

January 22nd 2021

### Headteacher's News

Well done everyone! We have completed another successful week of home learning in these difficult times. The children have produced some fantastic work so please look at some examples in the home – school galleries. We appreciate home learning is challenging and are here to help you and motivate the children so please keep in touch if you need support. It is a difficult balance between supporting your child and doing it for them. Teachers know what your child can do independently and do want to see their own work. Hopefully your child has had some feedback on their English work that has been submitted so far. Please do keep reading with and to your child - it will make a huge difference to them. We hope they will be inspired by authors at the Literature festival which the children will be attending virtually in February. More details will follow on this.

Please remember that this is a difficult time for all and two websites that may be of support should you need it are <https://www.place2be.org.uk/> and <https://www.mind.org.uk/>.

Congratulations to Mrs Pursglove, our PE teacher, on the safe arrival of her daughter Ella! Great to have some lovely positive news! Keep safe and well.

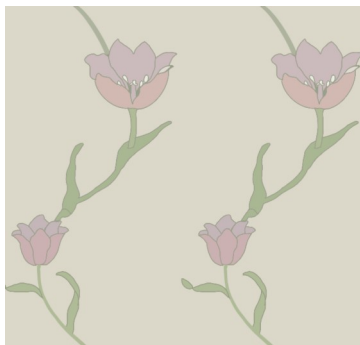
### Important Dates - 2020/21

15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
<b>Mon 22nd Feb</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Tues 23rd Feb</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
Fri 26th March	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 12th Apr</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>Mon 3rd May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>
10th-13th May	KS2 Internal SATs week
May 2021	KS1 Internal SATs
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
<b>Mon 7th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Tues 8th June</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
7th-11th June	Yr 1 Phonics Screening and Yr 2 Retakes
7th-18th June	Yr 4 Multiplication Tests
Weds 21st July	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Thurs 22nd July</b>	<b>OCCASIONAL DAY</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

### Home-School Gallery

Harry G (C12) has been working hard in Mrs Jones English group where they have been reading horror stories.



Class 11 have been working on art work in the style of William Morris this week. Well done to Casey, Imogen W, Charlotte and Jamie



### Safeguarding

SSS Learning have produced a free Safeguarding parent resource called Child Mental Health and Wellbeing - 10 Top Tips for Parents.

This resource is design=ed to offer advice on how parents can safeguard their children's mental health and promote their wellbeing and is available as a document and on a short video presentation.

The link to the document and video is here for you to explore:

[Children - 10 Top Tips](#)

### Wellbeing

Too much screen time can have a negative effect on children's well-being. To get the children away from their screens, while still having some fun,

*Pobble* have compiled 100 non-screen activities for kids on downloadable sheets so you can print and share. There are four sheets in total and they cover everything from cooking and crafting to music and movement!

Visit [non-screen time activities](#) to download 4 separate sheets with lots of suggestions.

**t** Top tips for looking after your mental health this January

- ♥ Try to focus on the things that you can control, rather than the things that you can't
- ♥ Limit your exposure to the news to reduce anxiety
- ♥ Too much speculation is a waste of time and energy. Whatever happens, you will deal with it
- ♥ Do at least two things everyday that make you smile
- ♥ Make sure you get outside every day - nature has an amazing way of making us feel calm
- ♥ 20 minutes of exercise reduces cortisol levels (stress hormone) for 24 hours
- ♥ Human connection is incredibly important - keep talking, zooming and messaging

## Reminders and Updates

### School Office

The school office staff continue to work on a rota until further notice. You can contact them during school hours by emailing [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk) for general queries, or [secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk) for messages relating to key workers or to contact a member of the senior leadership team.

## Home Learning - Music

Live music lessons for Key Stage 2 children have been included in the timetable to add variety to their online learning experience as well as promoting their wellbeing.

Years 3 & 4 have been focusing on sea-themed music in the hope that we will be able to put together a performance of the production 'Pirates Versus Mermaids' later in the year.

Year 4, who are already familiar with the songs for the show, are also exploring songs on the theme of water and the ocean, linking to their Blue Abyss topic. Meanwhile, Years 5 & 6 are learning composition skills, starting with playing with language and lyrics. Year 5 are using a study of rock songs as inspiration, whilst Year 6 are exploring ways in which music can express emotions.

We are planning to create some original pieces together and are very much hoping that we will be able to share the results in the annual Instrumental Concerts - even if they have to take the form of a video this year!

To further the enrichment opportunities for Years 5 and 6, a choir session will run at 2.35pm on a Thursday afternoon from next week.

Any children who would like to develop their singing skills are welcome to join. If your child would like to take part, please email the office at [secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk) or reply to the newsletter email and we will add your child to a new group.



## Northgate School Association

### 250 Club Winner!

Congratulations to this month's 250 Club winner, Lucy Grant, who has won for the second time! What a lucky lady! She has another £520 to treat herself.

### Virtual Disco Friday 12th February

We would really like to help keep the school community spirit alive while the children can't physically be with their friends, so we are organising a **virtual disco on Friday 12th February**. Our favourite DJ, The Digital Pocahontas, will entertain Foundation/KS1 for an hour at 5pm and KS2 at 6pm. Tickets will be available to purchase online from the start of next week. The children have done so well to cope with the change to online learning and it will be nice for them to have some fun with their friends, albeit via the magic of Zoom!



## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery In-School: Robbie R1: Dylan  
Home Learner: Matilda R2: Harvey

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

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for their use of creative vocabulary and using a variety of different sentence types.

Well done to:

Class 1: Eleanor Class 7: Euan  
Class 2: Max Class 8: Emily  
Class 3: George Class 9: Gabriella  
Class 4: Rose Class 10: Dylan  
Class 5: Harry Class 11: Isla J and Lars  
Class 6: Martha Class 12: Sophie and Dinon

## Home-School Gallery - Art Work

Class 8 have been working on some brilliant artwork since they have been at home.



The task was to imagine you are in a submarine and to create a picture of their view from the submarine.

Well done to Ailsa and Phoebe for your superb, imaginative artwork.

## Key Worker Classes - Covid-19 Vigilance

If your child is coming into a school key worker class during the period of school closure, please remember to follow these important guidelines to protect our staff and pupils.

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 sense of smell or taste.
- they, or any members of your household or support bubble, are awaiting test results or have tested positive for Covid-19.

For the national lockdown to be effective, it's important that we keep the numbers attending school as low as possible whilst allowing those who really need to be in school to have access to place. Thank you for your co-operation with this.