

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

October 15th 2021

## Headteacher's News

Thank you to the parents who attended the PTA meeting on Monday night. Our PTA have always been an amazing asset to the school, supporting the school financially and through developing the school community. It is thanks to the PTA that we have a new ICT suite that I'm sure your children love using. Last year they also helped us buy a significant number of new reading scheme books, and funded the new woodland cottage in the Early Years playground.

The PTA AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 15th November so please put the date in your diary. Another way you could support the PTA is by joining their 250 club. Please see the Northgate School Association section for more information.

Next week the children will be completing a number of assessments to help identify the next steps in their learning. This information will be shared at parent consultation evenings after half term.

Have a great weekend.

## Safeguarding - Online Safety

The Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021 update contains a wealth of information available to support parents and carers to keep children safe online. The following list should provide a useful starting point:

[Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support

[Commonsensemedia](#) provide independent reviews, age ratings, & other information about all types of media for children and their parents

[Government advice](#) about protecting children from specific online harms such as child sexual abuse, sexting, and cyberbullying  
[Internet Matters](#) provide age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world 152

[London Grid for Learning](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online

[Net-aware](#) provides support for parents and carers from the NSPCC and O2, including a guide to social networks, apps and games

[Parentzone](#) provides help for parents and carers on how to keep their children safe online

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provide tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online.



## Important Dates - 2021/22

18th-22nd Oct	Black History Week
Tues 19th Oct	8.45am - Nursery Phonics Workshop
Weds 20th Oct	9am - Year 3 Maths/Times Tables Workshop
Thurs 21st Oct	Individual School Photographs
25th-29th Oct	October Half Term
<b>Mon 1st Nov</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
2nd-5th Nov	Wellbeing Week
Tues 9th Nov	Parent Consultation Meetings
Weds 10th Nov	Parent Consultation Meetings
<b>Mon 15th Nov</b>	<b>7.30pm - PTA AGM</b>
Weds 17th Nov	Happy School Bag Collection
Weds 1st Dec	Early Years Christmas Production
Thurs 2nd Dec	Flu Immunisations (Rec to Year 6)
Weds 8th Dec	KS1 Christmas Production
<b>Fri 10th Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Jumper/Elf Day Isobel Hospice</b>
Mon 13th Dec	KS2 Pantomime (Southmill Arts)
Tues 14th Dec	KS1 Pantomime (in school)
Tues 14th Dec	EYFS/KS1 Christmas Lunch
Weds 15th Dec	KS2 Christmas Lunch
Thurs 16th Dec	KS2 St Michael's Church Carol Service (pick up from church)
<b>Mon 20th Dec</b>	<b>PTA Break the Rules Day</b>
<b>Mon 20th Dec</b>	<b>End of Term at 2.00pm</b>
<b>Tues 21st Dec</b>	<b>Jubilee Occasional Day</b>
<b>Weds 5th Jan</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
14th-18th Feb	February Half Term
<b>Mon 21st Feb</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Weds 2nd March	Happy School Bag Collection
Fri 1st April	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Tues 19th April</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>May 2022</b>	<b>Year 2 SATs</b>
<b>9th-12th May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATs week</b>
30th May-3rd Jun	May Half Term
<b>Mon 6th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
7th-10th June	Year 1 Phonics Week
7th-24th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Thurs 30th June	Happy School Bag Collection
Thurs 21st July	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Dangerous Parking

### Message from Herts Police PSCO

The police have received complaints from local residents regarding inconsiderate parking by the junction on Grailands during school pick-ups and drop offs.

**Please could all parents please be reminded of their responsibility to park considerately.**

Parents with young children are unable to walk on the pavements due to cars blocking the pavements, causing children, wheelchair users and people with buggies to have to navigate the road.

Local police will be regularly patrolling the area to monitor the situation. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### Year 2 Walk to Castle Mound

Year 2 loved their walk to Castle Mound on Wednesday as part of our 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets' topic. We found out that this used to be a motte and bailey castle, built nearly 1000 years ago. The children used their drawing skills to sketch the mound and the war memorial in the castle garden, including shading and details. We were very proud of the children's excellent behaviour on the walk and wanted to say a big thank you to all the parents who came to help out.



## Harvest Collection

### Food Bank

Following our successful harvest collection, Bishop's Stortford Food Bank have confirmed that Northgate School collected a whopping 249kg for their local community. Thank you to everyone who donated.



### Herts Hogline

Your donations of cat food have been delivered to Herts Hogline and they have asked us to pass on their grateful thanks for your generosity.

## Northgate School Association

### **Northgate Association News!**

**Come along to our AGM on Monday 15th November at 7:30pm.** All parents, carers and school staff are invited to attend and participate. We are really hoping for some new committee members too!

You will hopefully have noticed some new 'Happy School Bags' clothes recycling collection dates in the 'Important Dates' section of this newsletter. For those who are new to the school, this is an opportunity to have a clear-out of clothing and accessories, donate to charity and at the same time raise money for the PTA. Bags will be brought home by the children in due course and the first collection date is Wednesday 17th November. Please note that logo'd school uniform is **not** accepted in these bags but our wonderful second hand uniform team (Jacqui, Alison and Katie!) would be delighted to receive these donations - just drop them in to the school office.

We have spaces available in our 250 Club. If you're not in it yet then why not join and help us to keep fundraising?! It is £10 a month per number and the form you need to complete to join is attached to this email. The more people in it, the higher the winnings and funds raised!

While you're having a sort out, if you come across any Christmas jumpers/accessories that your child has outgrown, please donate to the school office for our **Christmas Jumper Exchange** fundraiser. There will be a Christmas Jumper Day in December so we hope our fundraiser will help prepare for this in a cost effective and sustainable way. Exact details to follow in due course.

Is it ok to be really excited for Christmas already??!

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Aria

R1: Hepzibah R2: Isabella

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on being a scientist.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for excellent explanations about the suitability of every day materials for different objects and fantastic explanations on reversible changes using scientific vocabulary.

Well done to:

Class 1: Henry H

Class 7: Charlie

Class 2: Oscar

Class 8: Georgia

Class 3: Oscar

Class 9: Ewan

Class 4: Sydney

Class 10: Jude

Class 5: Sidney

Class 11: Ally

Class 6: Ruby

Class 12: Harry

## Reminders and Updates

### House Rugby - PE Kit

On **Friday 22nd October**, we will be holding a school House Rugby day. Please could children in years 1 to 6 be sent to school wearing their PE kit.

### Non-Fiction Book Donations

Do you have any unwanted non-fiction books in good condition, dated within the past 20 years, that you could donate to our school and class libraries?

Books must have been published since 2001 as non fiction books do go out of date. We do not need any fiction books at this time. Thank you.

### Secondary Transfer 2022

**Year 6** Please be aware that the deadline for applications is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by 31st October 2021. The Admissions Team have recommended that parents complete their application by 25<sup>th</sup> October so that if there are any queries they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline.

## Covid Guidance

**Masks** In order to protect our whole school community, we would request that parents continue to wear masks while you are on school grounds. Thank you for your support.

**Positive Cases** At present, the government guidance is for children showing symptoms of Covid to be kept at home and to take a PCR test.

If your child tests positive for Covid they will need to self-isolate for a 10 day period in accordance with the current guidance. Currently, there is no longer a requirement for close contacts (aged 11 and under or those who are fully vaccinated) of a positive case to isolate for this period however updated guidance will be sent out should the situation arise.

Please continue to keep the school office informed if there are any positive cases within your household.