

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

September 18th 2020

Headteacher's News

As the children settle back to life at school, everyone has continued to work hard this week, with a positive attitude to learning. The staff have continued to assess the children's gaps, with lessons reactivating previous learning. Some intervention programmes have started, with more starting next week.

We are trying to keep life in school as normal as possible, so in today's assembly we announced our new School Council members, along with our new Eco Committee. Take a look at the box on the next page for more information. Both committees will allow children to take a leadership role in improving the school.

The first Governors meeting of the year was held this week. We are delighted to announce the new Chair of Governors will be Laurence Foote, a Year 6 parent. With his accountancy background, he was already Chair of the Resources Committee, supporting us in particular with the school budget. Once again we wish to thank Sarah Cran, our previous Chair, for all her hard work in the role over the past 3 years.

As Year 3 parents will be aware, the school has started to use Google classrooms, an online learning platform. Over the coming weeks the children will be given their logins and home learning will begin to be placed on the platform. More information will follow shortly.

Have a great weekend.

Vacancies

Northgate are looking for extra lunchtime staff this term to help with cover when staff are unable to be in school. If you are interested in some casual work across the lunchtime period (12pm-1.30pm) please email secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk.

Already we have had members of staff out of school and it is vital we keep up our staffing levels at lunchtime to be able to remain open.

Safeguarding

Playground Apparatus

Children must not play on the playground apparatus under any circumstances. Even if you are supervising your child, other children are then encouraged to play who may not be supervised. There have been accidents in the past and your co-operation with this is appreciated.

Herts E-Safety Newsletter

We have attached the Autumn 2020 Herts E-Safety Newsletter which provides useful information including a toolkit from Childnet providing resources on different aspects of keeping children safe online, the Hertfordshire library service BorrowBox and O2 and NSPCC resources which you may find useful.

Important Dates - 2020/21

Weds 30th Sept	Harvest Celebration/donations to Food Bank
Thurs 15th Oct	Parent information videos released
Weds 21st Oct	Happy School Bag Collection
Fri 23rd Oct	Black History Day
26th - 30th Oct	October Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov	INSET DAY
3rd - 6th Nov	Wellbeing Week
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 2.00pm
Mon 4th Jan	Children Return to School
15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
Fri 26th March	End of Term at 2.00pm
Mon 12th Apr	Children Return to School
Mon 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
Mon 7th June	INSET DAY
Thurs 22nd July	End of Term at 2.00pm

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Harvest Festival

This year we will be celebrating Harvest Festival and will again be collecting food donations for the **Bishop's Stortford Food Bank**. Our collection date this year is **Wednesday 30th September**. We will let you know which items they are most in need of next week, however currently their most urgent needs are squash and long life juice, powdered mash potato, soap (bars and liquid) and general toiletries. **Herts Hogline** are also asking for soft dog or cat food pouches (not fish flavoured please!)

School Pick Up Arrangements

End of Day - One Way System Trial Week

To further support social distancing, we will be trialling a new one way system during pick up from next week.

From Monday 21st September, when you collect your child(ren) please enter the school using the pedestrian side gate on Cricketfield Lane. Once you have collected your child(ren) please exit using the wider main gate.

Hopefully this new system will reduce bottle necks through the small pedestrian gate. Thank you to the parent who suggested this alternative pick up system. Year 6 will continue to enter and exit school via the Grailands gate as usual.

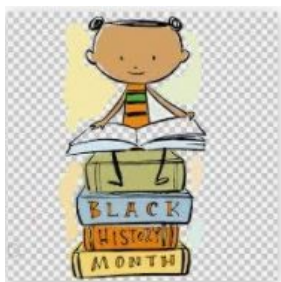


Enriching the Curriculum

Black History Day

Next month Black History Day is on 23rd October. We are beginning to consider our focus for this year and what to cover with various year groups. We feel that this year more than ever this is a topic of vital importance for our children and community, and wish to cover it in a sensitive and informative manner. We would welcome ideas and input from any parents. If anyone has any suggestions or thoughts on this subject, please get in touch with me via eschools, or send a message via the office. Many thanks.

Mrs E Shepherd (History Coordinator)



Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery AM: Charlie H R1: Alice
PM: Tate R2: Henry K

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for listening and tuning into instructions and expectations, and asking deep and meaningful questions.

Well done to:

Class 1: Alfred	Class 7: Poppy
Class 2: Alexander	Class 8: Michael
Class 3: Thomas	Class 9: Molly
Class 4: William and Lauren	Class 10: Abigail
Class 5: John	Class 11: Alice
Class 6: Albie	Class 12: Isla

Free School Meal Applications

If your family has a low income, you may be eligible for financial assistance while your children are at school. To find out, you can apply online at www.hertsdirect.org and use the 'Free School Meal' option at the bottom right of the page.

It is quick and easy to do – most online applications take about five minutes to complete but please make sure you have your national insurance number to hand. You can also apply for other benefits that you may qualify for at the same time.

If you do not have access to the internet, or have any other questions please contact the school office by calling on 652 376 or by emailing admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk.

School Council and Eco Committee

Well done to the following children who have been elected to the School Council and Eco Committee.

Class 1: Aarohi and Hugo	Class 7: Daniel and Felicity
Class 2: Felix and Sophia	Class 8: Grace and Ewan
Class 3: Joshua and Tessa	Class 9: Oscar and Tilly
Class 4: Samuel and Roisin	Class 10: Isobel and Toby
Class 5: Will and Eden	Class 11: Imogen L and Bede
Class 6: Archie and Millie	Class 12: Megan and Jared

Our **Executive Committee** are:

Class 11: Zoe and Oliver Class 12: Katherine and Zac

Our **Eco Committee** are:

Class 1: Poppy	Class 7: Griff
Class 2: Cassandra	Class 8: George
Class 3: Isla W	Class 9: Saffron
Class 4: Sebastian	Class 10: Finley
Class 5: Jackson	Class 11: Alice
Class 6: Anton	Class 12: Ruby

Congratulations to everyone!

Covid-19 Updates

Social Distancing

Please remember to socially distance on the playground at the start and the end of the day. We are aware that cases locally are on the increase and that a local primary has had to close a class. (Please see the first page of the newsletter for details of our new one way system).

If your child shows one or more symptoms of Covid and you have taken them for a test, please ensure you let the school office know by emailing absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk. A copy of your results should also be emailed to this address.

Further Information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> or by calling 111.

If you are aware that your child is affected by an asthmatic or seasonal cough, please inform the school office in writing so that this information can be passed to their teacher.

Fundraising

We were delighted to receive a letter from the British Heart Foundation thanking us for our gift of £125, raised by our Year 6 summer leaver Fin M, from his successful cake sale held before lockdown.

We are always happy to hear to the children's ideas for charitable fundraising, especially new and inventive ideas which may work during the current restrictions.

Reminders and Updates

Pokemon Cards

As we are only allowing essential items to be brought into school, please note that the children should not have Pokemon Cards with them during the school day.

Main and Pedestrian Gates

During drop off and pick up times, could we please ask that the area around the gates be kept clear, in order to allow the flow of pedestrians to be socially distanced as much as possible. Dogs should be kept on a short lead and not tied to the railings near gate entry/exit points.

Thank you.

Forgotten Items

Unfortunately only essential forgotten items such as medicine or glasses can be dropped off at the school office.