

October 10th 2025

### Headteacher's News

It was great to see so many parents in school joining our younger children for their harvest celebrations. A massive thank you for all the donations for the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank, which will make a real difference to members of our local community. If you would like to have more information about the Food Bank, please look at their website: [www.bishopstortfordfoodbank.com](http://www.bishopstortfordfoodbank.com). We hope you found the Reception phonics workshop session informative. Information from the session will be published on Google Classrooms, If you have any feedback on the session, Please complete the following form: [here](#)

Thank you to Mrs. Rogers and our Wellbeing, Inclusion and Diversity Council for hosting today's "Tea & Talk" event for parents in celebration of World Mental Health Day. The children gave a short presentation explaining the different ways we support children's emotional wellbeing at Northgate. They highlighted the age-appropriate approaches we use across the school — including activities inspired by *The Colour Monster* book for our younger pupils. Mrs. Rogers also shared a range of helpful resources available to support parents of children experiencing mental health concerns. As a school we will be doing more around this topic in 'Well-being week' after half term. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

### Enriching the Curriculum

This week, our school community came together to celebrate our annual **Harvest Festival**. The children gave thanks for the food we enjoy, surrounded by the generous donations contributed by our families.

Our Nursery children learnt two new songs to mark the occasion, and a recording has been uploaded to Google Classroom for parents to enjoy at home. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed in front of a great turnout of parents and carers. The children shared their learning about harvest and autumn, displayed their colourful fruit prints and detailed fruit drawings, and sang a selection of songs. It was a lovely opportunity to see their learning and creativity in action. Our Key Stage 2 pupils reflected on the theme of gratitude — appreciating what we have — and the importance of generosity in helping others in their community.



**EVERY CHILD  
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

### Important Dates

Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Visit from Mr Adebisi - African storytelling and drumming
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Individual photos being taken</b>
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y2 walk to Waytemore castle
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Y3 Visit from Spirit of the Wild
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Show Racism the Red Card Day (wear red on the day)
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents/information workshop.
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Cultural Heritage Day / World Afro Hair Day (non-school uniform day) and Black History Month Quiz
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Inset Day
27 <sup>th</sup> –31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Half Term
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	PTA Fireworks Night (Details to follow)
<b>11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Parent Consultations</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Well-being week</b>
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	PTA Elfridges shop for EYFS, Y1, Y3 and Y6
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	PTA Elfridges shop for Y2, Y4 and Y5
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am-2.40pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 9.10am/2.40pm Christmas production
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 2pm Church service St Michaels Church Fri
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec–2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Inset Day
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School term starts
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Y2 Old Northgate School walk
16 <sup>th</sup> –20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar–10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Y2 Hertfordshire Zoo

=\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

### Important: Children Arriving Late in the Morning

We have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late to school in the mornings. Regular lateness can be unsettling for children as they miss important parts of the school day, particularly core learning in phonics and maths, and it can also disrupt the flow of lessons for others. Arriving on time helps children to start the day calmly and confidently with their classmates. It also supports the smooth running of the school office, which can become very busy dealing with late arrivals. Please make every effort to leave in good time to allow for traffic or other delays. If you are finding mornings challenging, please speak to Mrs Rogers, our Pastoral Lead, who can offer practical advice and support. Please note that arrivals after 9.30am are recorded as unauthorised, in line with our attendance policy. We appreciate your support in helping us ensure that every child is ready to learn and make the most of their school day.

### Safeguarding

Online support: Childnet provide a range of help, advice and resources for parents, carers, teachers, professionals and young people. Their website is full of free resources. They cover important topics such as healthy relationships and digital wellbeing. Their website is designed to equip parents and carers, to support both children and parents with the online world. If you would like further information, please visit their website: <https://www.childnet.com> for further information.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### Black History Month

On Monday, Northgate was delighted to be visited by local author Aida Kiraya. She spoke to children from Nursery to Year 4 and read her new book, *Wonderful and Different, Just Like Me*, which tells the story of a little girl introducing her family and the unique things that make them special, such as different hair textures and skin tones. Aida also discussed how genetics work, how we can all be different, and why we should celebrate these differences. She was very engaged with the children, who loved being involved and sharing stories about their own families. Thank you, Aida! Click the link below to find out more about her book: <https://wonderfulanddifferent.com/pages/about-us>



### Sport

On Thursday, Northgate hosted two home football matches. The Gold Team won 5–0 against Thorley Hill, while the Silver B Team lost 0–6 to Magna Carta. Matty and Jacob from the Gold Team praised their goalkeeper, Josh, for several great saves and said the team had plenty of scoring opportunities. Despite fewer chances, the Silver Team played extremely well.

## Reminders and Updates

### Important Information— Spy Dog/Spy Cats/Spy Pup Books

Puffin, the children's publisher, has issued an alert about books by Andy Cope, including the *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat*, and *Spy Pup* series.

These books contain a weblink intended to direct children to Mr Cope's website. However, the domain is no longer owned by him and now leads to a third-party site containing **inappropriate** and **pornographic** content.

We have checked our school library and classrooms to ensure none of these books are present.

Please check any copies at home, and remind children to always speak to an adult before following any links in the books they read.

### Individual Photos

Individual photos will be taken on **Wednesday, 15th October**. Please ensure that your child is dressed in full school uniform. If your child has PE on Wednesdays, they should come to school wearing their full uniform and bring their PE kit in a bag, ready to change into.

We have noticed that some children are wearing hoodies instead of school jumpers or cardigans. Please note that **hoodies should only be worn on PE days**.

If you are short on school uniform, don't worry — the PTA Preloved Uniform Shop will be reopening soon.

### The Importance of Tying Up Hair

If your child's hair is below shoulder length, it should be tied up at school to help reduce the spread of head lice (nits), which are common in school settings.

Tying up long hair also keeps it neat and out of the face, helping children focus better.

Please ensure your child's hair is tied back, especially during term time when outbreaks are more likely.

Thank you for helping us maintain a healthy school environment.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week are:

**Ducklings:** Ronnie and Chester

**Puffins:** Alfie

**Owls:** Lizzy J



'Learner of the Week' focus on Learning Powers and the School Code.

Well done to:

**Robins:** Max

**Starlings:** Everleigh-Mae

**Skylarks:** Connor

**Nightingales:** Xavier

**Kestrels:** Millie

**Harriers:** Ladi

**Wrens:** Ava

**Sparrows:** Sirus

**Swifts:** Alicia

**Kingfishers:** Harrison

**Kites:** Gabriel

**Hawks:** Lily



Next Friday, 17th October, children have the opportunity to support 'Show Racism the Red Card Day' by wearing **one red item** — this could be a piece of clothing or an accessory such as socks, a ribbon, or a sticker.

Northgate will be holding a whole-school assembly to discuss race, racism, allyship, and embracing differences, along with additional PSHE lessons on standing up against racism and understanding its impact.

Wearing something red is a simple way for children to take part and show their support for the charity behind the event: <https://www.theredcard.org/>



### Year 6 Children Applying for Secondary School

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of **Thursday, 31st October 2025**. We recommend applying well before the deadline in case you encounter any problems. Parents should apply online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) or, if you cannot access the internet, you can request a printed copy of the information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.

### Primary School Admissions – Reception 2026

Primary school applications for Reception 2026 will open on Friday, 3rd November 2025. This is for children who will be of school age by September 2026. Please note that the closing date for applications is Thursday, 15th January 2026.

## Northgate School Association

**Firework Night — Friday 7th November from 5pm**

**Now Sold Out**

Thank you for your overwhelming support. This event is now sold out. However, to make it a success, we still need parent volunteers to help with the Glow Stall and Sweet Stall, supervise the firework and alcohol barriers, and assist with the clear-up afterwards.

Volunteer slots are only 30 minutes long, so please make some time to help and sign up below. Thank you.

[Fireworks Night: Northgate Fireworks Night 2025](#)