

# Northgate Primary School

## Newsletter

October 9th 2020

### Headteacher's News

Your support with wearing face masks this week has been greatly appreciated. We are desperate to keep the whole school open and delighted that another week is completed with all year groups in. Children are settling back to school expectations and this week several children have shown me some exceptional work. Well done! As each class now has a webcam we could share our successes as a school in our celebration assembly. It also meant that Year 6 House Captains could announce to the school the house points so far this term and share their enthusiasm together for the first time this year:

**Saxons - 703      Romans - 556**  
**Normans - 661      Vikings - 555**

The fencing contractors have now arrived on site and the works will be commencing next week.

A meeting was held this week with Herts Catering to consider how we can have hot lunches in school when the dining room is too small to cater for all year groups during the current restrictions. Next Wednesday we will start to trial a new system where some children will have hot lunches brought to their classrooms in specially designed lunch boxes. Therefore next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will have the option of a hot lunch. Key Stage Two children will continue to be offered a school packed lunch option next week, while we evaluate the new system.

Today we held the first School Council meeting of the school year. Look out for an update next week.

Have a great weekend!

### Learning Powers

In school, PHSE and Wellbeing continue to be our focus. One aspect we have looked at that links to our Learning Powers, is helping the children develop their resilience.

Our Resilient Rhino helps us to;

- Have the self-confidence and freedom to fail and keep trying.
- Motivate yourself to keep going when you find work challenging.
- Understand that challenge helps learning.
- Challenging yourself.
- Know how to work through difficulties when the pressure mounts.
- Believe in yourself.



We believe resilience is an essential life skill.

For more information about how to help support your child at home please see [Resilience Factsheets](#) for more information.

### Important Dates - 2020/21

Weds 21st Oct	School Photographs
	Happy School Bag Collection
<b>Fri 23rd Oct</b>	Black History Day
26th - 30th Oct	October Half Term
<b>Mon 2nd Nov</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
3rd - 6th Nov	Wellbeing Week
<b>Fri 6th Nov</b>	<b>Parent information videos released</b>
Tues 10th Nov	Parent Consultations
Weds 11th Nov	Parent Consultations
Weds 16th Dec	School virtual Christmas videos released
Fri 18th Dec	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 4th Jan</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
Fri 26th March	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 12th Apr</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>Mon 3rd May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
<b>Mon 7th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Weds 21st July	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Thurs 22nd July</b>	<b>OCCASIONAL DAY</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

### Statutory School Admissions Consultation

Herts County Council are amending the Determined Admissions Arrangements for 2022/23. Approval for the consultation on the following proposals will be sought at Cabinet on 19th October 2020. Their proposals are:

- To amend the wording and definition of 'Rule 5 - Nearest School' for infant, first, primary, junior and middle schools to:  
*Rule 5 - Children for whom it is the nearest school or academy. This includes all schools except those which allocate places on the basis of faith (membership or practice) before allocating on the basis of distance/ location).*
- To clarify the policy on twins and multiple births by amending the definition to:  
*Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), as the admission authority will admit over the school's published admission number when a single twin/multiple birth child is allocated a place at a school.*

If you have any queries or comments on these proposals please contact the School Office on the admin email address.

## Reminders and Updates

### School Ties

Children in Years 5 and 6 must wear a tie as part of their school uniform, and this is optional for Years 3 and 4. We regret that school ties are currently not available to purchase from the school office.

Liz Parrish will be selling ties for £4. These will be paid for online and collected from her following a 3 day quarantine. Please email [lparrish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lparrish@yahoo.co.uk) for details. Alternatively, they can be purchased from Fosters Schoolwear for £5 via their website or in their shop. Fosters are also offering a clip on tie for £5.50.

### Year 5 End of Day Pick Up Point

We are aware that there are still a large number of people leaving the school at the end of the day in a restricted space. Therefore, from Monday 12th October, we will be trialling Year 5 coming out through the gate close to their classrooms for collection at the front of the school in the usual place. They will not now come out via the school playground.

### Home Packed Lunch

To reduce the amount of waste we are disposing of in school, if your child has a home packed lunch, they will be bringing their empty packaging home with them.

## Covid-19 Updates

### Weekend/Out of Hours Result Notifications

If you receive a Covid-19 test result out of school hours, including weekends and school holiday, please ensure you send confirmation of the result to [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk). This email address is monitored for results information and we are grateful for your co-operation with this.

### Self-Isolation

Hertfordshire have reported some incidents where people have not followed Government guidance on self-isolation and knowingly attended school whilst symptomatic or have been living with someone who is symptomatic or that has tested positive for Coronavirus.

While we know (and hope) that incidents like this will be rare, the impact this has on our bubble systems and the safety of other students and staff is wide reaching. We are therefore reminding parents and carers that to knowingly ignore the self-isolation guidance is breaking the law and you could be fined £1,000. You can find the latest Government information at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today>. Thank you for your co-operation during this difficult and sensitive time.

## Safeguarding

Following on from our request last week, we are grateful for the support you have shown our school community by regularly wearing masks while on school grounds. Could we please request they are worn at all times while you are on school grounds, including waiting in the playground after school or following school clubs. Thank you.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery	AM: Harriet	R1: Emily
	PM: Eren	R2: Iris

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on writing.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for excellent use of relative clauses, writing a fantastic evacuee letter and use of expanded noun phrases.

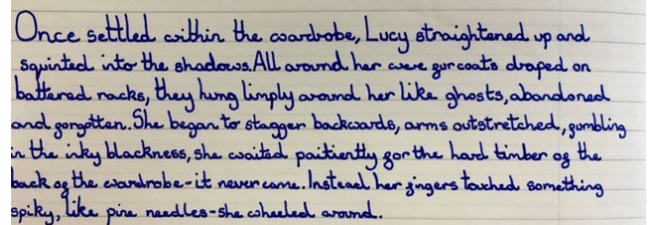
Well done to:

Class 1: Maurice	Class 7: Thea
Class 2: Emma	Class 8: Grace
Class 3: Aditi	Class 9: Tilly
Class 4: Ruby	Class 10: Jack
Class 5: Freya	Class 11: Oliver
Class 6: Archie	Class 12: Ruby

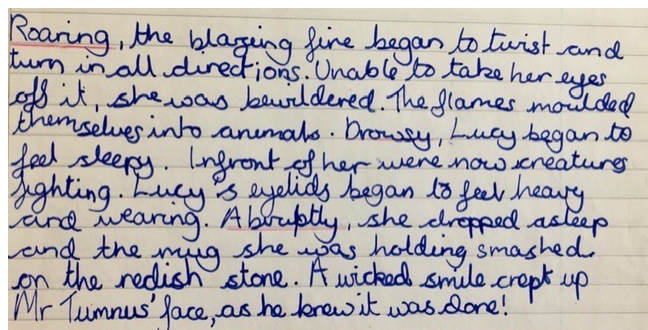
## Enriching the Curriculum

This week, Year 6 have completed an extended piece of writing based on The Chronicles of Narnia. In particular, we have focused on varying our sentence openers, using extended noun phrases and ensuring that our dialogue is perfectly punctuated. Having written our first draft, we had the opportunity to edit and improve the writing.

These are some extracts from our final piece.



Once settled within the wardrobe, Lucy straightened up and squinted into the shadows. All around her were gircoats draped on battered racks, they hung limply around her like ghosts, abandoned and forgotten. She began to stagger backwards, arms outstretched, gambling in the inky blackness, she waited patiently for the hard timber of the back of the wardrobe - it never came. Instead her fingers touched something spiky, like pine needles - she wheeled around.



Roaring, the blazing fire began to twist and turn in all directions. Unable to take her eyes off it, she was bewildered. The flames moulded themselves into animals. Drowsy, Lucy began to feel sleepy. In front of her were now creatures fighting. Lucy's eyelids began to feel heavy and weary. Abruptly, she dropped asleep and the mug she was holding smashed on the redish stone. A wicked smile crept up Mr Tumus' face, as he knew it was done!

"On Thursday, we did an independent piece of writing, trying to use all of the things that we have learnt during the week. We were trying to portray the setting of Castle Cair Paravel in Narnia, using personification and metaphors to help with our description."

Amalia Class 12