

November 19th 2021

Headteacher's News

It was great to see many new faces at the PTA AGM meeting on Monday evening. Our PTA is such a vital part of our school community, as well as a key fundraising tool. I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work last year, particularly those who have decided to step down. I would like to give special thanks to Louisa Piercy for all her hard work as chair for the last 4 years, and to Harriet Partridge who has been such a fantastic Treasurer during her time on the committee. The school looks forward to working with the new committee. If you are interested in getting involved—please contact the PTA by emailing ptanorthgate@gmail.com. Any help you can offer, even for example wrapping Mother's Day gifts, would be appreciated. Please see the Chair's message on the next page.

Well done to the tag rugby and football teams. It was wonderful to be able to give the children the opportunity to compete with other schools again. Please see the next page for more details.

Our assemblies this week have focused on respecting our school environment. Next week each year group will have a secret respect action, e.g. holding doors for others, for the other year groups to guess so you might like to discuss this throughout the week with your children.

Have a great weekend.

Fundraising for Children in Need 2021

Swimathon

Last weekend three year 6 girls, Saffron, Tilly and Annie, did a sponsored swim in aid of Children in Need. Their goal was to swim a total of 41 lengths in one hour, however, they managed to push themselves and do 50 lengths each, 150 in total and still within an hour. "We were very proud of ourselves by the end and have so far raised £480! We really appreciate everyone's donations and would love it if you could donate just a little bit of money to this incredible charity." If you would like to donate or find out more, here is the [link](#) to our just giving page.



Pom Pom Sale for Children in Need

Imogen, Megan, Violet and Evie (C11) held a pom pom sale during break time for our children in key stage one and key stage two classes. The girls were kept incredibly busy selling the pom poms they had made. They are still working hard to sell their remaining stock and have even promised a few special orders! Congratulations to all of the girls for their amazing fundraising efforts from everyone at Northgate.



Important Dates - 2021/22

Tues 30th Nov	9.30am Early Years Christmas Production
Weds 1st Dec	9.30am Early Years Christmas Production
Thurs 2nd Dec	Flu Immunisations (Rec-Y6)
Fri 3rd Dec	Christmas Tree Collection Day
Weds 8th Dec	Year 2 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	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)
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 - Covid Isolation Guidance

Due to the rising number of Covid cases locally, we would kindly request that if there is a confirmed case in your household or if your child has been contacted by test and trace, that children are kept at home until they have received a negative PCR result. The period of time taken for the result to arrive will be marked as an authorised absence.

Our priority is to keep as many children as possible in school while protecting our whole school community.

Thank you for your support.

Free School Meals

Did you know that Herts CC could save you over £450 every year? Your child could get a free school meal, worth over £450 per child per year. Applying takes around 5 minutes and in most cases you will find out straight away if your child can get free meals at school. Visit [Free School Meals](#) for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

Enriching the Curriculum - Music

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and pupils who have made me feel so welcome – it has been great to join the Northgate community.

In the first part of the term we were creative and made body percussion compositions in the style of Stomp. Then the different year groups studied and performed music in different styles – Year 3 focussed on Reggae, Year 4 soul, Year 5 the music of WW2 and Year 6 rap music.

We are now full steam ahead for Christmas in preparation for the carol service at the end of term and also to have fun singing special songs that you can't sing at any other time of the year! At the carol service, each KS2 year group will be performing their own song and, as we want pupils to sing from memory, we will soon be sending words home to learn. Please be aware that how the carol service is presented this year will depend on Covid numbers at the time.

The choir is also busy practising for the carol service and we have just started a recorder group who we hope will be ready to perform soon.

We have lots of musical children at Northgate and are lucky to have our lovely piano teacher, Mr Thomson. Currently we have no space in school to have any other instrument teachers, so if your child would like to learn an instrument, the Bishop's Stortford Music Centre run by Herts Music Service at Birchwood School has lots of opportunities for anyone wanting to learn an instrument – details are on the flyer attached.

Liz Kadir

Northgate School Association

Thank you to all those that attended our AGM on Monday. We were absolutely delighted to be able to share the news that the total funds raised in 2020/21 was **£13,000!!!** This is a truly fantastic result given the restrictions on our events and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped achieve this. My Chair's Report is attached to this newsletter for you to read more detail about the activities of the year. It was also really lovely to welcome some new parents to the meeting and to have them join the committee as volunteers and trustees.

Sadly some long-standing trustees stepped down this year. Harriet Partridge, Allison Boom and Gemma Aziz have served as trustees for a number of years and have given many, many hours to committee roles and fundraising activities. I'd personally like to thank them for all their hard work and support over the years.

I too have decided this year to step down after 4 years as Chair and 5 years on the committee. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience but it's time for someone else to have a go! I am very pleased to report that the PTA will be in the very capable hands of Geri Wren and Jo Parrott who will Co-Chair going forward, with Nambia Ferguson as Secretary and Ryan Moore continuing as Treasurer. Adeel Ahmed and Susan Tidman have joined the committee this year too so we warmly welcome them on board!

Finally, local estate agent, Russell Property, are running a competition for the children to design their company Christmas card and they will make a donation to our PTA for every entry. Details can be found on the attached flyer. Thank you for supporting all our events and activities.

Best wishes and over and out.

Louisa Piercy

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Adam and Lucy

R1: Emily R2: Aaron

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on Computer Whizz.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for outstanding knowledge of Microbit programming and for producing a fantastic PowerPoint on scorpions with amazing images.

Well done to:

Class 1: Aarav

Class 7: Luca

Class 2: Ella

Class 8: Holly

Class 3: Eira

Class 9: Ivan

Class 4: Mateusz

Class 10: Oscar

Class 5: Arabelle

Class 11: Jack

Class 6: Max

Class 12: Wun Tin

Enriching the Curriculum - Sport

Tag Rugby Festival This Thursday year 5 and year 6 went to a tag rugby competition.

There were three teams for Northgate who played 16 games altogether and only lost one. Our highest score was 9-4. Jack W had the ball when someone tripped him up but he still had both of his tags and scored an amazing tri. Toby had the ball and dodged every single player on the other team and scored a tri. It was fun and a great opportunity to play tag rugby as a school.

Lara, Grace, Alfie (C12)



Gold and Silver Football This week our teams played against All Saints School. The match kicked off with Northgate in possession and both teams on the attack. Luke scored the first goal for the silver team and shortly after the first goal was scored by Daniel for the gold team. Just before half time the gold team sadly conceded a goal and the score was level. Two more goals were scored by Abyan and Hari for the silver team so they were 3-0 up at half time. In the second half a further three goals were scored by Jack W and Lewis for the gold team, and three more goals scored by Hari and Ally for the silver team. Final scores were Silver team 6-0, Gold team 4-1.

Well done to everyone for their brilliant sportsmanship.

Year 6 - War Memorial Visit



On Tuesday, year 6 visited the Bishop's Stortford War Memorial in town. As our topic is WWII and it was close to Remembrance Day, it was very useful to learn about our local memorial. We got to fill in small booklets about the war memorial as well as seeing all the poppy wreaths. We had a lovely afternoon and really enjoyed ourselves.