

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

February 6th 2026

Headteacher's News

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe, happy and positive learning environment for all children, we are currently reviewing our school Behaviour Policy.

We strongly value the views of our parents and carers, and we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire <https://forms.gle/KozsheXevvKzsUxk9>. Your feedback will help us understand what is working well and identify any areas where we can improve or clarify our approach to behaviour, including how our values of Respect, Responsibility and Kindness are reflected in practice.

The questionnaire should take no longer than a few minutes to complete. All responses will be treated confidentially, and the information gathered will be used to support the development of our Behaviour Policy moving forward.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure our behaviour expectations continue to support the wellbeing, inclusion and success of all our pupils.

With **Safer Internet Day** being celebrated nationally next **Tuesday 10th February**, Eduthing, who manage our IT in the school, are hosting a **free to attend parent & carer live webinar, 7pm - 8pm**, to support you in key areas of online safety including:

- Parental & Privacy Settings
- Introducing Devices & First Phones
- Screen Time
- Social Media
- Artificial Intelligence

A flyer with information is attached. Please click Below to register for this: <https://eduthi.ng/SIDW-2026>

Also please see on the next page information about another free event for parents—Navigating Smartphones & Tech as a Family. Have a fantastic weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

This week was **Race Equality Week 2026**, and all children took part in an assembly focused on race equality. They explored what makes us who we are, including physical features such as skin colour and hair texture, as well as culture, history, religion and language.

The children discussed the importance of equality, kindness, and not discriminating, and what we can learn from each other's differences. We also talked about standing up to discrimination and being an "ally", encouraging children to think about how they could speak up and support others. At Northgate, we want everyone to feel welcome and that they belong.

Thank you to **Bishop's Stortford Lawn Tennis Club**, who have been very generous in supplying Northgate with tennis balls that are no longer in A1 condition but are perfect for our children to use. This will keep us well stocked for some time and supports recycling and reuse.



Important Dates

9th– 13th Feb	Festival of Literature
Wb 9th Feb	House Netball tournament
Tues 10th Feb	Internet Safety Day
Wes 11th Feb	Y5 Trip to Bayfordbury Observatory
Fri 13th Feb	Independent Enquirer Elephant Day
16th—20th Feb	Half Term
Tue 24th Feb	9am Y5/6 Science Show at BSC
Wes 25th Feb	7.30pm PTA EGM (Parents welcome)
3th & 5th Mar	Parent Consultations
Mon 9th Mar	Y4 Trip to Sealife Adventure Southend
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Week beg 10th Mar	Playing maths games and work sharing
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am
	Wed LSK2 —9am, Thurs KS1 —9am
Thurs 12th Mar	Y6 Instrumental Concert
W/C 16th Mar	Mother's Day Shop
Fri 20th Mar	Y 3/4 production 9:05 and 2:15
Wk beg 23rd Mar	Science week (Fab Science/House quiz)
Wk beg 23rd Mar	House Cross Country
Tues 24th Mar	Y4 Local river walk
Wed 25th Mar	Rocksteady Concert pm
Fri 27th Mar	2pm Break up for Easter
30th Mar—10th April	Easter Holidays
Fri 17th April	PTA school disco
Tues 19th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 22nd May	End of term
25th—29th May	Half term
Mon 1st June	Inset day
Sat 6th June	PTA Summer Fayre
Thurs 25th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Thurs 9th July	Move up day
Tues 21st July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
Wes 22nd July	Occasional day

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Pick Up/Drop Off: Parking Considerately

We have again been contacted by **several local residents** regarding parents parking inconsiderately when dropping off and collecting children. Please be mindful of our neighbours as they are getting extremely frustrated.

Please do not: block driveways, park on grass verges, or restrict access to the road, which must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

Where possible, please park at the Rugby Club and walk to school. This helps keep the area safer, provides fresh air and exercise, and is a pleasant, sociable way to start the day. Tony, our crossing patrol officer, is on hand to help keep everyone safe.

Safeguarding:

Dangerous parking increases the risk to children and parents. Yellow zigzag lines outside school mean stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited during school hours, in line with the Highway Code.

Government figures show that around 1,000 children are injured each month on roads near schools.

The staff car park must not be used for morning drop-offs. If access is required for an exceptional reason, please contact the school office in advance.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Enriching the Curriculum

On Monday, **Year 2** took part in a DT project, constructing moving vehicles from recycled materials linked to their science topic on construction and vehicles. The children planned their designs and used tools, including junior hacksaws and PVA glue, to cut, shape, and stick their models. They could choose to make their vehicles move using pegs or straws and finished by painting their creations.

The children produced some brilliant models — true engineers of the future! A big thank you to the parent helpers who volunteered; we couldn't have done it without you.



This week, **Reception** children made rainbow toast — a fun, creative, and edible activity using milk mixed with food colouring painted onto white bread. They created vibrant designs before the bread was toasted, setting the colours and turning it into a colourful snack.

This activity helped develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, creativity, and colour recognition, while also encouraging sensory exploration, listening and following instructions, independence, and confidence. The children really enjoyed this experience.



Reminders and Updates

World Book Day Thursday 5th March 2026

On World Book Day, as part of our celebrations, we are welcoming the children to come to school dressed as an adjective. For example: *athletic* – sports kit, *sparkly* – a sequin item of clothing, *fantastical* – a royal outfit, etc. We are encouraging children to be as creative and adventurous as possible with their adjective choice. If your child already has a fancy-dress outfit, you can work together to find a suitable adjective to match it. Weather permitting, we will be hosting our annual World Book Day parade on the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds at approximately 8:55am. Once all the children have gone through, parents will be invited onto the playground. The parade usually lasts 5–10 minutes. We look forward to seeing the outfits

Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

Now in its eighth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open-submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected pieces displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts. Children can create a piece of artwork based on something they have been studying at school.

Mrs Venning has organised some time at school on **Friday 13th February** for children who would like to enter via school. Alternatively, you can register your child yourself by clicking the link below and submitting their entry directly. Please ensure entries are **registered and submitted by 5:00 pm on 4th March 2026**. <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Tadiwa & Holly

Puffins: Emily **Owls:** Izzy G

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: applying new skills, being confident, developing ideas and amazing reading!

Well done to:

Robins: Albert

Starlings: Tom

Skylarks: Octavia

Nightingales: Mia

Kestrels: Mario

Harriers: Ailbhe

Wrens: Dominic

Sparrows: Malaeya

Swifts: Mikaeel

Kingfishers: Hedi

Kites: Shay

Hawks: Gabriel

Sporting Achievements

William from Kestrels represented Northgate last weekend in the HSAA Cross Country Championships Year 5 boys' race, competing against 100 other children. William came in 2nd place, earning a silver medal. Many congratulations, William!

Navigating Smartphones & Tech as a Family – Free Parent Event

Bishop's Stortford High School is hosting a free event for parents and educators on **Thursday 5th March, 6:30–9:00 pm**, led by **SFC Stortford**, a local volunteer group of parents connected to the **Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC)** movement. They support families in encouraging healthy, age-appropriate use of technology through practical advice, shared experiences, and a supportive, non-judgmental approach.

The event will feature guest speakers, honest stories, practical ideas, and shared wisdom about raising children and teens in a digital world. Whether your child is asking for their first phone or already glued to a screen, you'll leave feeling empowered, supported, and connected with other families navigating similar challenges.



Parents are welcome to bring children if needed.

Tickets are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. See the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/navigating-smartphones-tech-as-a-family-tickets-1978615244459>

Northgate School Association

As the PTA does not currently have a Chair or Secretary, we are proposing a move to the **Parentkind** constitution, which allows the PTA to operate without fixed roles. Parentkind is a national charity that supports PTAs across the UK. This approach makes it easier for parents to get involved and helps keep the PTA running smoothly.

The PTA will be holding an EGM on **Wednesday 25th February 2026 at Northgate, 7.30pm**, where this will be proposed and formally agreed. Everyone is welcome to attend to find out more.

Have a lovely weekend.

The PTA Team