

January 27th 2023

## Headteacher's News

I hope you received the school letter sent yesterday regarding the teachers' union strikes next week, stating that the school will be open as usual except Year 4. This week the leadership team and governors have reviewed the parental safeguarding questionnaire to identify any future actions. Of the families that replied (191/342 families), we were delighted that the majority of the responses were extremely positive, e.g. My child feels safe at school—94.1%, My child is happy at school—92.4%, The school premises are safe and well-resourced—96.6%. Many parents are clearly unsure how the school supports pupils to keep them safe. We provide parents with regular updates and links in our safeguarding section on the newsletter about how to keep your child safe when using the internet; we are now also trying to organise a parent session with an outside provider for the summer term, plus Miss Hartey is running a session for parents about what we teach regarding online safety on Safer internet day at 9am. Leaders are also considering adding PSHE and Computing into termly letters. If you have any further ideas that would support these, please email [interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk). Thank you for your time completing the questionnaires.

We are always keen to enrich the curriculum for the pupils and are delighted that our Key Stage 2 children will be attending the Festival of literature at the College next week where they will listen to authors sharing their books and their stories about being a writer.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Year 1** has started their first topic 'Bright Lights, Big City'. This week they have been learning about the past and current royal family. Class 1 have made special invitations ready to send to the Queen Consort at Buckingham Palace for a 'Royal Tea Party' which will be held at school soon.



The children in **Year 2** have been learning about vehicles in Design and Technology. They have designed their own vehicles, also choosing between the two methods to make a secure axle attaching the wheels to the chassis.



As part of our Tremors topic, **Year 3** made some 'volcanoes' using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, washing up liquid and red powder paint. We mixed all the ingredients together apart from the vinegar and poured it into our volcano and then poured the vinegar in on top and watched our volcanos 'erupt.' It was very exciting and messy! We discussed which two ingredients were key to the eruption and how they react when mixed together. Why don't you try it at home?



**Year 4** are learning about electricity in science and this week we were investigating which circuits are complete and which are incomplete. We used batteries, bulbs and wires to test the different circuits to see if electricity would flow to light up the bulb.



## Important Dates

Tues 31st Jan  
**Weds 1st Feb**  
Thurs 2nd Feb  
Fri 3rd Feb  
**Mon 6th Feb**  
**Tues 7th Feb**  
Weds 8th Feb  
**Thurs 9th Feb**  
Fri 10th Feb  
13th-17th Feb  
Thurs 23rd Feb  
Tues 28th Feb  
Weds 1st March  
**Weds 1st March**  
**Thurs 2nd March**  
Thurs 2nd March  
Fri 3rd March  
Mon 6th March  
Thurs 9th March  
Fri 10th March  
w/c 13th March  
**Thurs 23rd March**  
Tues 28th March

Weds 29th March  
Weds 29th March  
Weds 29th March  
Thurs 30th March

Fri 31st March  
Mon 17th April  
May 2023

**Mon 1st May**  
**Mon 8th May**  
**Fri 12th May**  
9th-12th May  
Fri 19th May  
29th-2nd June

**Mon 5th June**  
Sat 10th June  
w/c 12th June  
Mon 26th June  
12th -16th June  
12th -23th June  
Tues 13th June  
w/c 17th July  
**Thurs 20th July**  
Friday 21st July

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

2pm Year 5 trip 'Festival of literature'  
**Teachers strike day-Year 4 children not in school.**  
2pm Year 6 trip 'Festival of literature'  
2pm Year 3 trip 'Festival of literature'  
**9am R2 trip to Town Library**  
**9am Safer internet day**  
11.15am Year 4 trip 'Festival of literature'  
**9am R1 trip to Town Library**  
Break the Rules Day  
Half term  
Year 6 Spring Music Concert  
Parent consultations 3.40 –6.40pm  
Parent consultation 3.30–6pm  
**Class 3 parent consultation 3.40pm–6.40pm**  
**Class 3 parent consultation 3.30pm–6.00pm**  
World Book Day  
Happy Bag collection  
7.30PM PTA committee meeting (online)  
Year 5 Spring Music Concert  
PTA School Disco (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)  
PTA Mother's Day Shop  
Year 3/4 production  
9.00am LSK2 Challenge with parents/work sharing  
9.00am KS1 Challenge with parents/work sharing  
Northgate's Got Talent  
House cross country final  
9.00am UKS2 Challenge with parents/work sharing  
Term Ends **2.00pm**  
Children return to school  
Y2 SATs Week  
**Bank Holiday**  
**The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday**  
2pm PTA committee meeting (in person)  
Y6 SATs Week  
PTA Film Night (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)  
Half term  
**INSET DAY**  
PTA Summer Fayre  
PTA Father's Day Shop  
7.30pm PTA committee meeting (online)  
Y1 Phonics Week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)  
Y4 Times Tables Tests  
Happy Bag collection  
PTA Ice Cream Sales  
**End of Term at 2.00pm**  
Occasional day

## Safeguarding

Live streaming has become a popular feature of many apps and platforms. By understanding why it is popular and what your child may come across, parents and carers can help children have a more positive online experience.

There are several factors that can make watching or creating live streams potentially harmful for children and young people. These issues are discussed and you will find useful links and information on HFL Educations 'online parents and carers newsletter spring 2023'. Please use this link to access this:

[hfl-online-safety-newsletter-for-parents-and-carers-spring-2023](https://hfl-online-safety-newsletter-for-parents-and-carers-spring-2023)  
([thegrid.org.uk](https://thegrid.org.uk))



Three teams from Northgate played a friendly football match at The Bishop Stortford College on Thursday afterschool. Please see two accounts of two matches below:

#### Boys A team

Coming into this game, Northgate and the college were quite evenly matched. The match began with us kicking off. Both teams were attacking. After a few Northgate corners and attacks, the college made a counter attack and their striker scored from around 7 yards, placing it in the bottom corner, 1-0 to the college. We kept our heads held high, after a few minutes of perseverance, Curtis took a shot and it hit a defender's hand. A penalty! Daniel took it and slotted it into the bottom corner, 1-1. Just before half time the opposition scored again, 2-1. In the second half, we put more energy into the game, Curtis took a shot but it was saved, then Griff chipped it over the goal keeper 2-2. Next, Daniel passed it to Curtis and he placed it into the left-hand corner of the goal 3-2 to Northgate. The celebrations were wild! The college had a few chances but Northgate was on the super attack, with a lovely through ball from Curtis, Daniel nut-megged the keeper 4-3 at Fulltime. Goal keepers during the game were: George, Mac and Tommy. All of them made fantastic saves. In defence, was Tommy George and Alfie and great passes were made by Curtis, Mac and Griff, Harry was upfront with Daniel. In our opinion, this was one of the best games Northgate has ever played.

#### Boys B team

Straight from kick-off, Northgate was determined to win. The weather was terrible, but that didn't stop us from trying our best. Early in the game, Freddy got a penalty and placed it perfectly in the bottom-left corner. For Northgate's next opportunity, it was Freddy again in a breakthrough and he rifled it in to the goal. After half-time, the College's keeper made a terrific save which then ricocheted to Matthew, who took a touch and then scored. For Northgate's final goal, Archie had a breakthrough and took an amazing long shot which ended the score line with minutes to spare. In the end, Northgate won 4-0 and everyone had a great time. By John Class 10



In DT this term, Year 5 were designing and making moon buggies. This week, we made prototypes of the moon buggies using card. This helped us perfect our designs to make them strong and easy to move. We are now ready to make our final structures, ready to be sent to the moon!



## Second hand Uniform Sale

Please note that our second-hand school uniform sale rails will now revert back to being put out in the reception area on Fridays only. This is due to sales slowing down.

Thank you for continued support in both donating and buying these items. It is great to get as much use out of them as possible, support families during the cost of living crisis, plus the money raised comes back to the school.

Thank you to Mrs Homer for her commitment and hard work sorting out the items and displaying them so nicely each morning. Thanks also go to Ms Dearnley who helps with this on Friday mornings.

## Newspapers needed urgently please

Raid your recycling!

Do you have any newspapers that school could have? If not do you know anyone that would? Such as a neighbour or Parent? Our store of newspapers is very low and need some for next weeks activities.



## Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Fintan & Morgan

R1: Jack R2: Thomas

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on 'writing'. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: embracing our topic and producing some fantastic writing with excellent features all completed in exquisite handwriting, a fantastic description, using figurative language, compiling sentences to go in their non-chronological report that are advanced and descriptive but sound very factual and scientific, excellent use of imagination in creative writing, including lots of different features in the story and also for beautiful joined up writing, always challenging themselves to include all the elements of our learning intentions, working hard and remembering to use full stops in their writing, writing a diary in first person, remembering capital letters and full stops, fantastic use of figurative language within descriptive writing, and excellent Gothic horror writing.

Class 1 Florence

Class 7: George

Class 2: Olivia

Class 8: Sidney

Class 3: Charlie

Class 9: Isabella

Class 4: Esmay

Class 10: Archie

Class 5: Ailbhe

Class 11: Maisy

Class 6: Methuli

Class 12: Ralf

## Reminders and Updates

### Traffic problems

We are encouraging parents and carers to use the Ruby Club car park at the top of Cricketfield Lane for parking before school pickup and drop off. The club kindly agreed with Northgate some time ago that parents could use their facilities. As parking and congestion outside Northgate is always an issue we do hope you will use this if you can. It would be good to see an improvement outside school during these times for everyone's safety.

If you experience any issues regarding the traffic outside of school, we ask you to email [Car.Parking@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Car.Parking@eastherts.gov.uk) or call the police to report it. The more parents get their concerns across the more we highlight the problem to the local authorities.

### Lateness

We appreciate that traffic is a major issue at the moment so please leave earlier to ensure your child is not late. It is becoming increasingly regular that children are arriving into school via the office after the gate has closed in the morning. Please note the main gate and small pedestrian gate on Cricketfield Lane are open at 8.45am—8.55am for children in Reception to Year 6. The start of the day is so important to settle the class and to complete sessions to reactivate learning so please ensure your child is on time each day.

### Medical Appointments

All appointments should be made if possible out of school hours. Please e-mail details of the appointment **as soon as you get confirmation. Please do not leave this to the evening before/ morning of the appointment.** Send an e-mail to [absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk). You must include a photo of an appointment letter, screenshot of a text or forward a confirmation e-mail. Please give details of the time you wish to collect/drop off and remember to book lunch on School Grid in advance of the day if you will miss morning registration.

### Sickness Bugs

**Please remember to keep your children off of school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.** We cannot accept children who are known to have vomited or experienced diarrhoea in the past 48 hours. These viruses spread very quickly.

### Lost Property

Please check in our lost property tubs in the reception lobby for any lost items as we currently have lots of hats and gloves which are unnamed.