

December 19th 2025

Headteacher's News

This final week of term has been full of festive fun for everyone. KS2 shared a wonderful carol service with parents at St Michael's Church yesterday, showcasing singing of an exceptionally high standard. We were extremely proud of all the children.

We also enjoyed very successful Christmas lunches this week. Our sincere thanks go to all of our wonderful kitchen staff for providing such delicious meals.

On Wednesday, pupils took part in a fun Santa Run, which proved to be an enjoyable and successful fundraising event in support of Crisis. Thank you to Mrs Rogers and Miss Beales for organising the event.

Our thanks go to the PTA for their fantastic fundraising efforts this term. As well as funding a KS1 entertainer and a KS2 pantomime, they also generously provided the Christmas crackers and beautifully decorated the tables for our Christmas lunch.

As Christmas is a time of giving, we appreciate the generous donations to Crisis and the foodbank this week. Your kindness and support truly make a difference to the lives of others.

At Northgate, we are incredibly fortunate to have wonderful volunteers, who generously give their time to support our children with reading, assist the PTA, and help in many other ways. To show our appreciation, our volunteers were invited to a coffee morning this week, where they enjoyed mince pies and refreshments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing team and the wider Northgate community, who work tirelessly to provide the very best opportunities for all our children.

Wishing everyone at Northgate a very happy Christmas!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Enriching the Curriculum

What a week it has been!

On Monday, Reception wrote their Christmas lists to Father Christmas, took a walk to the local post box and posted them off to Lapland. Later in the day, Nursery and Reception also received a special visit from the man himself, who confirmed that all of the children are on the good list — phew!



This week, Ducklings, Puffins and Owls enjoyed a magical Christmas activity day. The children rotated around a carousel of activities, including making reindeer food to sprinkle on Christmas Eve. They also took part in a Christmas-themed movement break, where they danced like reindeer. Thank you to the parents who came in to help on the walk and in the classrooms.



Year 3 had fun making Christingle oranges to bring home for Christmas. The orange is a symbol that represents the world and bringing hope to people living in darkness.



Important Dates

22nd Dec—2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5th Jan	Inset Day
Tues 6th Jan	School term starts
Wed 21st Jan	Y1 local walk
Fri 23rd Jan	Young Voices Choir—O2
Mon 26th Jan	Y6 Victorian Day
Tue 27th Jan	Y2 Old Northgate School walk
9th—13th Feb	Festival of Literature
Wb 9th Feb	House Netball tournament
Tues 10th Feb	Internet Safety Day
Fri 13th Feb	Independent Enquirer Elephant Day
16th—20th Feb	Half Term
3rd & 5th Mar	Parent Consultations
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Week beg 10th Mar	Playing maths games and work sharing
	Mon UKS2 —9am, Tues EYFS —9am
	Wed LSK2 —9am, Thurs KS1 —9am
	Y6 Instrumental Concert
	Y3/4 production 9:05 and 2:15
	Science week (visits from Fab Science, house quiz)
	House Cross Country
	Y4 Local river walk
	Rocksteady Concert pm
	2pm finish Break up for Easter
30th Mar—10th April	Easter Holidays
Thurs 22nd May	End of term
25th—29th May	Half term
Mon 1st June	Inset day
Thurs 25th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Thurs 9th July	Move up day
Tues 21st July	Break up for summer holidays
Wes 22nd July	Occasional day

Attendance this term

Yr	%
R	95.9
1	94.8
2	94.8
3	95.5
4	95.1
5	94.7
6	95.9

Our target	96%
Whole school	95.2%

0 days off	100%	Fantastic
5 days off a year	97%	Good
10 days off a year	95%	Slight concern
20 days off a year	90%	Concerned
30 days off a year	85%	Very concerned

Safeguarding

Christmas can bring both joy and challenges for some children and families. At Northgate, safeguarding remains our highest priority, and we are here to ensure that all our pupils feel safe, supported, and cared for during this time.

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing during the holidays, you can email the NSPCC on help@nspcc.org.uk or call **0808 800 5000** (10am and 8pm Monday to Friday). Children can make their own calls on **Childline 0800 1111**.

If you want to report a safeguarding concern about a child, Hertfordshire Children's Customer Services can be contacted on **0300 123 4043**.

Enriching the Curriculum

Festive cheer was well and truly on the menu this week as pupils and staff enjoyed our annual Christmas lunch. Jenny and her team worked hard to prepare a delicious meal over two days, which was thoroughly appreciated by everyone!

The dining hall was transformed with seasonal decorations, festive crackers and a soundtrack of Christmas music that added to the excitement. What a joyous occasion it was!



Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday brought an extra splash of colour and fun, helping to create a wonderfully festive atmosphere across the school. Northgate families raised £333.52 for Crisis through their kind donations, and the children had loads of fun taking part in the Santa Fun Run. Even Father Christmas joined in for the occasion!



The children who attend our Rock Steady club also performed for KS2 and their parents, impressing everyone with the talent and skills they have developed over the last few weeks. It was fantastic to end the Autumn term with a jam! We finished the term with Break the Rules Day, another fundraising event for the school PTA, along with the final donations for Bishop's Stortford Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity.



Reminders and Updates

Dinner Money

A gentle reminder to parents and carers to please ensure that dinner money accounts are kept up to date. If you have any questions regarding balances or payments, please contact the school office after Christmas, who will be happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.

Lost Property

Our lost property collection is filling up fast! We kindly ask parents and carers to check the lost property area for any missing items, particularly coats, jumpers and hats as soon as possible. Any unclaimed items will be donated in the first week back.



Celebration of Achievements Excellence Awards

The following children were nominated for an Excellence Award this term for their consistent positive attitude to learning and exemplary behavior. To celebrate, each child received a certificate and enjoyed an afternoon tea with the Senior Leadership Team. Many congratulations children and keep up the good work!

Ducklings: Iona and Fred

Puffins: Jude

Robins: Vinnie

Starlings: Charlotte

Skylarks: Ivar

Nightingales: Manuel

Kestrels: Bea

Harriers: Sydney



Owls: Hussain

Wrens: Aarav

Sparrows: Luna

Swifts: Violet

Kingfishers: Flora



Kites: Lara

Hawks: Lilian

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Chloe from Hawks, who has won the competition to design this year's cover for the church carol service. Her drawing showcases her remarkable artistic talent.



Message from the Chair of Governors

As we reach the end of term, I am delighted to introduce myself as your new Chair of Governors. It's an honour to support our wonderful school and work alongside such a dedicated community. I'd like to express my thanks to my predecessor as Chair, Laurence Foote, for his commitment and leadership over the last five years, which have helped shape the school's progress.

The Board's role is to provide strategic and financial oversight and accountability in order to help ensure a high quality education and positive pupil outcomes. We are all volunteers and have appointed four new governors in the last six months to widen further the Board's breadth of experience to help us satisfy our remit. I welcome them all to the Board and am already enjoying working with them. If any parent would like to know more about the Governors' function, please do not hesitate to contact me via the School office.

On behalf of all the Governors, many thanks to all parents and carers for their support during 2025 and, of course, to all the teachers, teaching assistants and support staff across the school for their unwavering dedication. I wish everybody a relaxing and fun filled festive break and a successful 2026. Thanks, Paul Baxter

Northgate School Association

Despite not having a PTA Chair or Secretary this term, Northgate parents and staff have stepped up to raise significant funds and support the school. Their efforts help ensure our children continue to enjoy an exciting and enriching education.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered or supported the PTA — your contribution truly makes a difference. If you would like to get involved, please contact ptanorthgate@gmail.com.

We thank all Northgate families for their continued support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.