Dear Parents 4th November 2016

Nursery

I am delighted to inform all parents that I have appointed Miss Amy Clarke, an Early Years specialist, as our new Nursery Teacher from 1st January 2017. This appointment is to cover Mrs Gavin’s maternity leave.

Poppies

Year 6 children are now selling poppies at playtimes.

Pirate Day

On Monday year 2 pirate day was a great success and the children enjoyed the different activities. Thank you to parents for the wonderful costumes.

Autumn Walks

The year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed their autumn walks and we collected lots of treasures. We will be writing a recount next week. Thank you very much all parents who helped in both classes.

Coffee Mornings/Afternoons

We had lovely coffee mornings/afternoons with the Nursery parents and we hope you found this helpful. Thank you very much for all those who were able to attend.

Jungle Jo

Year 3 had an amazing experience yesterday afternoon when Jungle Jo brought her animals to show the children. They saw tarantulas, cockroaches, snakes, frogs and lizards. Wow!

Book Sale

Popular children’s author, ‘Jack Trelawny’ will be visiting our school on Tuesday, 15th November to talk to the children. This will be followed by a book sale after school. A letter providing more information will follow next week.

Let’s do Lunch!

Further to a letter sent out yesterday, we are pleased to be able to invite **Reception** parents to join their children for lunch in school. The dates are as follows:

**R2** – Tuesday, 15th November at 11.30am

**R1** – Thursday, 17th November at 11.30am

Please return your slips by next Friday, 11th November so that we may inform the kitchen of numbers.

Maths Evening

Teaching Calculations in the Upper Key Stage 2

We are delighted to be running another maths evening for **parents** next week on Wednesday 9th November 6.45pm – 8.00pm. This time the focus will be on how we teach maths calculations at school in years 5 and 6.

There will be an introduction in the hall at 6.45pm for 10 minutes, explaining current expectations and how the evening will run.  Then there will be a variety of workshops for you to choose from. The teacher will start by explaining how we teach these aspects in school and then there will be examples for you to look at. All workshops will run for just under 15 minutes, so there will be opportunity to choose four.

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|     Session |   |   |   |
| Introduction | Mrs Tanner | Hall | 6.45pm |
|   |   |   |   |
| Subtraction including with decimals | Miss Greaves | Cl 6 | 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45 |
| Adding and subtracting fractions | Mrs Godfrey | Cl 9 | 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45 |
| Multiplying fractions | Mrs Tanner  | Cl 7 | 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45 |
| Long multiplication | Mr Glozier | Cl 12 | 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45 |
| Long division  | Miss Jones | Cl 11 | 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45 |
| Year 6 SATs papers | Mr Wilcox | Cl 10 | 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45 |

There will be a film on in the library for children to watch. We look forward to seeing you next week.

School Meals

Forecast letters have gone home today so please ensure school dinner payments are up to date. If you would like a statement please email the school office. The cost of school meals this half term will be as follows:

**Every Day Wed Only Fri Only Wed + Fri**

£89.30 £18.80 £16.45 £35.25

Children in Need

On Friday 18th November please could the children wear something spotty and bring in a donation for Children in Need. Thank you.

Year 6 Christmas Games

The Northgate Association has requested that year 6 take part in the Christmas Fete on Saturday, 3rd December. It has been a Northgate tradition that children work in groups to prepare a Christmas Game. They will take part on the day in the running of their game, organising prices and making posters. In the past, it has been expected that all year 6 children take part. This year, we are offering it as an optional activity. Children have been told in class and are starting to think about their groups. Please see the year 6 teachers if you would like any more information.

Northgate Football Team

Yesterday Northgate played Windhill in their 3rd league match of the season. After a very close first half, the team played superbly to win the 2nd half 4-1. The team played fantastically to maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

Childcare Survey

Hertfordshire County Council have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places for children of all ages and would like parents’ feedback on the childcare options for their family.  Your support in completing the survey will assist Hertfordshire County Council in the planning of childcare places throughout the county. Please go to the following link <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/Sufficiencyparentsurvey>. The survey will close on 23rd December 2016.

Northgate Association

**Cake Sale**

Parents' Association Cake Sale Friday 11th November at 3.15pm. Each child should have come home with a paper plate today - please fill the plate with cakes or biscuits and bring back into school on the morning of Friday 11th November. The goodies will be for sale at the end of morning Nursery and at 3.15pm for £1 a plate. Thank you!

**School Disco**

A reminder that our next school disco is on Friday 18th November. The Foundation and KS1 disco is from 6-7pm and the KS2 disco is from 7.15-8.30pm. Tickets will be available in the playground before and after school from Tuesday 15th to Thursday 17th, or you can pay on the door (£1 extra). Playground prices are £2.50 for Foundation and KS1 and £3 for KS2.

We are still looking for helpers to sell tickets before the disco, and supervising and selling refreshments during the disco.  If you can spare a small amount of time please follow the Survey Monkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MJRGBSC>

**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!

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.

If anyone knows of any Gentleman who would like to be our Father Christmas for an hour we would be very grateful, we can supply the suit and a generous flow of mulled wine!  Please contact mairead.wright@yahoo.co.uk if you have any volunteers.

Your reps will be receiving the list of areas each class will be looking after next week, as you know the Fayre needs your support to go ahead so please offer your help where you can.  Thank you.

Community News

**St Luke’s School** is a special school for young people aged 9 – 16 years, who aim to create a happy and safe learning environment for students with complex moderate learning difficulties, including those with autistic spectrum disorders and social communication difficulties. They are holding an Open Morning on Tuesday, 8th November. For further information please call 01582 626727 or email reception@stlukes.herts.sch.uk

**Grove Cottage** are holding a Christmas Market at Great Hadham Golf Club on Thursday, 1st December from 12.00 noon to 8.00pm. For further information please call Natalie on 07876 478717 or email natalie@mencapgrovecottage.org

**Grove Cottage** are holding a Santa Dash and Reindeer Run at Grange Paddocks on Saturday, 3rd December starting at 10.00am. For further information please call Natalie on 07876 478717 or email natalie@mencapgrovecottage.org

**Razza Roller Disco** presents Skate Extravaganza at Birchwood High School every Sunday from 2.30pm to 3.30pm commencing Sunday, 6th November. For more information please call 07450 570083 or visit [www.razzarollerdisco.co.uk](http://www.razzarollerdisco.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

L Hotson

**Headteacher**