

February 3rd 2024

Headteacher's News

I wish to inform you of some proposed changes to the times of our school day from September 2024. This is in line with the Government's White Paper and DfE's "Minimum expectation on length of the school week" information note, which states that schools should be open a minimum of 32.5 hours per week.

To ensure that we comply with this expectation, we are proposing to extend the school day by 10 minutes. This change will result in students starting at 8.50am, with gates opening from 8.40am, and finishing at 3.20pm.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements. For this reason, before making these changes to our school day in September 2024, I would like to hear any feedback you have in relation to these alterations.

Feedback on the proposals can be sent to interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk. Please ensure that you send your feedback to us by Friday 16th February 2024. Many thanks.

Have a great weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

On Monday and Tuesday, the Dog's Trust came into school. They conducted a whole school assembly based around how to interact safely with dogs and then followed that up with workshops tailored to each age group in **Years 3 to 6**. The children were taught about safety around dogs, understanding how dogs communicate and learned about their senses. The children were taught when and how to approach a dog and how to act if a dog chases you. These are very valuable life skills for everyone to know, and the children enjoyed the discussions.



Music

Children from Year 6 had the amazing opportunity to take part in the Young Voices Choir at the O2 in London this week. The concert is designed to unify children from across the region, boost their confidence and provide lifelong memories for them and their families. Our pupils worked very hard practising dance routines and learning songs in choir for many weeks. Mrs Cheung, Mrs Rogers and Mrs Tedder were very proud of our children's behaviour and brilliant performances! What a memory to have, well done children. The choir performed again in music assembly for all of KS2 to enjoy.



On Wednesday, a group of year sixes (including me) went to a concert in the O2 arena, to join the biggest choir in the world. Everyone sang their hearts out and enjoyed it. By the time we were back at school, it was really late but because of that, we didn't have to go into school until after break the next day. To sum it up, everyone had an amazing time singing in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. By Oliver



In school on Wednesday, Retune delivered a session to our **Year 5** children. "**Retune**" is a community-based group working to improve mental wellbeing, through music and creativity. The message they put forward is that when we retune something, we make small adjustments in order to achieve harmony, clarity and balance. The same theory can be applied to mental health. During this workshop, the children learned how to be more conscious of their own mental health. Also, that the children need to be kind to everyone as mental health is invisible and that we all need to look after all of our own strings. The children really enjoyed this experience and we hope it has given them another strategy to support their well-being.

Important Dates

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| Mon 5th Feb | Y6 Victorian Day |
| Tues 6th Feb | Safer Internet Day |
| Tues 6th Feb | Y4 Trip to Southend Sea Life Centre |
| Fri 9th Feb | EYFS Sponsored dance |
| Fri 9th Feb | 3.15pm Cake sale outside Nursery |
| 12th– 16th Feb | Festival of Literature |
| Wed 14th Feb | PTA Valentine's Day Tuck Shop (TBC) |
| Thurs 15th Feb | Northgate Bake Off—(details to follow) |
| Thurs 15th Feb | PTA Quiz Night at The Belgian Brewer (TBC) |
| Fri 16th Feb | 10.30am Cake Sale |
| Wb 12th Feb | House netball tournament |
| Wed 14th Feb | Y1 visit from Gargs Animals Workshop |
| Half Term | 19th - 23rd Feb |
| Fri 1st Mar | Stepping Stones coffee morning |
| W/C 4th Mar | PTA Mother's Day Shop |
| Mon 4th Mar | 7.30pm PTA committee meeting |
| 5th & 6th Mar | Parent consultations |
| Thurs 7th Mar | World Book Day (dressing as an adjective) |
| Thurs 7th Mar | 2.40pm Y6 Spring music concert |
| Mon 11th Mar | 9am Y5 & 6 maths games/work sharing with parents |
| Tues 12th Mar | 9am Nursery & Reception maths games/work sharing with parents |
| Wed 13th Mar | 9am Y1 & 2 maths games/work sharing with parents |
| Thurs 14th Mar | 9am Y3 & 4 maths games/work sharing with parents |
| Wed 20th Mar | PTA Book Fair |
| Thurs 21st March | Y3 & 4 production |
| Friday 22nd March | School Disco |
| Wk beg 25th Mar | House cross country final |
| Wk beg 25th Mar | Science week and house science quiz |
| Fri 22nd Mar | Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle |
| Thurs 28th Mar | 2pm Last day of term |
| 29th Mar—12th April | Easter break |
| Mon 15th April | Start of term |
| Thurs 25th April | 2.30pm Y5 Music concert |
| Thurs 9th May | 2.30pm Y4 Music concert |
| Fri 10th May | 2pm PTA committee meeting |
| 13th—16th May | Y6 SATS |
| Fri 17th May | PTA Outdoor Cinema |
| Mon 20th May | Y6 Trip to Crucial Crew |
| Thurs 23rd May | 2.30pm Y3 Music concert |
| 27th—31st May | Half Term |
| Mon 3rd June | Inset Day |
| Mon 3rd June | Y4 National multiplication assessments |
| 3rd—7th June | Y6 School Journey, Kingswood |
| Sat 8th June | PTA Summer Fayre |
| W/C 10th June | PTA Father's Day Shop |
| Mon 10th June | Y1 National phonics, screening. |
| Fri 14th June | Y5 Egyptian workshop |
| Fri 21st June | Y2 Trip to Paradise Wildlife Park |
| | =*Red = New Item / Change to Item |

Safeguarding

Looking after our children's mental health, recognising the signs that they might be struggling and knowing how to talk to them is really important. Please see below a link to the NHS Better Health -every mind matters website, where there are some really interesting ways that you can support your young person.

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/#ways-to-support-a-child-or-young-person>

Enriching the Curriculum

On Tuesday, **Year 2** wrapped up warmly and set off with their maps to explore the route to Old Northgate School. They carefully plotted their route, stopping to observe human and physical features along the way. They looked at road signs and other landmarks to ensure that they recorded the journey correctly. At the school, they were interested to observe that it has two doors - one for girls and one for boys! This walk supported their geography topic on the local area and their history work on Victorian schools. In the coming lessons, the children will find out more about Old Northgate School and what a day would have looked like for children back in Victorian times.



This week **Nursery** have been exploring the different aspects and celebrations that take part during the Lunar new year. The children enjoyed food tasting with rice, noodles and crackers. In PE, they danced as if they were a dragon with their colourful hand prints, listening to the beat of the drum to move up and down.



Celebration of Achievements

Nursery: Liam and Ralph

R1: Billy **R2:** Fern

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on "Science"



Well done for: being so passionate about space and sharing so many interesting facts with the class, for a brilliant explanation on why we have day and night, great scientific knowledge about electricity, informed predicting and great concluding with an electrical circuit experiment, finding out fantastic information about Mary Anning, for always trying hard to complete fair tests accurately, working well as part of a group, thoughtfully testing different materials to find their properties, fantastic use of scientific vocabulary to explain ideas, showing a great curiosity for science, recording results accurately on a bar chart and writing a wonderful conclusion to a voltage experiment.

Class 1: Harvey

Class 2: Sophie

Class 3: Louie

Class 4: Samuel

Class 5: Lucy

Class 6: Millie

Class 7: Ladi

Class 8: Eliza S

Class 9: Ivy

Class 10: Sebastian

Class 11: Jackson

Class 12: Will



Reminders and Updates

Vacancies

Do you know someone that maybe interested in a position at Northgate as a SEN 1:1 TA, five mornings per week? Please click [here](#) to see the advert on Teach In Herts website.

Spare uniform needed in various sizes

Do you have any spare grey school trousers or bottle green joggers that you can donate to the school? They do not have to be in the best condition, we just need some spares for any accidents children may have. Please note we have enough pants, socks and tights.

Cake Donations

There will be a cake sale to raise funds for the Nursery garden area next Friday after school. We would really welcome any cake donations by Thursday 8th Feb or at the latest on Friday morning. Please label your tins so that you get them back and include details of the ingredients used as per Natasha's Law <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natashas-legacy-becomes-law>. Please note that the cake sale is cash only. However if you wish to make an extra donation, you can do this online via a School Gateway payment item called "Nursery Garden Refurbishment Fund" which will be open until Friday 16th February 2024.

Please can the parents of Nursery children ensure that all sponsorship forms for the EYFS danceathon are returned with the money attached by next Friday. Thank you so much for your support.

School Dinner accounts

Please take a look at your child's dinner money account. There are a lot of accounts that have balances owing. Please can you pay any outstanding charges as soon as possible and top the account up so that it is in credit.

Snacks

It is very important that all snacks that children bring into school are healthy and nutritious. This week the MSAs have spotted chocolate donuts and crisps to name but a few. Please also note we are a nut free school.

Northgate School Association

Tesco Blue Coin

Just a reminder that Northgate Primary School is one of the blue coin charities in local Tesco stores from mid-January until mid-March 2024. The school will receive between £500 and £1500 depending on how many votes we get, so please be sure to pick up a token and vote for us whenever you are in store.

We have applied for funding for 'Northgate Lunchtime Resources' as we would love to buy additional sensory, gardening, sports, music and quiet time resources to improve the students' lunchtime experiences.

Summer Fayre

Thank you to those of you who came forward to support the PTA Summer Fayre plans this week. The date of the event is Saturday 8th June 2024 from 12 noon to 3pm and we've decided on a 'Beside the Seaside' theme. We are still looking for the following businesses and/or parents/carers who can help with: Caricatures, Mini Crazy Golf Hire, Old sand pits, Seaside themed workshops, Plants, Arcade games.

If you can help, please can you contact us via our email ptanorthgate@gmail.com. Your help is very much appreciated.

PTA Team

We need you! Our PTA is looking for new committee members and volunteers to help deliver events and raise much needed money for our school. We have lots of fantastic events in the 23/24 diary but we do need help to run them successfully.

We are specifically looking for a PTA Secretary who will support our committee meetings and support the team. If you have good record keeping skills, attention to detail and good listening and computer skills- we need you!

Any time you can spare would be most gratefully received. Please do contact me on ptanorthgate@gmail.com.

**Hope you all have a relaxing weekend.
Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team**