

February 14th 2025

Headteacher's News

A huge thank you to Bishop's Stortford College for welcoming Northgate's children to their Literature Festival this week! On Monday, Professor Jigget gave a magical performance for Reception, Year 1, and Year 2, sharing three captivating stories he had collected from across the UK. On Tuesday, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed an inspiring talk from Sophie Deen, author of the *Agent Asha* spy series. She spoke about her writing process and even trained the students to join the Children's Spy Agency. Today, Lucy Strange, author of *Lockett and Wilde's Dreadfully Haunting Mysteries* and *The Island at the Edge of Night*, gave a fascinating presentation on her sources of inspiration and novel-writing process. Many thanks for the parents who helped and Mrs Jones for organising the event. We hope attending the sessions supported the children's enthusiasm for reading. We are running more events to encourage children to read at home, including our half term reading competition- please see below. Reading is a crucially important component of achieving success in education and throughout life, so please encourage your children to read in the holidays—even reading subtitles to their favourite programme will support their reading! Have a wonder holiday and thanks for your continued support!

Enriching the curriculum

Our new *Reading for Pleasure* lunchtime club held its first meeting this week! This exciting new group, led by Ms. Wren, currently focuses on upper KS2 students. Nine enthusiastic Year 6 pupils attended the first session, where they enjoyed making bookmarks and brainstormed key discussion topics for future meetings. Each week, the children will have quiet reading time with their current books before sharing and discussing their stories with the group. We look forward to seeing the club grow and inspire a love of reading among our students!



Blue Peter book badge

The Blue Peter Book Badge is a fantastic opportunity for children aged 5–15 who love reading! By sharing their thoughts on a book they've enjoyed recently and drawing a character or scene from it, they can earn this special badge. Not only is it a fun way to celebrate their love for books, but the badge also grants free entry to many attractions across the UK! Parents or guardians must apply on their behalf. Click this link to learn more and apply: [Blue Peter Book Badge](#).

Not only is it a fun way to celebrate their love for books, but the badge also grants free entry to many attractions across the UK! Parents or guardians must apply on their behalf. Click this link to learn more and apply: [Blue Peter Book Badge](#).

Half term reading competition

Over half term, we are running a reading competition where children record any reading they have completed. This doesn't have to be just books, but reading opportunities such as: trips out, signage, visit the library, museum guides, comics, magazines, emails, blogs, audio-books, subtitles on screens and much more. *Let your imagination soar!*

To enter, please complete the bookcase attached with all the different examples of what you have read. It needs to be signed off by an adult. Please print and deliver your completed form to Mrs Layer by Wednesday 27.02.25. **Prizes** (thanks to the PTA) will be vouchers for our up and coming book fair.

Important Dates

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 17th-21st Feb | Half term |
| Thurs 27th Feb | KS2 School Council Bake off |
| 4th & 6th Mar | Parent Consultations (Details to follow) |
| Tues 4th Mar | Rec/Y1 Trip to Stortford fields Story Teller |
| Thurs 6th Mar | World Book Day (dressing as an adjective) |
| WK beg 10th Mar | Maths games/work sharing with parents |
| | Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am |
| | Wed KS1 —9am, Thurs LKS2 —9am |
| Thurs 13th Mar | Year 6 Instrumental Concert |
| Fri 14th Mar | Well-being Event (for parents/carers) |
| W/C 17 th Mar | Neurodiversity week |
| Fri 21st Mar | Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time) |
| | Mother's Day Shop |
| W/C 24th Mar | Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted) |
| Wed 26th Mar | 9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance |
| Thurs 27th Mar | Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle |
| Fri 28th Mar | EYFS/KS1 & KS2 School Disco with Book Fair |
| Fri 28th Mar | Science week—Visit from Fab Science |
| WK beg 31st Mar | Y5 Instrumental Concert |
| Thurs 3rd April | Break the Rules Day |
| Fri 4th April | Term Ends 2pm |
| Fri 4th April | Easter holidays |
| 7th- 21st April | Children back to school |
| Tues 22nd Aril | Year 4 Instrumental Concert |
| Thurs 1st May | Bank Holiday |
| Mon 5th May | Year 3 Instrumental Concert |
| Thurs 15th May | Y6 visit to Crucial Crew |
| Wed 21st May | End of term |
| Thurs 22nd May | Inset day |
| Fri 23rd May | Half term |
| 26th—30th May | Father's Day Shop |
| W/C 9th June | PTA Summer Fayre |
| Sat 14th June | Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow) |
| Wed 2nd July | Sports Day (details to follow) |
| | Reserve Sports Day. |
| Fri 4th July | Break up for summer holidays |
| Fri 11th July | Occasional day |
| Tues 22nd July | Start of New School Year |
| Wes 23rd July | |
| Thurs 4th Sept | |

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding:

Parking Reminder for Parents

This week a local resident and the cricket club contacted the school to raise concerns about parents parking inconsiderately on the roads surrounding the school. Please do not double park, block private driveways, or park on road corners, as this creates a serious safety hazard. Poor parking restricts visibility and could prevent emergency vehicles from reaching residents in need. We kindly ask all parents to be mindful and respectful when parking near the school.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our community safe.

Internet Safety

Please find attached a link to the HFL Spring term parent newsletter, which talks about internet safety: <https://thegrid.org.uk/assets/spring-2025-parents-newsletter.pdf>

Enriching the Curriculum

Visit from Wonder Dome

On Monday, in relation to their topic 'Planets', **Year 5** had an exciting visit from Wonder Dome. The children stepped through the zip entrance of a spectacular dome-shaped planetarium, and were immersed in a 360-degree projection of space, unveiling the vast wonders of the Universe. They journeyed through the formation of planets, the birth and death of stars, rocket launches, and the dream of setting foot on distant worlds. The experience sparked their curiosity and deepened their fascination with space exploration.



French and Music

In French, **Year 3** have been learning about *les instruments*. To bring their learning to life, Mrs. Cheung, our music teacher, brought in two (*deux*) of our ten (*dix*) instruments to demonstrate to the pupils. The students really enjoyed listening to *la harpe* and *la clarinette*. This was a fantastic way to reinforce the vocabulary they have been practising in French.

Year 6 local walk

On Wednesday, **Year 6** embarked on a fascinating exploration of local Victorian architecture. Elijah and Marco from Harriers shared how, in small groups with their teacher, they surveyed various buildings, identifying classic Victorian features such as stained glass windows, patterned brickwork, tiled porch floors, and chimney stacks.

In total, they observed over twenty buildings dating back to the mid-1800s. A highlight of the walk was studying the old Northgate School, built in 1839, where they were surprised to find separate entrances for boys and girls. As part of their learning, the class has also been comparing Victorian maps with modern-day ones to understand how the area has evolved over time.

EYFS/KS1 School Council Bake off

Yesterday was the **EYFS/KS1** School Council Bake off! There was some fantastic bakes so thank you to everyone that participated. The cakes were judged by members of the School Council on their imagination, decoration and taste. Congratulations to the winners who were: Michael from Reception, Tom and Izzy from Year 1 and Martha from Year 2. The cakes were sold to raise money for future school council events and children from the whole school enjoyed taking them home to try. The children raised £212, which is fantastic! Please see the next page that shows many of the wonderful designs.

Reminders and Updates

Afterschool Clubs

Don't forget to sign your child up for after school clubs for after half term. These are now available on Arbor.

Chess Club volunteers needed!

Do you know someone in your family who loves chess and would be interested in running an after-school club at Northgate? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the school office for more details.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Amber and Myles

Puffins: Skye **Owls:** Winter

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: exceeding expectations, being a reflective learner and for showing independence and maturity.

Well done to:

Robins: Hollie

Wrens: Jenson

Starlings: Evelyn

Sparrows: Taurus

Skylarks: Harrison

Swifts: George

Nightingales: Henry **Kingfishers:** Leto

Kestrels: Hugo

Kites: Joshua

Harriers: James

Hawks: Julia



Attendance this half term

| Yr | % | Our target | 96% |
|----------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| R | 96.8 | Whole school | 95.8% |
| 1 | 95.5 | 0 days off | 100% Fantastic |
| 2 | 93.7 | 5 days off a year | 97% Good |
| 3 | 95.9 | 10 days off a year | 95% Slight concern |
| 4 | 96.2 | 20 days off a year | 90% Concerned |
| 5 | 96.7 | 30 days off a year | 85% Very concerned |
| 6 | 96 | | |

As you will be aware school attendance, is a national issue, and as a consequence we have made changes to our policy this year, which is available on our website.

We appreciate that some children at times struggle to come into school, and if you would like support please speak to your class teacher or email Mrs Rogers, our pastoral leader.

Northgate School Association

Summer Fayre

The summer Fayre is on Saturday 14th June 2025 from 12 noon to 3pm and we've decided on a 'Jungle' theme. As always, we do need your help to run these large events.

Do you own or work for a company that would like to sponsor our Summer Fayre? In return for sponsorship, your logo and company will be featured in the event advertising within the school community and to the wider community where appropriate. Contact us via Facebook or email us on ptanorthgate@gmail.com for further details!

Your help is very much appreciated.

We are also looking for raffle prizes. If you are able to donate a prize for our legendary raffle, please contact me on the email address above.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Book Fair is coming to Northgate Primary School on Wednesday 26th March at school pick up. An opportunity to spend your World Book Day vouchers whilst earning books for our school. Lots of fab deals available!

Please view our Facebook page to see all upcoming PTA Events. Lots coming up over the next few months!

Hope you all have a relaxing half term.

Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team

EYFS and KS1 Bake Off 2025

