Dear Parents 21st October 2016

Wishing all a very happy relaxing half term.

Please be aware the deadline for applications to secondary schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of Monday, 31st October 2016. We would recommend that parents complete it by Friday, 28th October, as there will be limited support available over the weekend for anyone having trouble applying.

Parents should apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) or alternatively, if they cannot access the internet, they can request a printed version of the website information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.

Black History Day – Thursday, 20th October

We had a fantastic day yesterday celebrating Black History Day. All the classes focussed on a musician or a genre of music. They learnt about their lives, music and contributions to history. This ranged from Nursery dancing to the Jackson Five, Stevie Wonder in Reception and Year 1 who explored how everybody is different, onto year 2 who were Bob Marley and the Year 2 Band with their fantastic guitars and shakers. Year 3 learnt about Nina Simone and designed some lovely album covers. Year 4, including the teachers, were dancing all day to Shake your Tail Feather. Year 5 were listening to and learning about Billy Holiday and her contributions to the Civil Rights movement and finally, Year 6 turned into rap artists for the day with their own rap names and some brilliant raps that gave some strong messages about people who have contributed to black history. We had a fantastic assembly at the end of the day where the children got to show off all their fun and hard work.

Work Sharing

Thank you to all those parents who came to share their children’s work this week. The children love showing what they have been busy working on at school.

Tri Golf Competition

A team of 10 year 3 and 4 children represented Northgate yesterday in a competition at Birchwood. Out of 11 schools they achieved 3rd place. Well done to everyone involved.

Mrs Tanner’s Year 6 Maths Group

To make an appointment for a consultation with Mrs Tanner please contact the school office.

Reception – Autumn Walk

This will take place from 9.30am – 10.30am on Wednesday, 9th November. Please check eSchools for further information.

Poppies

Poppies will be on sale on Monday, 31st October.

Touch typing

Just a reminder to parents who have received a letter inviting their child to touch typing, this will commence Tuesday, 1st November and Wednesday, 2nd November at 8.30am.

Bonfire Lunch – Friday, 4th November

To celebrate Fireworks Night, Jenny, the Cook, will be providing the children with a special Bonfire Night lunch. More information can be found in the letter on eSchools and if your child does not normally have a school dinner but would like one that day, please complete and return the slip.

Foundation and KS1 Christmas Lunch - Tues 13th Dec

**KS2 need to bring in their own packed lunch to eat in their classrooms.**

KS2 Xmas lunch - Wed 14th Dec

**Foundation and KS1 to bring in their own packed lunch to eat in their classrooms.**

Football

The Wix Tournament for boys was held at Howe Green on Monday. They did incredibly well and ended up with a well-deserved 3rd place.

Cheerleading

There was a fantastic atmosphere at Birchwood on Friday of last week. Several schools sent cheerleading teams and they all performed a fantastic routine. Parents were able to watch the performance and overall Northgate was very well represented.

Netball Club

Netball club has finished for now because of the dark nights. It will start again in the spring.

Science Enrichment – Year 5

The Hertfordshire & Essex High School are offering year 5 students the opportunity to attend a Science Club.

The letter has gone out on eSchools. If interested, please fill in the slip on the letter and return in to the Herts & Essex.

Congratulations to R1 and Class 2 for not booking any holidays this half term.

Northgate Association

**Nursery Class Representatives**

The School Association are looking for 4 class reps to cover the Nursery classes, duties include, collating a class list, attending the PTA meetings, co-ordinate help for school events, organising presents and class get-togethers.  If you would be interested in taking on this role, please fill out a form that will be given to all parents in the next couple of weeks.  The rep role is a great way to meet the parents and staff and a great help for school communication.

**Christmas Fayre**

This year the Christmas Fayre will be held at school on Saturday 3rd December from 11am until 3pm and we really hope you will all be able to join us for some festive fun! To get us started, we would really appreciate the following donations:

* Children’s party wear and festive wear in very good condition.  This includes party dresses/shirts/trousers/party shoes/christmas jumpers/fancy dress in any age.
* Toys and books in good condition
* Suitable baskets, boxes or gift bags (medium to large size) that we could use for the hampers.

Please can you bring your donations into the school office.

Also, if you would like to apply for a Christmas stall to sell your products at the fayre please send your details to mairead.wright@yahoo.co.uk  (please find booking form attached).

Reminders

Please remember there will be a **Maths Evening** for parents in years 5 and 6 on **9th November** between 6.45pm and 8.00pm. The evening will explain how we teach maths calculations in the upper juniors. We hope you can make it.

Please do not use the staff car park to drop off or pick up children, unless previously arranged through the school.

Community News

The Rhodes Theatre proudly present **Cinderella** from 10th December 2016 - 7th January 2017. For more information please visit [www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk](http://www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk) or call the box office on 01279 710200.

Yours sincerely

**L Hotson**

Headteacher