

December 3rd 2021

Headteacher's News

Earlier this week our Reception Year took to the stage to perform their nativity 'A Miracle in Town' to a delighted audience.

The joy of Christmas was shared by the Reception children when they displayed an impressive range of skills with their singing, dancing and narrating. We were extremely proud of them! Many thanks to all the parents for their support, particularly with supplying costumes, and to our fantastic Reception staff who put the production together.



We still hope to have live audiences to our shows next week, though please be aware this might be subject to change depending on the number of cases of Covid in the school. Please remember to wear masks on school grounds at all times.

This is a time of year where the children are getting tired and are more vulnerable to illness. Please remember that sleep is a key ingredient to good learning, behaviour and overall wellbeing. We have had several children with sickness bugs in school. Please note that if your child has been sick or had a bout of diarrhoea, they need to be off school for 48 hours—this is very important to stop the bugs spreading.

There are still lots more festive activities to come so please check Important Dates and emails regularly.

Have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum - Wellbeing

Over the last two weeks, Year 5 were lucky enough to take part in an Anti-Bullying Workshop. The children reflected on how bullying made them feel, through a variety of scenarios that were given to them. Grace (C10) said, 'It made me think about other people's feelings'. The children also acted as 'bullies' through scripts. Alfie (C9) said, 'It was good fun and I learnt how to show respect by using different scripted scenarios'. It really opened the children's eyes to how comments can be seen by others. At the end of the session the children were given the chance to perform. Harry (C9) and Eshaal (C10) said, 'The experience was exquisitely exciting, I really enjoyed learning what bullying was through acting'. The session was very beneficial to all of the children as it allowed them to learn strategies to use if they were ever put in an uncomfortable situation and who they could speak to.

Important Dates - 2021/22

Weds 8th Dec	2.30pm and 6pm - Yr2 Christmas Production
Thurs 9th Dec	9.15am Class 1 'Magic of Christmas' (20 mins)
Fri 10th Dec	9.15am Class 2 'Magic of Christmas' (20 mins)
Fri 10th Dec	Christmas Jumper/'Elf Yourself' Day
Mon 13th Dec	Yr3-6 Visit to Pantomime (Southmill Arts)
Tues 14th Dec	Yr1-2 Pantomime Company (in school)
Tues 14th Dec	Reception-Yr2 Christmas Lunch
Weds 15th Dec	Yr3-6 Christmas Lunch
Thurs 16th Dec	Yr3-6 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Mon 20th Dec	PTA Break the Rules Day
Mon 20th Dec	End of Term at 2.00pm
Tues 21st Dec	Jubilee Occasional Day
Weds 5th Jan	Children Return to School
14th-18th Feb	February Half Term
Mon 21st Feb	INSET DAY
Weds 2nd March	Happy School Bag Collection
Fri 1st April	End of Term at 2.00pm
Tues 19th April	Children Return to School
May 2022	Year 2 SATs
9th-12th May	Year 6 SATs week
30th May-3rd Jun	May Half Term
Mon 6th June	INSET DAY
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 2.00pm

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

Please do not leave your child unattended when you are dropping them to school in the morning.

All children in years Reception to Year 6 are the responsibility of their parents until 8.45am and must be supervised until they are through the gates when they are opened **at 8.45am**. It is vitally important that the children are not left alone.

Fundraising - Christmas Jumper Day



Next Friday 10th December is our Northgate Christmas Jumper/Elf Yourself Day!

This year we will be supporting both the Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper Day' and Isabel Hospice's 'Elf Yourself' appeal.

Pupils and staff can choose to wear a Christmas jumper or anything red, green or elf-themed.

We will be suggesting a donation of £1.00 which will be collected in class on the day and look forward to seeing both staff and children in their festive wear next Friday.



Free School Meals

Your child could get free school meals, worth over £450 per child per year, and they might be able to gain extra support such as some financial support with trips and access to our pupil premium homework club, if you receive any of the following:

- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If you receive any of these benefits, the application only takes 5 minutes to complete and in most cases we can tell you straightaway if your child can get [free meals at school](#).

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until March 2023, or until they finish their current phase of schooling (primary or secondary), if that's after the end of March 2023. Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand when you apply. Don't miss out, apply now!

You can apply for other benefits that you may qualify for at the same time.

For more information or assistance with your application visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals or call the customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am- 4pm Saturday).

Christmas Cards

This year, the children will be able to deliver Christmas cards to each other in school and the Christmas Post Box will be available from Monday 6th December.

Please note that all cards must be delivered to the Post Box by Tuesday 14th December. Cards will then be distributed following a 72 hour quarantine period.



Community News

Bishop's Stortford Christmas Fayre This year's annual Christmas Fayre will be held on 4th December from 9.30am until 4.30pm, in North Street, Market Square, Potter Street, and South Street, all of which will be pedestrianised.

More information about the road closures, parking and entertainment can be found [here](#).

Rapunzel at South Mill Arts The annual pantomime in Bishop's Stortford this year is Rapunzel. More information can be found in the attached flyer and tickets can be booked online or by calling their box office on 01279 710 200.

Much Hadham Art Society The annual art exhibition and sale of members work will be held this weekend. More details can be found on the attached flyer.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Chloe

Reception: To our whole Reception Year for their amazing performances in 'A Miracle in Town' this week.

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

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for observations and recordings of the weather throughout the day and understanding on what makes a complete and incomplete circuit.

Well done to:

Class 1: Lydia

Class 7: Elyse

Class 2: Lottie

Class 8: Tahsin

Class 3: Isabella

Class 9: Filip

Class 4: Zak

Class 10: Jasper

Class 5: Cian

Class 11: Olivia

Class 6: Alexandra

Class 12: Ruby

Northgate School Association

Northgate Association 250 Club

Unfortunately schools budgets are ever decreasing as government funding is cut, making PTA fundraising more important than ever. We run the '250 Club' as an easy way to get involved without having to give up precious time, while allowing us to continue to fund wonderful new resources and exciting experiences for the children. You could win up to £1,000 cash in our monthly draw! Full details can be found in the attached flyer and form.

Russell Property Christmas Card Competition Results

The first prize winner was Teddy (C5). Teddy has won a £10 book token and his picture will be made into a Christmas card for Russell Property. Well done, Teddy! Runners Up were awarded to Katie (C11) and Heidi (R1). Both Katie and Heidi have received a book token. Well done to you too! Russell Property have donated £50 to the PTA for the competition entries and would like to thank everyone who entered. They really enjoyed seeing the children's artwork.

Christmas Jumpers

Thanks to everyone who bought Christmas jumpers and accessories from our second hand uniform sale! A huge thank you to the team who organised this.

Christmas Cards and Accessories

Thank you to Kelly Hyde who has been organising the children's' Christmas cards. All purchases will be delivered next week and will be sent home with your child.

Thanks as always.

Gerri Wren and Jo Parrott, Your Northgate PTA Co-Chairs

Can you help?

Our school ipads are used regularly in class but we are currently in need of **spare lightning cables** (iphone chargers) to replace those which have become worn.

We would welcome donations of **girls tights** into school.

If you are able to help with either of these items, please bring them to the school office. Thank you.