

March 6th 2026

Headteacher's News

It was lovely to see so many parents at our World Book Day parade yesterday—the children looked amazing! Our fun adjective-themed event supported the development of children's language skills. Thank you for your continued support. Please encourage your child to build their vocabulary while reading, playing games, or watching programmes together. Thanks to Mrs Layer, our reading lead, for organising all the events this week.

You may have seen recent coverage on BBC News about allergy awareness in schools and the importance of being prepared to respond to severe allergic reactions. At the start of this year, all our staff completed **anaphylactic training** to ensure they are confident in recognising and responding quickly and safely in an emergency.

I hope you found the parent consultations useful and informative.

If you have any feedback, please email on:

interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming you next week when family members are invited into school to play maths games with your child and see the work they have been doing. Maths games are a great way to reinforce key learning and help develop children's maths fluency. Sessions will run from 9:00am to 9:25am.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Book Swap

On Wednesday, Northgate School held a book swap for the children. Pupils brought in books they had finished reading, which were laid out at lunchtime in a classroom. Children taking part had the opportunity to choose a different book to enjoy. The event was very successful and proved to be a wonderful way of reusing books. It allows children to get the most out of their reading while also benefiting the environment and parents' pockets.



Thank you to Agnes from Harriers for donating a popular series of books to our school library this week. *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey (creator of *Captain Underpants*) follows a crime-fighting hero who is half dog, half human. This bestselling graphic novel series is fast-paced, funny and highly engaging, helping make reading feel like fun rather than a chore.

The spare books from the book swap have been kept to go into our outdoor reading area for the children to enjoy books at lunchtimes.

If you have any **non fiction books or graphic novels** in good condition, that you would like to donate to the school library, we would be very grateful.

Thank you also to the parents who have supported reading in our school by purchasing books either as a birthday gift or through the Amazon wishlists. **Thanks also to our PTA** for purchasing us new books to update the libraries.

Important Dates

Mon 9th Mar	Y4 Trip to Sealife Adventure Southend
Mon 9th Mar	Reception, Y1, Y2 Perform Workshop
Week beg 9th Mar	Playing maths games and work sharing
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS --9am
	Wed LSK2 --9am, Thurs KS1 --9am
	Young Carers Day 2026
Wed 11th Mar	Y6 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 12th Mar	9am Reception Mothers Day Breakfast
Mon 16th Mar	Mother's Day Shop
W/C 9th Mar	Stortford Youth Choir KS2 Assembly
Thurs 19th Mar	Y 3/4 production 9:05 and 2:15
Fri 20th Mar	Pulse Volunteer morning
Sat 21st Mar	Science week (Fab Science/House quiz)
Wk beg 23rd Mar	House Cross Country
Wk beg 23rd Mar	8.55am—9.10am Parent Pulse presentation
Tues 24th Mar	9am Reception Easter Activity Morning
Tues 24th Mar	Y4 Local river walk
Tues 24th Mar	Rocksteady Concert pm
Wed 25th Mar	4.40pm Live Zoom for Parents re: Pulse.
Wed 25th Mar	Break the Rules Day
Fri 27th Mar	2pm Break up for Easter
Fri 27th Mar	Easter Holidays
30th Mar—10th April	PTA meeting/EGM
Wed 15th April	PTA school disco
Fri 17th April	Y5 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 23rd April	Bank Holiday
Mon 4th May	Y4 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 7th May	Y6 SATs
11th—14th May	Neurodiversity Week
18th—22nd May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Tues 19th May	Y3 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 21st May	End of term
Fri 22nd May	Half term
25th—29th May	Inset day
Mon 1st June	First day back at school
Tues 2nd June	PTA Summer Fayre
Sat 6th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Thurs 25th June	Move up day
Thurs 9th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Mon 20th July	Y6 Residential PGL Overstrand
29th June—3rd July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
Tues 21st July	Occasional day
Wed 22nd July	Summer Holidays
23rd July—31st Aug	Inset day
1st & 2nd Sept	Start of New School Year
Thurs 3rd Sept	
	*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

We encourage children to enjoy reading safely, both at school and at home. Reading helps children explore new ideas and develop their imagination, whether using technology or paper. However, we ask that parents and carers oversee any digital content to ensure it is age-appropriate.

It is also important to remind children about safe behaviour online. They should be kind and respectful, think carefully before sharing messages or images, never share personal information without permission, and feel confident to leave chats or report anything that is unkind or inappropriate.

For practical advice on keeping children safe online, including tips on parental controls and talking to your child about online safety, please visit the UK Safer Internet Centre:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/parents>.

By working together, we can help children enjoy reading and use technology safely.

Enriching the Curriculum

Last week, Owls welcomed a visitor. Ivy's dad, kindly came in to read with the children. He is the joint owner of Douglas Joshua Estate Agents, who have very generously donated money to Northgate School to be spent on new books. We are extremely grateful for their support. Ivy's dad read *The Worrysaurus*; the children thoroughly enjoyed the story and the interactive elements throughout the session. Thank you!



World Book Day

On Thursday, there was great excitement across the school. This annual event celebrates authors, illustrators, books and, most importantly, the joy of reading. This year feels even more special as we continue to mark the Year of Reading, promoting a love of books in everything we do. The outfits worn by children and staff and were truly wonderful and incredibly creative, with adjectives brought to life in imaginative and eye-catching ways. Everyone enjoyed showing off their costumes during our lively parade – you can see some of the fantastic variety in the photos below. After the parade, staff took part in a fun reading challenge, moving between classrooms to read a story to each class in just two minutes. The children loved the fast-paced storytelling and the opportunity to hear a wide range of books in quick succession. We finished with a whole-school assembly, where staff had created a hilarious film for the children to enjoy based on 'We're Going on a Book Hunt' It was a fantastic way to end a brilliant celebration of reading. Please remember reading doesn't have to be limited to books—listening to audiobooks or using e-readers on apps such as BorrowBox is another great way to enjoy stories. You can also switch on subtitles to help promote faster reading. We hope you have received the **World Book Day token**, which can be used in a variety of shops around town. Congratulations to Amber in Owls who recently received her Blue Peter Book Badge!



Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Mia

Puffins: Cole **Owls:** Elise



'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers.

Well done to:

Robins: Sky

Wrens: Micheal

Starlings: Albie

Sparrows: Sebastian

Skylarks: Bella

Swifts: Zora

Nightingales: Nellie

Kingfishers: Toby

Kestrels: Imogen

Kites: Orla

Harriers: Raff

Hawks: Matty

Music

Nathan Collins, Choir Master from St Michael's Church, visited assembly on Wednesday to talk to the children about the church choir. Rehearsals take place on Friday evenings, with a break for pizza and ice cream, and once confident, children can sing in church on Sundays. The children enjoyed practising warm-ups and listening to the choir's music. Please see the attached flyer for more information.



Reminders and Updates

Safety Plea From Local Residents

Please be considerate, safe and legal when driving and parking outside the school. Think safety first! Please ask your children not to pick the daffodils so these can be enjoyed by everyone in the community.

Message from Reception

We kindly remind all parents and carers that children should not play in the Reception outdoor area before or after school. The children work hard each afternoon to tidy the space for the next day, but staff are finding it untidy in the mornings.

Teachers will remind children not to use the equipment outside school hours, and we ask parents to reinforce this. Please help keep the area ready for learning each day.

Nut Allergies at School: Snacks and Packed Lunches

As we have children with nut allergies at school, it is very important that parents do not include any foods containing nuts or nut products in snacks or lunch boxes. This includes items such as peanut butter, pesto, Bakewell tarts, or desserts containing hazelnuts.

School Uniform

Please ensure that children wear black shoes to school – boots and trainers are not permitted (trainers may only be worn on PE days.). Jewellery should not be worn, and any hair accessories must be sensible and in school colours. Year 5 and 6 children are required to wear school ties as part of their uniform.

For PE, children must not wear branded sportswear such as joggers or shorts. We want to maintain a smart and consistent school appearance.

Sock and Tights Donations

Do you have any spare socks or tights for children aged 3–6 years? Our EYFS classes are running very low.