacy that will support generations of children at Northstead."

We are so proud of what our school and wider community have achieved together.



The Summer Reading Challenge has now started online

We welcome one and all into the magical Story Garden.

Are you up for the Challenge?

Our green-fingered friends and a couple of magical garden creatures are ready to go. So pick your fave (we promise not to tell) and let's get reading this summer!

If you take part in [your local library](#) you can pick up a fun sticker booklet and dive into an enchanting garden full of surprises (spot the yeti!). As you read, you'll collect stickers to place in spots around the garden and be awarded once you meet your reading goal!

You can also take part online, [right here](#). Set a reading goal and log your books on your profile. When you reach your goal you will unlock some digital goodies and a certificate of achievement. Here on the website, you will find [amazing books](#), awesome [author videos](#), and plenty of [activities](#).

The Challenge is brought to life by epic children's illustrator, Dapo Adeola.

Are you excited to join #StoryGarden this summer? Keep an eye on our News and our [Facebook page](#) for all the latest Summer Reading Challenge fun stuff!

☆☆ Year 6 Leavers ☆☆

Well done to our fabulous Year Six Leavers this week. We have really enjoyed working with, and getting to know, our current Year Six children over the past seven years. They have grown in to a very caring, kind and hardworking group who are now more than ready to start their new adventures at Secondary school and beyond. We wish them all every success and happiness for whatever the future brings.



The FONS Team would like to Thank You for Your Support

As we come to the end of another fantastic year at Northstead, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our families for your incredible support throughout 2024-2025.

This year's community events—including the ever-popular Colour Run and our vibrant Summer Fair were a huge success thanks to your involvement, generosity and enthusiasm. Whether you volunteered your time, donated prizes, or simply came along to join in the fun, your support has helped create wonderful memories for our children and raise valuable funds for the school.

Looking ahead to the next school year, we have lots of exciting events and activities planned, and we'd love for even more families to get involved.

If you're interested in supporting our events or would like to join the Friends of Northstead School (FONS) team, please get in touch! You can sign up to help at events or find out more by phoning the school office and asking to speak with Mrs Clubley.

Together, we can make 2025-2026 another amazing year for our school community.

Policies

Please click on the following link to find the updated versions of the following policies:

AI Policy

School Meals Debt Policy

Charging and Remissions Policy

Data Protection Policy

[Click Here](#)



Please ensure that any monies owed for breakfast club, after school club, dinner money or any other items are fully paid for on ParentPay before the end of term so that your balance is clear for the end of this academic year.

Contact Details

Please could you make sure that school are kept up to date with any changes in address / phone number / e-mail so we have your current details on our system.

Many Thanks





A reminder that the final payment for the Peat Rigg residential trip is due by 5th September 2025.

Please ensure payment is made on time.

Many Thanks

Increase In School Meal Charges & Breakfast Club Charges From September 2025:

Please note that following the increase in charges for our catering from NYC, we are increasing the cost of a pupil school dinner from September to **£3.50 per meal (£17.50 for the week)**. This is after a small subsidy by school, to keep the charge as low as possible for parents. Payments should be made in advance via ParentPay, our online secure payment system. If you have not yet set up a ParentPay account, please contact the school office.

There will also be an increase to the cost of Breakfast club to **£4.00 per session**.

Inset Days 2025/26 - Children Not in School

Monday 1st September 2025

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 20th July 2026

Free Ideas to Enjoy the Holidays with Your Children

As we head into the summer holidays, we know that keeping children busy and entertained can sometimes feel like a challenge – especially when trying to stick to a budget. To help, we've put together a list of **fun, free activities** you can enjoy together as a family over the break!



Explore The Outdoors

- Visit local **parks, woods, or the beach** – perfect for picnics, walks, and sandcastle-building!
- Try a **nature scavenger hunt** – spot birds, bugs, and wildflowers.
- Build a **den** in the garden or a local woodland using sticks, blankets, or cardboard.



Visit Your Local Library

- Join the **Summer Reading Challenge** – it's free and a great way to keep children reading over the holidays.
- Many libraries run free craft sessions and story times – check your local branch for events.



Get Creative at Home

- Make a **junk model** from recycled materials.
- Create your own **puppet theatre** using socks, paper bags, or old socks.
- Start a **summer scrapbook** – collect tickets, draw pictures, and write about each day.



Put on a show

- Use your imagination to create a **mini performance** – singing, dancing, or acting out a favourite story.



Get Busy in the Kitchen

- Bake together using simple ingredients you already have.
- Make homemade **ice lollies** with juice or yogurt.



Get Active

- Create an **obstacle course** in the garden or park using toys, chalk, and natural materials.
- Go on a **bike or scooter adventure** – don't forget helmets!



Grow Something

- Use seeds from fruits or vegetables to grow your own plants at home.
- Look after a small garden or window box together – it's a great way to learn about nature and responsibility.

Whatever you choose to do, the most important thing is **spending time together** and making special memories. We hope you have a **happy, safe, and relaxing summer break** – we can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we return in September!

Assessment Information

Following the release of the SATS data for July 2025, I have pleasure in sharing the below information. Another year on year improvement which now sees our school performing above national averages in many areas.

The KS2 data below goes alongside other national measures in school.

EYFS Good Level of Development 63%

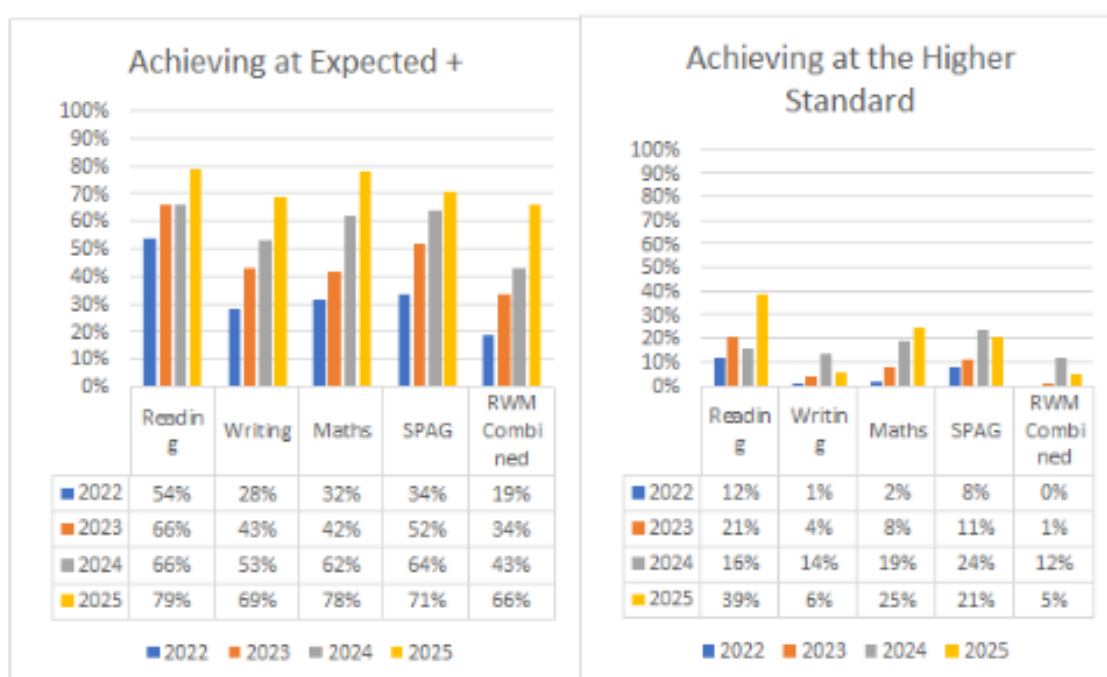
Y1 Phonics Screening Check 85.5%

Y4 Multiplication Tables Check Average Score 21.6

Scoring 25/25 = 25%

KS2 SATS Area	Northstead Working at the expected level	Northstead working at the higher level	Northstead total working at expected or above	National Averages at expected or above
Reading	40%	39%	79%	75%
Maths	53%	25%	78%	74%
Writing	63%	6%	69%	72%
RWM Combined	61%	5%	66%	62%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	50%	21%	71%	73%

This set of data represents a vast improvement from 2022 and further improvement from achievement in 2024.



- SPORTS NEWS -

Rugby

2 rugby teams attended the rugby festival at SRUFC. These were teams made up from year 6 and consisted of girls and boys. They were led by our Rugby coach Simon, who was delighted with how the teams played.

Mrs Waller and Mrs Ogle accompanied the teams and witnessed some great talent and many matches were won against other schools.

If any of our year 6 pupils would be interested in playing Rugby then please ask Mrs Ogle for a flyer.



Summer Holidays are Here!

Have a wonderful time with your families and we will see you when the new term begins on Tuesday 2nd September.

