

# Northgate Primary School

## Newsletter

December 17th 2021

### Headteacher's News

Term has come to an end with a fun, festive week. This wasn't quite the end to the term we had hoped for but it has been a team effort to keep the school as Christmassy as possible for the children and my thanks go to everyone involved! The staff have been absolutely amazing in quite stressful conditions, ensuring all children have a special end of term. Staff have stepped in, often at very short notice, to ensure each class was staffed. I would also like to thank the support of the Governors this term.

Thank you to the PTA for funding the pantomimes that the children had great fun watching.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunches in the middle of the week. Thank you to all of our fantastic kitchen staff for the wonderful meals and to the PTA for the crackers and squash.

Our key stage 2 classes put parents in the Christmas Spirit with their wonderful singing at the end of Thursday and Friday on the playground.

Our PTA have continued to fund raise for these events and on Monday the children and staff can all enjoy Break the Rules Day. Congratulations go to the Normans for winning this term's house competition.

I hope that you enjoy our Christmas videos and that they bring you some Christmas cheer. Thank you to our teachers for not only organising the performances but also for developing their video editing skills so parents can watch them!

We are extremely sad to say goodbye to Mrs Crumpler today who has been a wonderful Northgate teacher for many years. She will be sadly missed and we wish her all the best at her new school in her home town.

We are delighted to welcome back Mr Wilcox for two terms. We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Pursglove, our PE teacher, from her maternity leave.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for their support this term to help the school community safe.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and enjoyable Christmas.

### Safeguarding - Be Bright, Be Seen

During the winter when the dark evenings are with us so early, it is vitally important for the children to understand that they need to **Be Bright to Be Seen**.

**Fluorescent** material on coats and bags are good as they can be seen in daylight and dusk. **Reflective** material can be easily seen at night. We have been working on road safety in school to teach the children the importance of being seen in the dark.



### Important Dates - 2021/22

Mon 20th Dec	PTA Break the Rules Day
<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>
<b>Weds 12th Jan</b>	<b>9am - Class 5 Meet the Teacher</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>

### Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout 2021 the school has slowly returned to a more normal environment and it has been great to see the children transition back to face-to-face learning. The staff have all worked so hard to provide a welcoming environment for all the children to help them settle back into the school routine. At the same time as providing many of the wider curriculum activities, they have established which areas of learning have been most impacted by the disruption of the last two years and these are now the central focus of the whole school's work. We all hope that the current increase in restrictions does not last, or worse still escalate, but the management team are planning for all scenarios and I'm sure staff and parents will all do everything possible to support the children and each other through it.

On behalf of the Governing Body, to all the children, parents and staff - we thank you for your amazing work and dedication to the learning and wellbeing of the whole school community.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy Christmas.

Laurence Foote, Chair of Governors

### End of Term Collection Times

This year we will be staggering the end time for our last day in school on Monday 20th December, to limit the number of people on the playground at any one time. Therefore pick up times will be as follows from their usual gate;

Reception - 1.45pm	
Year 1 - 1.50pm	Year 2 - 1.50pm
Year 3 - 1.55pm	Year 4 - 1.55pm
Year 5 - 2.00pm	Year 6 - 2.00pm



## Christmas at Northgate

This week our year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classes walked together to the Southmill Arts theatre to watch the pantomime, Rapunzel. Thank you to all our parent helpers. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all.

Our year 1 and 2 children enjoyed their pantomime in school and had a wonderful time with lots of laughter.

Thank you to the PTA for funding the pantomimes for the children to enjoy and for the interval drinks and snacks.



On Thursday and Friday this week parents of our years 3-6 children were thoroughly entertained by the children

singing Christmas carols outside in the playground. It was magical to hear them singing so beautifully.



## Reminders and Updates

### Reception Year Applications

Currently the number of Reception Year applications received by Herts is relatively low. Please be reminded that applications need to be made before the deadline of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Application information can be found at [Reception Places](#).

### Fosters Schoolwear

Fosters Christmas opening dates can be found in their flyer attached to this email.

### Nut Free Packed Lunches

As Northgate are a nut-free school, could we please remind you to ensure your child's snack and packed lunch does not contain nuts, even where they might be hidden in products such as granola bars, trail mixes, spreads such as nut butters, chocolate-nut spreads, bakewell tarts and pesto.

### The Rotary Club Young Musician 2022

We have attached a flyer with details of an exciting competition for our young performers who either reside in or are in full-time education in postcodes CM21, CM22, CM23 and CM24.

### Library Books

**REMINDER:** Could you please make sure that library books issued to children in years 3 to 6 are returned to school next week in order for the library to undertake a stock take ready for the new term.

### School uniform

Please ensure that your child returns to school in full school uniform in January. Information regarding school uniform can be found [here](#). A suitable coat is essential all year round. Black shoes (not boots). ***Shoes need to be comfortable, with sensible heels to avoid accidents. No fashion footwear or trainers please.***

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Pennie

R1: Wren

R2: Olivia



This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on music.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for beautiful singing and effort when performing and for working extremely hard to learn their Christmas songs.

Well done to:

Class 1: Alfie

Class 2: Connor

Class 3: Sophia

Class 4: Myla

Class 5: Olivia

Class 6: Tessa

Class 7: Ben

Class 8: Stanley

Class 9: George A

Class 10: Grace

Class 11: Jasmine

Class 12: Oscar

## School Association

### **Christmas Dinner**

We hope all the children enjoyed their Christmas dinner this week especially pulling crackers! The PTA funded all the table accessories, squash and helped to set up. A special thank you to Susan Tidman for helping with the KS1 set up on Tuesday.



### **250 Club December winner**

Congratulations to our December winner, Justin Campbell. A cheque is coming your way very shortly! To be in with a chance of winning, please complete the 250 form and set up a standing order. Forms can be found on class and PTA Facebook pages, attached to previous newsletters or by emailing the PTA at [ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com).

### **Second Hand uniform and more!**

Have you ever been in a last minute panic to create or buy outfits for your child's dressing up days whether this is World Book Day, Christmas Productions, Roman Day etc. and at the same time frustrated with a big January clear out knowing your child's outfit, jumper and uniform won't fit in 2022?

Well..... Let us solve this for you and also contribute to helping the environment.

Please send in pre loved Christmas jumpers, fancy dress or Christmas production outfits plus uniform to the school office and look out for future selling events!

Our second hand uniform sales will run on the 14th, 21st and 28th January 2022. This winter term raised £300, thank you Katie Homer and the team for organising.

On behalf of the PTA, thank you for your continued support. We wish you happy holidays and look forward to putting on exciting fundraising events for your children in 2022.

Your Northgate PTA Co-Chairs  
Geri Wren and Jo Parrott

