

**November 18th 2022**

## Headteacher's News

I would like to thank all the parents who support our cake sale this week; in particular the parents whose companies match funded the event. This was part of our fundraising to improve our EYFS outside area, which has got tired so we wish to revamp it. Our current EYFS team are highly committed to outdoor learning and wish to enable the best possible learning opportunities. Please make sure your children are keeping away from school equipment after school, as items, such as the foundation stage goals have been broken by children playing after school. We have also had accidents with children playing on the play equipment after school, which is why we ask you to keep your children off. We greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

Each year there is a series of national tests which give parents the opportunity to see how your child's performance compares to other children nationally. It is very important that your child is in school at these times and in the weeks running up to the assessments so please **do not book** holidays etc. around the test dates.

In KS1 there are called quizzes and are kept low key.

Y1 Phonics Week - 12th June - 16th 2023 (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)

Y2 SATs Week - May 2023

Y4 Times Tables Tests - 12th June to 23th June 2023

Y6 SATs Week - 9th—12th May 2023

Many thanks.

Have a lovely weekend.

## Important Dates

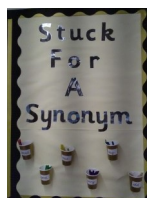
Tues 22nd Nov	Flu immunisations (for unvaccinated pupils)
<b>Mon 28th Nov</b>	<b>7.30pm PTA AGM (virtual meeting)</b>
Fri 2nd Dec	3.15pm Christmas Film Night
Wed 7th Dec	9.15am & 2.30pm Reception Christmas production
Tue 13th Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm KS1 Christmas production
Tues 13th Dec	KS2 Christmas Lunch
Wed 14th Dec	R & KS1 Christmas Lunch
<b>Wed 14th Dec</b>	<b>KS1 Finish school at 3.10pm</b>
<b>Wed 14th Dec</b>	<b>KS2 Pantomime South Mills "Jack and the Bean Stalk"</b> (pick up from South Mills. You may pick KS1 children slightly earlier, more details to follow)
	<b>Year 3—3.30pm</b>
	<b>Year 4—3.35pm</b>
	<b>Year 5—3.40pm</b>
	<b>Year 6—3.45pm</b>
Thurs 15th Dec	KS2 St Michael's church carol service (Parents welcome. pick up from church at 3pm )
<b>Fri 16th Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper day.</b>
Fri 16th Dec	Last day of Nursery before Christmas
Tues 20th Dec	9.00am Volunteer coffee morning
Tues 20th Dec	Northgate's Got Talent
Wed 21st Dec	Break the Rules Day
Wed 21st Dec	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Thurs 5th Jan</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Fri 6th Jan	R—Y6 return to school after Christmas break
Mon 9th Jan	Nursery return after Christmas break
13th-17th Feb	Half term
Fri 31st March	End of term at <b>2.00pm</b>
Mon 17th April	Children return to school
<b>May 2023</b>	<b>Y2 SATs Week</b>
<b>Mon 1st May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>Mon 8th May</b>	<b>The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday</b>
<b>9th-12th May</b>	<b>Y6 SATs Week</b>
29th-2nd June	Half term
<b>Mon 5th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>12th -16th June</b>	<b>Y1 Phonics Week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)</b>
<b>12th -23th June</b>	<b>Y4 Times Tables Tests</b>
<b>Thurs 20th July</b>	<b>End of Term at 2.00pm</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Enriching the Curriculum

### Visit from the local Fire Brigade

The children in nursery had a valuable experience with firefighter Cramer. He showed them his special protective uniform and talked about why it was protected from a fire



**Stuck for a Synonym?** Class 7 have a clever way of generating a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase. If the children need inspiration they dip into a pot full of synonyms for the words: small, big, said, good, very and old.

### Water Cycle

Class 8 has been studying why water is a very important part of life on earth and how the water cycle works. They have been writing explanation texts on the four main stages of the water cycle, evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. They will be adding diagrams next week.

### Christmas Cards

Class 10 have been designing and making Christmas cards this afternoon. This has put everyone in the festive spirit!



### Cake Sale

On Tuesday after school EYFS held a big fund raiser cake sale. There was so many delicious donations from parents and staff. Thank you very much! It was so successful that the sale made £859.00. We would like to thank everyone for their very

generous donations this will make a big difference to our EYFS children. A special thank you to the whole EYFS team and especially to Mrs Cope for all her hard work, Mr Foster from Fosters School Wear, Mr & Mrs Conway from The Hertfordshire Balloon Company, Mr & Mrs Green, Mr & Mrs Smith and Mrs Vincent.

## Safeguarding

### Help to manage the cost of living

We are all facing difficult times and we should not feel embarrassed to ask for help when we need it, as there is assistance out there.

[Here](#) is a link from the Hertfordshire County Council Website, where you can find details on organisations that provide help.

**Herts Help** – need help and don't know where to turn? Have a question or problem? Trained advisors can help at no cost.

**Help for Households** - central government support with household costs

**Citizens Advice** – which includes:

- Budgeting advice
- Employment Advice
- Debt advice
- Universal Credit Support
- Welfare benefit appeals support
- British Sign Language advice



## Enriching the curriculum

### Northgate Girls Football Team.

On Monday 14th November a team made up of Year 5 and 6 girls and an outstanding player from Year 4 had a tough match against Hillmead, but with great defence and great saves from our goalie, we managed to give them a good game and get a goal back with our attacking side. The final score was 3 –1. This didn't reflect how our team played! Well done girls for your determination and teamwork. I cannot wait for the next match. By Isabelle C Class 11



## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: George H and Thaleia

R1: Harriet R2 Edward

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on Computers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: showing new skills on the computer and interactive whiteboard, excellent discussion and understanding of online safety, showing key skills on how to use tablet devices effectively, confidently knowing what to do to stay safe online, a sound understanding of block coding, understanding of attributing information such as a link from its original source and a detailed explanation of E Safety.

Class 1: Charlie	Class 7: Sebastian
Class 2: Willow	Class 8: Evie
Class 3: George	Class 9: Harry
Class 4: Thomas	Class 10: John
Class 5: Joshua	Class 11: Ivan
Class 6: Julian	Class 12: Isabella



## Times Tables Rock Stars competition

This weekend we are beginning our 'Times Tables Rock Stars' competition, with year group classes competing against each other. All KS2 children should have their login details stuck into their home learning book. Please follow this link to login <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/87747>

The children can then choose 'Single player' or 'Multiplayer' to begin to earn points.

Once logged in, the children will need to choose a fun TTRS name. The competition begins on Friday at 4pm and finishes on Sunday at 6pm. Everyone will be restricted to a maximum of 30 minutes each day!

## Stepping Stones

Today we had a great turn out for our Stepping Stones coffee morning. Our current parents enjoyed socialising and meeting other parents of children with ADHD or suspected ADHD. This was especially useful as the experience in the room covered a range of journey stages, even parents of children that have moved onto secondary school. The focus on this occasion was secondary transition. We do hope that all involved found it useful!

## Reminders and Updates

### Important:

#### Absences

For all Absences please email [absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk) before 8.30am **NOT** Admin Thank you.

#### Snacks at school

There was an incident this week involving a child who choked on a Hula Hoop crisp during break time. Thankfully they were ok and managed to loosen it by coughing. Please can we remind parents that children should not bring crisps, chocolate, sweets or nuts into school.

## Governors

We are seeking new governors; we would welcome expressions of interest from a parent or anyone from the community who would like to give their time and experience. We are not seeking any specific skills, just an interest in school life and wanting to see the school be the best it can be.

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They help ensure the school is running as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children. Being a school governor involves a commitment to attending governing body meetings - six full governing body meetings and six sub-committee meetings a year. We are particularly looking for parents interested in joining our learning and pupil progress committee. Please note, this sub-committee meetings takes place during the school day. The committees consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. Governors visit the school to understand the way the school runs, but also at times be involved in specific projects or discuss specific issues. They also need to be prepared to complete relevant training. They are actively involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the Headteacher and senior leaders.

If you would like to speak with a governor currently working with the school to better understand the role, or for more information on joining the Governing Board, please contact the school office to arrange by emailing [secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk). An outline of a governor's role can be seen here <https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

## Northgate School Association

### PTA Christmas Film Night

Our Christmas Film Night is taking place on Friday 2nd December 2022 from 3.15pm. Tickets are available from:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/northgate-pta-christmas-film-night-2022/2022-12-02/15:15/t-qjmpame>

As always, we can't run these events without you, so please do sign up here to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-northgate9>

### PTA Christmas Cards/Gifts

Today, all children will be sent home with a leaflet regarding Christmas Cards and Gifts. This is an opportunity for your child to create a masterpiece which will be turned into beautiful cards and gifts for Christmas.

We apologise profusely for the short turnaround but if you would like to participate, your design and completed order form needs to be returned to the class Teacher on Wednesday 23rd November.

### Northgate Calendar

#### Photography Competition:

Thank you for all the wonderfully spooky submissions! October's Winner is Isabella Collyer, Class 2! Congratulations!

The winning photograph will be the prime photograph on our October 2023 calendar page. You can view it and our other favourite entries on the PTA Facebook Notice board!

Don't forget to send in entries for November. The theme is "Sparks in the Sky", but don't worry if you've missed the fireworks, a photo of anything November-ish will be accepted! Deadline for entries is 30th November.

### Pre-loved Christmas Clothes

We are holding pre loved Christmas Clothes sales on Friday 25th November, Friday 2nd December and Friday 9th December. If you have any unwanted Christmas jumpers, t-shirts, dresses, hair accessories, hats, ties, glasses and stockings, please do take them into the School Office. Thank you!

### PTA AGM

We had to unexpectedly change the date of the PTA AGM at the last minute, so our PTA AGM is now taking place virtually on Monday 28th November at 7.30pm. Should you wish to attend, please let us know

[ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com)

### Your Northgate PTA Co-Chairs

Geri Wren and Jo Parrott