

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

5th March 2021

Headteacher's News

The staff have been busy getting ready for having the children back in school on Monday. Everyone is very excited! I would like to thank all the staff who have worked extremely hard, teaching in new ways during this lockdown. Support staff have also done a fantastic job in the key worker classes. Ofsted are asking for parents' opinions on home learning so if you are interested in expressing your views to them, please go to Ofsted parent view.

We are now looking forward to a safe return. Our teachers, support staff, club leaders and specialist visitors will now be required to take lateral flow tests before coming into school, in order to identify asymptomatic cases.

We currently have 2 members of staff isolating, so it is important to stress that Coronavirus is still in our community. As ever, we want to try and keep all our bubbles open so please make sure that you continue to follow Government guidance.

In addition to staff testing, the Government has confirmed that Lateral Flow Tests will now be given free to all families and households with primary and secondary aged children. This quick test could screen all family members that you feel are old enough to be tested without trauma. By doing this, it will help with the identification of asymptomatic cases, which will help to keep your children, other families and our whole school community safe.

Primary schools do not have testing kits for our families. You can get your testing kits through your employer, if they are offering testing, through a [local test site](#), by collecting a home testing kit from a [local test kit collection point](#), or by ordering [Lateral Flow Test kits online](#).

These tests should be taken twice weekly (3 or 4 days apart) and test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace within 24 hours of taking the test. You can [report your test online](#) or by calling 119.

If anyone in your household tests positive or gets Coronavirus symptoms, they must tell inform the school immediately by emailing absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk or by calling the school office on 01279 652376. In the case of a positive lateral flow test result you must:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible Coronavirus infection](#)

Please keep following the [current advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended.

We thank you for your support with this.

Have a great weekend.

Important Dates - 2020/21

Mon 8th March	Children Return to School
Thurs 11th March	World Book Day (<i>dress as an adjective</i>)
Fri 19th March	Comic Relief (<i>tell a joke or wear a red nose</i>)
Mon 22nd March	Y3 Roman Day
Weds 24th March	House Cross Country
Fri 26th March	End of Term at 2.00pm
Mon 12th Apr	Children Return to School
Mon 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
10th-13th May	KS2 Internal SATs week
May 2021	KS1 Internal SATs
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
Mon 7th June	INSET DAY
Tues 8th June	Children Return to School
7th-11th June	Yr 1 Phonics Screening and Yr 2 Retakes
7th-18th June	Yr 4 Multiplication Tests
Mon 19th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Tues 20th July	End of Term at 2.00pm
Weds 21st July	INSET day
Thurs 22nd July	OCCASIONAL DAY

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

Parking

For the safety of all our children, please could we ask that you use the Rugby Club car park where possible, and to avoid mass parking on Cricketfield Lane and Grailands. Please also note that the Cricket Club car park is still closed and therefore no parking will be available in their car park. Please do not park on the pavement at any time.

Car Fumes

In order to reduce the level of toxic fumes, both around our school and the homes of our neighbours, please ensure that car engines are turned off when stationary. We regularly receive letters from local residents who are concerned at the high levels of car fumes, dangerous parking on pavements and double parking in and around the bays outside school. Clearly we do not want there to be an accident involving a child so please ensure that you park safely at all times when outside school.

Aspects Workshops

Aspects are holding two workshops for parents and carers of children aged 5-11 during March. ***Parenting a Child with Anxiety*** is an interactive light bite masterclass delivered to you via Zoom. This workshop allows you to understand anxiety and think about how to support a child with anxiety. ***Don't Shout at Me! - 5 steps to a calmer family life*** is an interactive workshop which allows you to explore the best ways of approaching angry behaviour and develop a calmer family environment. Further details on both of these workshops can be found attached to this email.

Return to School Information

School Lunches

Ordering school lunches will continue in the same way via School Grid. Payment for lunches will continue to be made on School Gateway. Please ensure your child's account is in credit before booking lunches for the remainder of this term. The cost of a lunch is £2.60 per day and current balances can be viewed in School Gateway.

Children who have forgotten their home packed lunch will have a school packed lunch on that day as items cannot be dropped off at the school office. If your child does bring their own packed lunch, please ensure they can open all the packaging themselves and ensure that all items are nut free.

Uniform

The children should return to school in full school uniform, details of which can be found on the school [website](#).

We are understanding that your child may have grown out of their school shoes and it is currently difficult to purchase new ones for them. If this is the case, please send your child to school in other suitable shoes until the shops re-open.

School Drop Off and Collection

Please could we ask you to strictly adhere to the drop off and collection times via your usual gate and remember to socially distance at all times. As a reminder we have shown these times for you here:

Year Group	Start time	End time
Nursery AM	08.35am	11.35am
Nursery PM	12.25pm	3.25pm
Reception	09.05am	2.55pm
Year 1 – Class 1 & 2	09.00am	3.00pm
Year 2 – Class 3 & 4	08.55am	3.05pm
Year 3 – Class 5 & 6	08.50am	3.10pm
Year 4 – Class 7 & 8	08.45am	3.15pm
Year 5 – Class 9	08.40am	3.10pm
Year 5 – Class 10	08.40am	3.15pm
Year 6 – Class 11	08.45am	3.10pm
Year 6 – Class 12	08.45am	3.15pm

Please ensure that only one adult collects children at the end of the school day and that you wear a mask at all times while on school grounds.

Covid-19 Self-Isolating

Before you return to school, it is vital to remember to follow these important guidelines to protect our staff and pupils in school. Please do not send children into school if any of the following apply:

they have any one of the symptoms of Covid-19, a temperature of over 37.8°C, a persistent cough and/or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste;

they, or any members of your household are isolating, awaiting test results or have tested positive for Covid-19.

Northgate School Association

Don't forget your Mother's Day gifts can be ordered from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association> and are priced at £3 each. We hope the children enjoy choosing and that all the mums enjoy their gifts! Many thanks as ever for your support of the Northgate PTA.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Willow

Reception: This week, every child in Reception are '**Stars of Lockdown**'.

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on reading.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for understanding complex vocabulary and summarising stories.

Well done to:

Class 1: Dylan	Class 7: Maisy
Class 2: Julien and Joshua	Class 8: Mac
Class 3: Teddy	Class 9: Erin
Class 4: Cian	Class 10: Harry
Class 6: Annie	Class 11: Imogen W and Ruby
	Class 12: Jasper and Norah

School Clubs

School Clubs Restarting

We are delighted that the Government have announced that we can welcome back our school clubs from 8th March. If you are already registered for a club you should receive information from them directly regarding a return to face to face lessons for the remainder of the spring term.

An updated club list will be sent out for the summer term in before we break up for the Easter holidays.

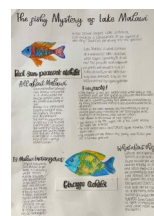
K.A.S. Morning Clubs

K.A.S. are restarting their morning sports club from Monday 8th March. If you would like to sign your child up for this fun start to the day, please contact them directly by emailing kitteridgeallsports@gmail.com. The cost per morning is £4, however if all 4 mornings are booked in a week, this would reduce to £10 per week.

KS2 Science Fair

This year, the Herts and Essex Science Fair theme is Innovating the Future. We had 9 innovative entries from Northgate's KS2. The Virtual Science Fair will be open for public viewing from the 12th March and winners will be announced on Tuesday 16th March including cash prizes! The fair can be found online at <https://www.bsettsa.co.uk/the-herts-and-essex-science-fair-2021/411.html>

We wish our entries the best of luck!



Reminders and Updates

Home Learning Books

Please ensure you return all home learning books, including school reading books, on Monday via the classroom.

Forgotten Items

In order to limit the movement of staff around the school, and to maintain the safety of class bubbles, only essential forgotten items such as medicine or glasses can be dropped off at the school office.