

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

January 17th 2020

Headteacher's News

Well done to our more able **musicians** who went to Birchwood yesterday to join together to form an orchestra with other children from the town. Please see below for more details.

Mrs Jones, our Deputy Head, this week launched the **BBC2 Radio 500 words story**, which gives our children the opportunity to apply their writing skills at home. It is the UK's largest story writing competition for children and is celebrating it's tenth year. We have some fantastic writers in our school and we hope many of them will get involved. The children need to write a creative and imaginative story of no longer than 500 words. The [website](#) gives lots of advice on story writing and how to enter. The closing date for entries is 27th February and stories are submitted online.

With **children's mental health** becoming an increasing issue, we are grateful to Mrs Wallace, our SENDCO, who ran a parent workshop this week on supporting your child with mental health issues. I hope you found the session useful. If you are interested in attending a similar session in the future, please email interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk with possible days/times which would suit you.

Thank you to the volunteers who attended our safeguarding training earlier this week. If you are able to help with reading, either first thing in the morning or with individual reading during the day, please let the office know.

If your child is in year 1, 2, 4 or 6, please remember that they will be participating in **national assessments** during the summer term. Please ensure that holidays are not booked at these times. Year 2 SATs will be across all of May. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum

Geography House Quiz

Next week we will be holding our first House Geography Quiz. All children in KS1 and KS2 will be participating in the first round, with the final made up of teams with winners from the different year groups. Questions will include areas such as the names of oceans and continents, as well as capital cities of the UK for KS1 and some key capital cities in Europe for KS2. All of these are aspects covered in our geography curriculum. This fun event will hopefully support your child's knowledge of the world and help them retain key facts.

Birchwood Primary Music Day

On Thursday, members of the orchestra attended the Primary Music Day at Birchwood School, where they had the opportunity to play with musicians from other primary schools and Birchwood students. After sectional rehearsals, when woodwind, string and brass players practised in smaller groups, all the instrumentalists gathered together to produce an excellent performance of Soul Bossa Nova and Funk.com, under the leadership of Peter Foster from Hertfordshire Music Service. It was wonderful to see the amazing progress the children were able to make in an afternoon, with the expert guidance of the conductors.

Important Dates

Tues 21st Jan

Tues 28th Jan

Weds 29th Jan

Thurs 30th Jan

Fri 31st Jan

3rd - 7th Feb

Fri 7th Feb

Fri 7th Feb

Mon 10th Feb

Mon 10th Feb

Tues 11th Feb

Weds 12th Feb

Thurs 13th Feb

Thurs 13th Feb

17th-21st Feb

Mon 24th Feb

Tues 25th Feb

25th - 28th Feb

Tues 25th Feb

Weds 26th Feb

Thurs 5th March

Sun 8th March

Mon 9th March

16th-20th March

Tues 24th March

Weds 25th March

Thurs 26th March

Thurs 26th March

Friday 27th March

Mon 30th March

Tues 31st March

Weds 1st April

Thurs 2nd April

Fri 3rd April

Mon 20th April

May 2020

Fri 8th May

11th-15th May

25th-29th May

Mon 1st June

Sat 6th June

Tues 2nd June

8th-12th June

KS1 and KS2 House Quiz

2.50pm EYFS Maths Games with Children

2.50pm UKS2 Maths Games with Children

2.50pm KS1 Maths Games with Children

2.50pm LKS2 Maths Games with Children

Life Bus in School

2pm Year 3 to Festival of Literature

School Discos KS1 5pm, KS2 6.45pm

9.30am Year 1/2 to Festival of Literature

2pm Year 5 to Festival of Literature

2pm Year 6 to Festival of Literature

2pm School Council Picture Book Award

2pm Year 4 to Festival of Literature

Year 5 Instrumental Concert

Half Term

INSET DAY

Children Return to School

Technology Week

4-7pm Parent Consultation Meetings

3.30-6.30pm Parent Consultation Meetings

World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)

Hertfordshire Gala Concert - Albert Hall

2.50pm Year 5 Work Sharing

PTA Mother's Day shop

2.50pm Year 6 Work Sharing

2.15pm and 6.30pm Year 3 and 4 Show

11.15am Nursery AM Work Sharing

2.50pm Nursery PM Work Sharing

2.50pm Year 4 Work Sharing

2.50pm Year 2 Work Sharing

2.50pm Reception Work Sharing

2.50pm Year 1 Work Sharing

2.50pm Year 3 Work Sharing

End of Term at 2.00pm

Children Return to School

Year 2 SATs

Bank Holiday (moved for VE day)

Year 6 SAT's week

Half Term

INSET DAY

PTA Summer Fayre

Children Return to School

Year 6 School Journey

Safeguarding

If your child has a phone, please remember to check their messages to ensure they are not inappropriate.

Please encourage them to think before they send messages as we have sadly had incidents in the past where the police have needed to become involved and parents were unaware what their child was doing.

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Class Work Sharing Dates

Work Sharing will take place at 2.50pm unless specified

Nursery	Thursday 26th March AM-11.15am/PM-2.50pm
Reception	Tuesday 31st March
Year 1	Wednesday 1st April
Year 2	Monday 30th March
Year 3	Thursday 2nd April
Year 4	Friday 27th March
Year 5	Monday 9th March
Year 6	Tuesday 24th March

Community Music

There are many local opportunities for instrumentalists to develop their ensemble playing. A new Bishop's Stortford Primary Schools' Orchestra will be starting at St. Michael's Primary School on Tuesday afternoons from 3.45pm to 4.30pm from 28th January. String and woodwind players who have completed Grade 1 are invited to join; please let the office know if your child would like to take part in this. In addition, the Herts Music Service runs a number of ensembles at Birchwood School on Friday afternoons and Saturdays; further details can be found at <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/b-stortford-activities/>. Local Orchestra Stortford Sinfonia will be running a summer school for students aged 10 and over who have achieved Grade 3 or above, between 4th and 7th August 2020. Details are available at <https://bishopsstortfordsinfonia.com/outreach/summer-school-2018-about/>.

School Association

School Disco

The school disco is back on Friday 7th February. The Reception and KS1 disco will be held from 5pm-6:15pm and the KS2 disco from 6:45pm-8pm. Hot food will be available to order in advance and refreshments and glitter tattoos will be on sale during the disco. Please note - we will no longer be selling glo products for environmental reasons. Tickets will be on sale in the playground during disco week, priced at £4. We need lots of parent volunteers to make this a great event so please sign up at [School Disco February 7th 2020](#). Thank you.

Summer Fayre

We are pleased to announce the return of a Summer Fayre to Northgate this summer, to be held on Saturday 6th June. We would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in organising the event, from anyone who could offer a raffle prize or if you would like a stall at the event. Please email ptanorthgate@gmail.com.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery	AM: Charlie	R1: Hugo
	PM: Isabella	R2: Sasha

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on History and Geography.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for identifying layers of the ocean and outstanding knowledge of the British Empire.

Well done to:

Class 1: Martha	Class 7: Harry
Class 2: Harry	Class 8: Abbie
Class 4: Kenny	Class 9: Erin
Class 5: Jeevan	Class 11: Oliver
Class 6: Meriel	Class 12: Dylan

Reminders and Updates

Medicines

If your child needs any medicine brought into school, please be advised that it must be in its original packaging, in date and with the pharmacy label attached. Children must not bring medicines to school in their bags or pockets (e.g. throat lozenges, etc.). They need to be brought in by an adult and handed in/collected to/from the school office. An Administration of Medication form must be completed and handed in at the school office by the parent/carer. Forms can be obtained from the school office or can be found on the school website. Parents need to be aware of expiry dates and replace items such as inhalers and auto-injectors prior to expiry.

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 and we have had a number of children being sent home from school today.

Healthy Snacks

Please make sure your children's snacks are healthy. Crisps, biscuits and chocolate are not allowed and all snacks must be nut free. If these items are found, they will be returned home at the end of the day.

PE Kit

All children need to wear a white t-shirt with bottle green shorts and a bottle green tracksuit in the colder weather.