

January 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Headteacher's News

Happy New Year! I am delighted and honoured to take on the role of Headteacher at Northgate. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Deputy Headteacher here for the last couple of years, having worked in Hertfordshire schools for over 25 years. I was a Headteacher in a one and a half form entry school in North Herts and prior to that was a Deputy Headteacher for 4 years. I took a career break when my eldest boy was born and returned to teaching four years later.

Northgate is an excellent school with many strengths and I am looking forward to working with the team on its exciting educational journey ahead. My priority as Headteacher will be to ensure Northgate remains an outstanding school, with 'challenge and enjoyment' at the centre of all we do. As part of this, we will build on the successes of last term, including our work on our learning powers to enhance children's skills as life - long learners. This half term our learning skill will be 'Self-managing monkeys.' Please ask your child about this, particularly if they come home with a learning powers stamp.

I know how vital working in partnership is, in order for children to gain the best from their education. I will be on the gate most mornings so please do feel free to approach me and introduce yourself. I will also be holding some sessions for you to come and meet the leadership team, as part of the building of a successful partnership. You will have the opportunity to share your ideas for a vision for the future of the school. Further details of dates and times to follow.

I look forward to working with you and I will appreciate your support and input so that our children achieve their potential.

Mrs Jane Tanner

### Staffing news

We would like to welcome Miss Clarke to Northgate, who is covering the Nursery class while Mrs Gavin is on maternity leave. Miss Clarke is an experienced Foundation Stage teacher, and she has a particular interest in supporting the development of speech and language skills.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Welch, who is delighted to be joining us as our new music teacher. She is excited to be taking on the role, having worked as music teacher in other schools.

We wish Mrs Gavin all the best as she starts her maternity leave.

Miss Greaves, will be Acting Deputy for two terms. Her wealth of leadership experience will be invaluable to help support the school and move it forward.

### Important Dates

**The whole year's list of dates to follow but here are some key dates.**

10 <sup>th</sup> January	Association Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 3 Instrumentals
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 4 instrumentals
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 instrumentals
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 instrumentals

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb Half Term

20 <sup>th</sup> February	Healthy Schools' Week
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Week
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Consultations
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Consultations
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day

31<sup>st</sup> March End of Term 2pm

### Safeguarding

*This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The designated persons for Child Protection are Mrs Tanner and Miss Greaves.*

For safeguarding reasons, we would ask that parents/carers **not to allow** your children to use the playground apparatus after school. Although you may supervise your children, it encourages others who may not be supervised onto the equipment.

Please remember for safeguarding reasons child may not wear apple watches, or equivalent, to school.

Thank you for your support in these areas.

## Class News

Once again the classes have some new exciting topics planned this term.

Foundation Stage: Dinosaurs

Year 1: Bright Lights Big City

Year 2: Street Detective

Year 3: Tremors

Year 4: The Blue Abyss

Year 5: Time Travel (World War 2)

Year 6: Revolutions (Victorians)



If you have any resources or are an 'expert' in any of these areas and are happy to talk to the class teachers, please let the office know.

## Clubs

If you are interested in running a lunchtime club for 20-30 minutes once a week for 5-6 weeks, please contact the office or email Miss Greaves on eSchools. You would be in a classroom and a teacher would be there. We are particularly keen to start some book clubs and board games clubs.

Mr King to run a **chess club** on Wednesday 12.45-1.30pm – if you would like to help at the chess club please let the office know.

Mrs Lane to run a **puzzle club** on Tuesday 12.45-1.30pm.

Miss Harding/ Mrs Pratt to run a **musical theatre club** for Year 5 on Monday 12.45-1.30pm.

## Celebration of Achievements

As a school we aim to promote positive behaviour and children who make good progress as they have been working hard and applying their learning.

On Fridays, the whole school celebrate children's achievements for the week. We celebrate a range of achievements including table of the week, cloakroom star, children who have received headteacher's awards and kindness awards. We also promote successful learning skills through celebrating children who have demonstrated our current learning power.

We will be celebrating 'Learner of the Week' and these children will receive a certificate.

Homework this week will be to design a certificate for this. The best two designs from KS1 and KS2 will be used as our weekly certificate. Further details will be available from the class teacher.

We hope to regularly share some of these achievements with you.

## School Updates

### Send

#### School updates:

\* Just to remind parents of children that attend touch typing that this will be starting again on Tuesday 10th January and Wednesday 11th January at 8.30am.

\* Also a reminder for parents that Northgate are proud to have a fantastic parent support group called Stepping Stones, currently run by a parent (Hannah Haslam). If there are any parents who are not yet signed up to the email service, this is a great way to get information about what is going on in the school and locally. If you would like to sign up, please email Hannah at [Steppingstonesnorthgate@outlook.com](mailto:Steppingstonesnorthgate@outlook.com)

### School Dinners

The cost of school dinners until spring half term break 2017 will be as follows:

Per day	Every Day	Wed	Fri	Wed + Fri
£2.35	£61.10	£11.75	£14.10	25.85

ePay is the preferred method of payment; you can pay via the Northgate School website. **All dinner moneys must be paid in advance either weekly or half-termly.**

### Admissions Round September 2017 - Prospective Parents Reception

The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Please either telephone the main office on 01279 652376, or email [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk) to book a place on a school tour.

### Admissions Round September 2017 - Prospective Parents Nursery

Monday 06/02/2017 – Online application system opens

Friday 17/03/2017 – Online application system closes

## Attendance Procedures

**Attendance/sickness absence:** If your child is off school, please ring and leave a message on the **first day** of absence **BEFORE 9.30am**. Please state your child's name, class, and reason for absence.

Please state a clear reason i.e. cold, sickness. Please do not just say 'unwell.'

Due to a change in attendance procedures, the school is will telephone parents on the first day of absence if we have not received notification by 9.30am.

If your child has had diarrhoea, then they should be clear for 48 hours from the last episode, before returning to school.

**Punctuality:** The gates open at 8.45am each day (10 minutes early) to allow for a flow of parents/carers to drop off their children. Children arriving after 8.55am will need to be signed in by their parent/carer giving a valid reason for the lateness, as opposed to just putting 'late'. We are required by law to have this in place and to request this.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding with these matters.