

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

October 23rd 2025

Headteacher's News

Thank you to everyone who attended the reading sessions this week. Mrs Layer introduced the sessions with ideas on different ways to get children reading, such as: subtitles on during a silent programme, child friendly newspapers and magazines, websites and favourite book series. We hope you enjoyed sharing a book together with your child.

Reading together is one of the easiest and most effective ways you as a parent can support your child's academic journey. Reading regularly at home supports for your child's development, not only in building reading fluency, but also in expanding their vocabulary. A rich vocabulary is the foundation for effective communication and understanding across all subjects. By reading a wide variety of books, your child is exposed to new words, ideas, and concepts, which enhances both their academic success and confidence. Please encourage daily reading and discussions about the words they encounter. Please remember to sign their reading record. Your involvement is key in helping them grow as confident, articulate learners.

Please see our website for further information on how to encourage reading and recommended books for your child's age: <https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/reading/317922>.

We are a Little Wandle School, so please also see their website for resources and videos to support early reading at home. <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> 'A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success.' Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Thank you to all the parents who have kindly purchased books and other resources for classrooms and the SEND department through our Amazon wish lists. We are also very grateful to the PTA for funding new books for our libraries and for supporting the workshops that have taken place this half term.

Just a reminder that tomorrow is an **INSET day** — we wish you all a wonderful half term break!

Enriching the Curriculum

Cultural Heritage Day / World Afro Hair Day

As the finale of our Black History Month events, children and staff came to school in non-uniform to celebrate their cultural heritage. Pupils wore a variety of outfits, including national costumes, football kits, and clothes in their national flag colours. The school was filled with vibrant colours, smiles, and pride as everyone shared and celebrated their backgrounds. The day ended with a Black History Month House Quiz, which everyone enjoyed. Well done to Vikings, Normans and Saxons, who all came in at joint first. Thank you to Mrs Awhe for organising such inspiring events, which helped us all learn more about culture, identity, and community.



**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Important Dates

Fri 24th Oct
27th –31st Oct
Fri 7th Nov
Fri 7th Nov
11th –13th Nov
17th–21st Nov
Fri 21st Nov

Fri 28th Nov

Mon 1st Dec
Wed 3rd Dec
Tues 9th Dec
Fri 12th Dec
Tues 16th Dec
Wed 17th Dec
Wed 17th Dec
Wed 17th Dec
Thurs 18th Dec
Fri 19th Dec

Fri 19th Dec
22nd Dec—2nd Jan

Mon 5th Jan
Tues 6th Jan
Mon 26th Jan
Tue 27th Jan
16th—20th Feb
Fri 27th Mar

30th Mar—10th April **Easter Holidays**

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Inset Day

Half Term

Y2 Pirate Day
PTA Fireworks Night
Parent Consultations
Well-being week
9.00am—9.30am "The Anxious Generation"
talk for parents

1.30pm KS2 Panto at South Mill Art (pick up from theatre)

PTA Elfridges shop for EYFS, Y1, Y3 and Y6
PTA Elfridges shop for Y2, Y4 and Y5

EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am-2.40pm
KS1 9.10am/2.40pm Christmas production

11.30am EYFS/KS1 Christmas Lunch
Christmas Jumper Day and Santa Fun Run

9.00am Volunteer Coffee Morning

12.30pm KS2 Christmas Lunch

Rock Steady Concert (Time TBC)

KS2 2pm Church service St Michaels Church

Break the Rules Day

2pm finish Break up for Christmas

Christmas Holidays

Inset Day

School term starts

Y6 Victorian Day

Y2 Old Northgate School walk

Half Term

2pm finish Break up for Easter

Attendance this term

Hertfordshire County continues to crack down on poor attendance. Fines will be issued for unauthorised absences, including holidays and regular patterns of non-attendance. If you need support, please speak to the class teacher or email Mrs Rogers, our pastoral lead.

Yr	%
R	97.9
1	97.3
2	96.5
3	97.2
4	97
5	96.7
6	96.9

Our target	96%
Whole school	97%

0 days off	100%	Fantastic
5 days off a year	97%	Good
10 days off a year	95%	Slight concern
20 days off a year	90%	Concerned
30 days off a year	85%	Very concerned

Safeguarding

Halloween and Children's Safety: Child Accident Prevention Trust

Halloween can be an exciting time of year for children, dressing up and going out after dark.

Here are our top tips for a safe Halloween that you can remember for all the right reasons. Find out more here: [Halloween and Children's Safety \(CAPT\)](#)

Enriching the Curriculum

DT this week

This week, our **Year 4** pupils made delicious vegetable soup, practising their chopping skills, while being mindful of health and safety. They were so proud of their efforts that they brought some home to enjoy for tea!



As part of their WW2 topic, **Year 5** pupils made Anderson shelters. They used tools like hacksaws, glue guns, screwdrivers and wooden battens to build their replicas. The children showed great focus and enthusiasm throughout. Thank you to the parents who volunteered to help.



Thank You to Our Amazing PTA!

A big thank you to the PTA for funding a fantastic new range of books for all year groups—including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and more! These books will really enrich our pupils' reading journeys. We truly appreciate the PTA's continued support. These books will make a real difference to our pupils' reading experiences—thank you!



Optional Homework

Black History Month Poster

To complete our Black History Month learning and celebrations, we will be asking the children to create a poster as optional homework during half term. Children have the chance to win some Black History Month books for their class, courtesy of the PTA. To enter, please create a Black History Month poster. The posters could be about a significant figure that the children have studied in class, general knowledge of Black History Month etc.. We will then save all entries and use these in our school next year for when we continue to raise the profile of Black History Month. Please see the flyer attached.



Individual School Photos

Vancols Photographers have confirmed that the school photographs will be ready to view at the end of this week or the beginning of next. Simply scan the QR code on your proof card and follow the instructions.

If you have not received your proof card or it has been lost, you can call the Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711. You will need your child's pupil admission number, which can be requested from the school office.



Reminders and Updates

Parent Consultations

We are looking forward to welcoming parents into school for our consultation meetings after half term. Please note that **only one session per child** is available.

- **Nursery and Years 1–6:** Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th November
- **Reception:** Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November

Due to their shared teaching arrangement in **Sparrows**, Mrs Awhe will be available for appointments on Tuesday 11th November, and Mrs Rolfe on Thursday 13th November. You will receive an email after half term with details about the booking procedure.

Uniform Reminder

After half term, children should wear winter uniform – no summer dresses. PE kit should be bottle green joggers/hoodies and plain white t-shirts only. No branded items – school logo only. Second-hand uniform is available from our Preloved Shedquarters. Jewellery is not allowed. Children will be asked to remove any items.

New Winter Menu

The new winter lunch menu is now available to look at on School Grid. Take a look! Orders can be booked in advance.

Poppy Appeal 2025

As usual, poppies, pin badges, slap bands, keyrings, stickers and zip decorations will be sold in school during the first week back. All money raised goes to the Royal British Legion. Please ensure that your child has some money with them if they want to make a purchase. Suggested donations start at £1.00.

Year 6

Don't forget **secondary school applications** must be in by Friday 31st October 2025.

Vacancy at School

We are looking for an SEN TA to work in KS1 five mornings per week. We are always happy to hear from anyone who feels this maybe a career path they would like to explore.

If you are interested and wish to fill out an application form, please email Mrs Jeffcoate on

secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk

You can read the job description and job specification on Teach In Herts.

Northgate School Association

PTA Christmas Card/Gift Project

Don't forget to get creative over half term and return your child's design and order form after the break. All orders and payments must be returned by Monday 3rd November. Please ensure your child signs their design under 'created by'. Keep designs flat and clean to ensure the best print quality.

A big thank you to **Prontaprint Bishop's Stortford** for their support with this project.

Please remember that each purchase raises £1.00 for the school.

Help! Fireworks Night Event– Friday 7th November

We are now less than a month away from our Fireworks Night and we still need parent volunteers to help with the Glow Stall/Sweet Stall/ supervising the firework and alcohol barriers/with the clear up afterwards. Please click to help [Fireworks Night: Northgate Fireworks Night 2025](#)

Thanks to our Northgate Fireworks Sponsors:
Russell Property and **N.H Vehicle Solutions**

Thank you for your support, **The PTA Team**