

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those of you who came in this week to watch the Nursery Nativity and the Reception Christmas Story. It was wonderful seeing the children perform to such a large audience. They did so well!

Yesterday Cedar class enjoyed a special pizza lunch – their reward for achieving the class with the highest attendance this term (97.2%). Well done to Cedar! I hope to see everyone coming in regularly next term and working towards winning the next term's attendance reward!

Term dates for 2026-2027 were published in last week's newsletter. Please have a look carefully at the designated holiday dates for next year. We ask that you plan your travel dates accordingly as we will not be able to authorise term time absence from school for holidays or travel during the school term.

This term we say good bye to Mr Mills. Although he has not been with us for very long, he has had an impact on the children's first term in reception. Thank you for your hard work and we wish you well in your future endeavours. We also say good bye to Ms Bawa, who has been one of the cover members of staff this term. Thank you for your hard work in the classroom and also with all the work you've done to fulfil our extra-curricular duties. The children will miss their weekly club with you!

Thank you to all our parents for their support this term.

Have a good Christmas break. If you are celebrating Christmas, I hope you have a festive season.

We look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 6th January 2026 from 8:40pm.

Kind regards

Bronwen Chalmers

Headteacher



Diary Dates

December

19th Last day of term—2pm.

January

5th INSET day

6th Children return from 8:40am

16th E-safety coffee morning

20th Young Voices Concert at the O2

23rd Nursery Parents Coffee Morning

30th Literacy Coffee Morning

30th Interschool Choir competition

Please check the calendar on our website

<https://www.northwoldschool.com/>

RECEPTION PLACES 2026 - 2027

Nursery parents, please be reminded to make a reception class application for September 2026 by **Thursday 15 January 2026**. Parents and carers with children in nursery class born between **1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022** must submit their reception class application by **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

If you do not apply before the deadline, your child's application will be late and will be considered after all the 'on time' applications have been dealt with. Late applicants are also less likely to get a place at their preferred school.

If you would like support with this, please contact the school office, who will be happy to help you.

Nursery Spaces Available

Apply Now!

We still have spaces in Nursery for 2 and 3 - year old children. Part time or full-time applications are welcomed. Please contact the school office or email office@northwold.hackney.sch.uk for further information.

Hackney KS2 Indoor Athletics – Competition Update

A huge well done to our KS2 indoor athletics team who represented the school brilliantly at the Hackney competition this week.

We took a squad of 16 pupils — 9 girls and 7 boys — who all showcased fantastic effort, teamwork, and determination throughout the event.

Our pupils competed across a wide range of track and field activities, demonstrating speed, power, coordination, and resilience. Their hard work paid off as we won five events and secured second place in three others — an outstanding achievement against strong opposition.

We are now eagerly awaiting the final overall results to find out where we have placed as a team.

A massive **well done** to everyone who took part — you were amazing ambassadors for the school!

Thanks


Wilson Frimpong

PE Lead

MEASLES

The school Nursing Team has been informed that there has been a rise in cases of measles in Hackney. Please see attached the information for schools regarding measles; if there are more than two cases in one class then this needs to be reported to public health. Please do not hesitate to reach out if any support is required.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>



Measles

Measles is a serious disease caused by a very infectious virus. It can be dangerous, especially for babies, young children and pregnant women.

Catching measles

Measles spreads easily when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes.

The virus can stay in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours. You can catch measles just by being in a room where an infected person has been, even up to 2 hours after they have left.

A person with measles can spread the infection in the 4 days before they get the rash until 4 days after the rash appears.

Symptoms of measles

rash

fever

loss of appetite

sore, red eyes

cough

Other early symptoms include sneezing and a runny or blocked nose. A person with measles will feel very unwell. They will have to spend about five days in bed and will be off school or work for around 2 weeks. There is no treatment or cure for measles.

If you think you might have measles, it's important to call your GP surgery. You will need to stay away from other people to avoid spreading the disease.

Possible complications

hearing loss

blindness

pneumonia

encephalitis

brain damage

death

If you get measles when you're pregnant, it could harm your baby. It can cause miscarriage or stillbirth, premature birth, or your baby having a low birthweight.

The measles virus also attacks your immune system, destroying the special white blood cells that react quickly to fight infections you have already had. This means that people who have had measles are more likely to catch other diseases, even ones they have had before. This effect can last up to 3 years after recovering from measles.

Measles in numbers

9 out of 10 unvaccinated people will catch measles if they come into contact with an infected person.

1 in 5 people with measles will be admitted to hospital.

1 in 15 children with measles will get one or more complications.

1 in 5,000 people with measles is likely to die.

Preventing measles

MMR vaccination is the only way to prevent measles. Everyone needs two doses, ideally given at 1 year old and at 3 years 4 months old. The MMR vaccine also protects against mumps and rubella.

The MMR vaccine works very well. After 2 doses, 99% of people will be protected against measles.

The vaccine is free for everyone. If you or your child missed a dose, contact your GP surgery to catch up. You are never too old to have the vaccine.

1st dose age 1

2nd dose age 3 years and 4 months

More about measles




(nhs.uk)

More about the MMR vaccine



(nhs.uk)

Measles case numbers



(gov.uk)

This is not a diagnostic tool. If you think your child might have measles, call your GP surgery or 111 right away.

Developed by NHS North Central London Integrated Care Board.

School Term dates 2026 -2027

Autumn Term: (73 days)

- Wednesday 2nd September 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026 INSET day
- Thursday 3rd September 2026 INSET day
- Friday 23rd October 2026 INSET day
- Half term holiday Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026
- Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Spring Term: (54 days)

- Monday 4th January 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027.
- Monday 4th January 2027 INSET day
- Half term holiday Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027.
- Easter holiday Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027.

Summer Term: (68 days)

- Monday 12th April 2027 to Thursday 22nd July 2027
- Monday 12th April 2027 INSET day
- Half term holiday Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027
- Summer holiday Friday 23rd July

Public holidays

- Friday 25th December 2026 (Christmas Day)
- Monday 28th December 2026 (Boxing Day)
- Friday 1st January 2027 (New Year's Day)
- Friday 26th March 2027 (Good Friday)
- Monday 29th March 2027 (Easter Monday)
- Monday 3rd May 2027
- Monday 31st May 2027
- Monday 30th August 2027

Class Attendance W/E 12/12/2025

Well done to **Year 6 Juniper** with the highest attendance last week. They had **99.13%** attendance.

Class	Attendance %
2 Year Old's	78.26%
N Elm 2	91.67%
RC Ash	85.00%
RC Sycamore	80.50%
Y1 Redwood	95.76%
Y2 Pine	94.19%
Y3 Elder	95.29%
Y3 Teak	86.82%
Y4 Cedar	98.42%
Y4 Hawthorn	94.71%
Y5 Beech	83.33%
Y5 Hazel	93.10%
Y6 Juniper	99.13%
Y6 Maple	89.17%
Grand Total	91.61%

Well done to cedar class who enjoyed pizza party this week. They had the highest attendance this term!

Sign of the Week

Learning a new sign each week helps everyone in our setting become more confident in using Makaton, making our environment more inclusive and supportive for all children.

You are welcome to practise the sign at home too! We will share the sign each week so you can join in.



Mistletoe



Bunched hand moves slightly from side to side, lips pursed

Mistletoe

School Term dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term: (75 days)

- Christmas Holiday Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2025

Spring Term: (55 days)

Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 27th March 2026.

- Monday 5th January 2026 INSET day
- Half term holiday Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026.
- Easter holiday Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026.

Summer Term: (65 days)

Monday 13th April 2026 to Monday 20th July 2026

- Monday 13th April 2026 INSET day
- Half term holiday Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026
- Summer holiday Tuesday 21st July

Public holidays

- Thursday 25 December 2025 (Christmas Day)
- Friday 26 December 2025 (Boxing Day)
- Thursday 1 January 2026 (New Year's Day)
- Friday 3 April 2026 (Good Friday)
- Monday 6 April 2026 (Easter Monday)
- Monday 4 May 2026
- Monday 25 May 2026
- Monday 31 August 2026

Reminder: Children return on Tuesday 6th January.

Caught Being Kind

Please find below the names of the children in each year group who are recognised for their kindness this week.

Nursery	(Elm 1) Shaquarn	(Elm 2) Ibrahim
Reception	(Sycamore) Bolu2watife	(Ash) Zaynab
Zaynab	(Redwood) Alaya	
Year 2	(Pine) Umar	
Year 3	(Elder) Khadeejah	(Teak) Epherata
Year 4	(Cedar) Chloe	(Hawthorn) Mariyam
Year 5	(Beech) Dami	(Hazel) Maya
Year 6	(Juniper) Abdel Karim	(Maple) Aaliya

What is on the menu next week?

Northwold Primary School Menu – Week 4

	Monday MEAT FREE MONDAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Meat Choice	Pasta in Tomato Sauce (G, V)	Peri-peri Chicken (G)	Lamb Tagine (G, MU)	Roast Chicken with Gravy (G, MU)	Cod Fish Fingers Battered Cod Fingers (F)
Vegetarian Choice	Falafel Wrap (V)	Cheese & Potato Whirls (G, V, MU, E, MK)	Vegetarian Sausage Roll (G, V)	Vegetable slices (G, MK, MU)	Jacket Potato with Cheese & Baked Beans (MK)
Alternative Choice	Lentil Dhal Curry with Naan (V, G, MK)	Cod Fish Cakes (F, G)	Spinach & Chickpea Curry (V)	Vegetable Spring Roll (GF)	Cheese & Egg Flan (G, E, MK)
Sides	Bread Naan Bread (G, MK, E)	Bread Diced Potatoes (G, MK)	Homemade Bread Couscous (G, MK)	Bread Yorkshire Pudding (G, MK)	Homemade Bread Oven Chips (G, MK)
Vegetables	Mixed Vegetables Cauliflower	Sliced Carrots Broccoli	Sweetcorn Garden Peas	Julienne Carrots Green Cabbage	Baked Beans
Dessert Choice	Fruit Jelly Fruit Yogurt Fresh Fruit (MK)	Apple Crumble with Custard Fruit Yogurt Fresh Fruit (MK)	Fresh Fruit Salad Fruit Yogurt Fresh Fruit (MK)	Cheese & Biscuits Fruit Yogurt Fresh Fruit (G, MK)	Ice Cream Fruit Yogurt Fresh Fruit (MK)
Dietary Information	Fresh salad served daily - All our meat is Halal V - Vegetarian CE - contains Celery G - contains Gluten F - contains Fish E - Egg SO - contains Soya MK - contains Milk SU - contains Sulphur Dioxide MU - contains Mustard				

Reception Christmas Story

A wonderful performance from our Reception children. Thank you to all the parents that attended—it makes it all worth while.



ACT Early and be vigilant when buying new devices for children this Christmas

We know many parents and carers will be buying new phones and devices for their children in the run up to Christmas, which is why we're calling on parents to be vigilant about your child's online activity.

This message follows a 38% increase in referrals of children to the Prevent scheme last year in London, which helps stop people becoming radicalised. It's vital that parents are setting appropriate controls to ensure their children are kept safe on their devices. We'd also urge parents and carers to take an active interest in their children's digital lives to try and ensure they don't become drawn towards extremist content that could lead them down a path to radicalisation.

There is information on the ACT Early website (<https://actearly.uk>) which has tips on warning signs to look out for, as well as advice on having conversations with your child, and information on what to do and who to contact if you do have any concerns.

Attendance

We are pleased to introduce a new incentive aimed at encouraging excellent attendance and celebrating our pupils' commitment to learning. Regular attendance plays a vital role in a child's academic progress, confidence, and overall school experience. To recognise and reward students who make a strong effort to attend school consistently, we will be awarding attendance badges based on the following criteria:

Gold Badge – 100% attendance

Silver Badge – 99% attendance

Bronze Badge – 98% attendance

These badges will be presented to children termly to acknowledge their achievement and promote attendance across the school. We understand that absences due to illness or unforeseen circumstances can occur, and we appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child attends school whenever possible.

Thank you for working with us to support your child's education. If you'd like to find out more, please join us at the coffee morning on 9th January.