

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

April 3rd 2020

Headteacher's News

Once again I would like to extend my well wishes to all our pupils and their families and hope you are safe and healthy despite the challenges we are all now facing. It has given me great pleasure seeing the rainbows, drawn as symbols of hope, in people's windows as I have been walking to school.

We hope that you have had a successful week of home learning. We do appreciate that individuals' circumstances and ability to complete work could be inhibited by limited access to computers at home, illness in the family etc. The office staff have been working hard at home, trying to support any technical challenges. It is a new learning experience for us all! Please be aware that the office staff do not work over the Easter holidays. Learning for the first week following the Easter holidays will be uploaded on Friday 17th March.

Please remember there is a great deal of positive learning that can also be done in many family activities, such as helping in the garden, making a cake - can you help your children get a better understanding of grams and kilograms, or playing a board game - can they increase their rapid recall of number bonds? As we are not setting holiday homework, we have given lots of ideas on page 2 to keep your children busy over the next two weeks.

I would like to wish Mrs Abblitt all the best as she officially starts her maternity leave. We also wish Mrs Thompson all the best as she moves on.

Wishing you a Happy Easter and all the best in these challenging times.

Home Learning - Reading

Oxford Owls

Oxford Owls is a very comprehensive website and has lots of ebooks available which are free to download, as well as many other maths and English activities. There is a simple registration process and then you will have access to all their online resources.

Visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk and click on 'Oxford Owl for Home' button or use this [link](#).

Access to Free Books and Stories

Here are some further links to stories and books which can be downloaded for free:

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/> - Stories for different ages with a mixture of short and longer stories.

Amazon's Top 100 Free Children's eBooks are frequently updated with new titles. From young children to teens, there's something for every young reader. You'll need a Kindle or the Kindle App on your iPad or phone to download and read these titles.

Northgate Primary School - Story Time

Hopefully you will have all been enjoying the daily story-time videos, featuring Northgate staff. An Easter story will be uploaded during the holidays with lots more to follow when we are back in school.

You can subscribe to Northgate Primary School in YouTube to enjoy these stories over the coming weeks.

Celebration of Achievements

Congratulations to everyone who has successfully logged on to Mathletics this week. There has been some fabulous maths going on across all year groups.

Based on their participation throughout the week, we will be giving an award to one child in each class.

The winners this week are:

Class 1: Tessa	Class 7: Nathan
Class 2: Luca	Class 8: Olivia
Class 3: Max	Class 9: Harry
Class 4: Harry	Class 10: Lars
Class 5: Rose	Class 11: James
Class 6: Gabrielle	Class 12: Ethan S

The **leading classes** this week are:

1st Class 8, 2nd Class 6, 3rd Class 7

Well done to these classes and to everyone for their hard work.

Safeguarding

Internet Safety and Advice

Internetmatters.org have launched an advice hub to assist parents with helping their children to get the most out of the time they are spending online.

Whether you are looking for solutions on how to set-up virtual playdates, or working out how to help create a good digital balance, the hub will offer you something that can help.

Below are some of the hub's latest articles and resources, particularly some useful advice on the Houseparty app which some of our KS2 children may have been introduced to:

[Online Safety for primary school children](#)

[Advice on dealing with family stress during the lockdown](#)

[Tips on working from home during school closure](#)

[Houseparty App Advice](#)

Aspects Family Support

Aspects have been continuing to work remotely and remain in contact with families already referred to their service. They are also offering telephone and email advice, support and information sharing. Please do contact them if needed - using the Aspects mobile number 07903 616 530 or email admin@aspects.org.uk.

Additionally, if in extreme circumstances you are aware of a family who do not have support from friends or family members to collect medicines/repeat prescriptions or need help getting food or accessing the food bank, please do contact them for help.

Wellbeing

Red Cross Kindness Calendar

As the UK faces a global coronavirus pandemic, things can feel a little uncertain and even overwhelming. But, during these difficult times, one thing is clear: small acts of kindness make a big difference. The power of kindness calendar helps children and young people learn about and carry out kind acts, adding them to the blank calendar. Find out more by visiting:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/kindness-calendar>

Easter Break - Home School Activities

Wizarding during the Lockdown

Well it seems that it is not just muggles having to stay at home but wizards as well!

JK Rowling has launched a Home Hub - **Harry Potter at Home** to bring a dose of 'magic' with wizarding activities for the whole family to complete.

You will also be able to access free audio books and eBooks of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone throughout April.

It can all be accessed through www.wizardingworld.com.

French

Mme Craston has been busy locating websites offering free access for children. This one is free for the next 3 months. <https://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/freeforkids/>

Suggested Online Activities

PE with Joe Wicks on YouTube - week days at 9am or visit anytime on YouTube.

Wildlife with Steve Backshall on Facebook - every day 9.30am

Science with Maddie Moate on YouTube—week days at 11am for all things science and nature.

Music with Myleene Klass on YouTube.

Storytime with David Walliams - visit his [website](#) for details.

PE Challenge

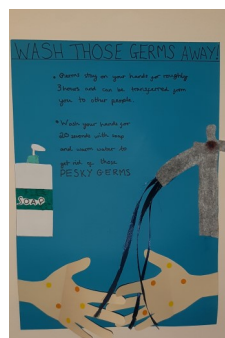
Seven PE challenges were sent out on eschools last Friday for the children to complete across the week, either one each day or as many as the children would like to fit in. The challenges all take 5min or less from setting up to completing and can be done with items used around the house.

The aim for the challenge is for the children to try and improve their score each week, working their way through to achieve bronze, silver and gold levels.

All ages can participate and small adaptations can be made to each challenge, for example the size of the equipment, the distances they have to travel, using less dominant parts of the body etc.

Mrs Pursglove is looking forward to seeing the scores across the year groups when we return to school and creating results boards with the sports captains.

Home-School Gallery



Year 4

Abigail has made this wonderful handwashing poster. Well done to Abigail and to all the children in Class 8 who have been sending Miss Adams lots of the work they have been doing at home.

Year 5

Our Year 5 children have been investigating water resistance in their topic and were challenged to make a boat out of recycling.

Well done to Zoe in Class 10 for making this brilliant working boat!



School Association

250 Club

There's some good news for one of our parents in these strange and dark times.... CONGRATULATIONS to Peter Fowke on winning £512 on this month's 250 Club draw! That's a lot of takeaways! There are still numbers available if you'd like to join the club, email ptanorthgate@gmail.com for details and a membership form. Follow our closed group on Facebook (Northgate PTA Noticeboard) to see the draws and all other PTA related news.

Bishop's Stortford Indie Message-board of Thanks

We are working with the local newspaper to put together a public message-board of thank you messages Email your message to the PTA email address above to be included. If you can share any pictures of your children's work or of your home schooling activities that would be wonderful too!

We look forward to getting back to normal ... whenever that may be! Wishing you all a lovely and healthy Easter break. Your PTA

Reminders

School Office

The school office staff are home based until further notice. You can contact them during school hours by email, **however the office will be closed over the Easter holidays.** Please use admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk for matters relating to key worker places, eschools and other general enquiries. To contact a member of the senior leadership team, please use secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk. **The school office phone is not currently monitored please do not leave messages as they may not be picked up.**

Easter School Closure

The school will be closed for the next two weeks.

Any uncollected reading books can be picked up when we re-open on 20th April.

Term Time - eschools reminder

During term time the teachers are sending pupils a daily message on eschools - please remember to look out for it.