



Weekly Newsletter



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Letter from Buckingham Palace to Year 5!!



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Year 5 children recently experienced a truly memorable moment after receiving a special reply from His Majesty The King. This followed a thoughtful piece of writing the children completed as part of their geography and science learning focused on rainforests and wider environmental issues.

As part of this work, pupils explored why rainforests are so important to the health of the planet. They learned about the vital role rainforests play in regulating the climate, supporting wildlife and providing resources for communities around the world. Alongside this, they discussed some of the environmental challenges facing the world today, including deforestation, climate change and the impact of human activity on natural habitats.

These lessons prompted great discussion in class, encouraging pupils to think carefully about sustainability and the responsibility we all share in caring for the environment. The children were particularly interested in the idea that small actions can make a difference and spent time considering what individuals, schools and communities can do to live more sustainably.

Inspired by their learning, our Year 5 children decided to write to The King. They composed poems focused on protecting the rainforests and shared their concerns about the future of the planet. In their letters, they also asked for advice on how Norris Bank Primary could continue to become more sustainable, recognising The King's long standing interest in environmental matters.

The children were delighted when the school received an official response from Buckingham Palace. In the letter, the Head of Royal Correspondence explained that The King had been immensely touched by the children's enthusiasm, creativity and genuine concern for the environment. The letter also conveyed His Majesty's warmest good wishes to everyone at Norris Bank Primary School.

Reading the reply was an incredibly exciting moment for the children. They were proud to know that their work had been read and valued, and that their voices had been heard. This experience has further motivated them to keep thinking about how they can make positive, environmentally responsible choices both in school and in their everyday lives.

We are extremely proud of our Year 5 pupils for the curiosity, thoughtfulness and sense of responsibility they demonstrated through this project. It has been a wonderful example of how our GROW values and learning in school can inspire pupils to engage with real world issues and understand the difference they can make.

Branching Out

It has been a lovely week at Branching Out, with plenty of sunshine making our time on the field even more enjoyable. The children have taken part in a range of fun and active games, with tennis and hula hoops with Mr Stanley proving especially popular.

Our Food Challenge was a roaring success. The children tried olives and many, particularly in Reception, were pleasantly surprised by just how much they enjoyed them. Well done to everyone for being so gastronomically adventurous!!

We are also delighted to share that the Branching Out team will be partnering with our Eco Warriors to host a pre loved uniform sale. This is a fantastic opportunity to make sustainable choices while supporting our school community. Our first sale will take place on Friday 8th May at 3.30pm in the Hive.

For any general enquiries, please contact kidsclub@norrisbank.org.uk.



GROW STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception
Otis & Jacob

KS1

Year 1: Jody & Dylan
Year 2: Musa & Kaiden

KS2

Year 3: Aiza & Olivia
Year 4: Eli & William
Year 5: James & Ariana
Year 6: Alfie & Alec

Year 1 Phonics Meeting Wednesday 6th May at 5pm

We will be holding a Year 1 Phonics Workshop to help parents and carers support their child ahead of the Phonics Screening Check in June.

The session will explain how phonics is taught in Year 1, what the screening check involves and how you can support your child at home. We will share examples of the types of words children read, including real and nonsense words, and offer practical tips to build confidence and blending skills. We strongly encourage Year 1 parents and carers to attend.

PTA Update

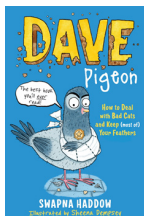
We are pleased to share that following the PTA Annual General Meeting held on Friday, two new Co Chairs have been appointed: Julia Gurry and Mya Elgarice. They will be supported by Nadine Puddoo, who continues as Treasurer, and Sarah Phillips, who continues in her role as Secretary.

The new PTA team will be in touch soon as they begin planning for the year ahead. Parents and carers are warmly encouraged to contact the PTA with any ideas, suggestions or offers of support, as they are always keen to hear from the school community.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our current Co Chairs, who will be stepping down after two years of dedicated service. Their commitment, time and hard work have been greatly appreciated and have made a significant contribution to the life of the school community.

Book Recommendation

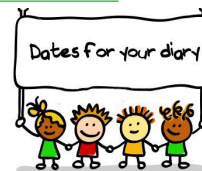
Dave Pigeon
How to Deal with Bad Cats...
(series) (2016) by Swapna Haddow
Recommended age: 5 - 8



As it's World Laughter Day on Sunday, why not settle down with a funny book and have a laugh? The Dave Pigeon series is a laugh-out-loud collection of books that are especially perfect for younger children, thanks to their fast pace and bonkers scenarios! The books follow Dave the pigeon, a street-smart bird and "brilliant pigeon mastermind", who is determined to defeat his nemesis, Mean Cat, with the help of Skipper the sidekick. Complete with fun illustrations, there are at least seven books in the series, so plenty of opportunities for a good giggle!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

[For a full list of dates for the 2025-26 academic year, please see our Annual Planner which can be accessed by clicking on this link.](#)



Date	Event
May 4th	Bank Holiday: School Closed
11th	Year 6 SATS week
22nd	Last Day of term
June 8th	School reopens
9th	Year 6 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
12th	Dress down day for sweets for summer fair
15th-19th	Get Active Week
17th	Sports Day and Family Picnic
22nd	Reception Parents Meeting for September 2026 intake
26th	Dress down day for bottle tombola
July 1st	Reserve date for Sports Day
2nd	Transition day for Year 6
8th-10th	Year 4 residential to Northumberland
10th	Annual reports sent home
13th-15th	Year 5 residential to Anglesey
13th-16th	Book Share Week
14th	Year 6 production
17th	Reception graduation
24th	Leavers Assembly
	School closes for summer holidays