

November 7th 2025

Headteacher's News

Welcome back, and I hope you had a great half-term. We look forward to seeing you next week at parent consultations, which will help you gain an understanding of how your child has settled into their new class and about their current progress. Please ring the school office if you have not been able to book an appointment (please note there is only one appointment for each child). Teachers will have maths and English books for parents to have a look at. Please enter through the main door and wait for the bell to ring for your appointment (EYFS/ KS1 in the hall, Year 3/4 in the ICT suite and Y5/6 in Kestrels (Class 9)).

This half term, our new school value focus is *Communication*. The children will be exploring what makes communication effective and why positive communication is so important. Through discussions, activities, and reflections, they will learn how to express themselves clearly, listen to others with respect, and use their words to build positive relationships. Our new learning power, *Self-Managing Monkey*, was also introduced this week. The children discussed what it means to be independent and to use their initiative in their learning. We hope that they will begin to appreciate the importance of this core skill and develop confidence in managing their own learning, without relying too heavily on others.

I look forward to seeing you at the fireworks this evening! Please note that the event is now **sold out**, so no tickets will be available on the gates. A big thank you to the new organising team from the PTA for all their hard work in putting the event together. If you are able to spare **30 minutes** to help on the night, please contact the PTA — your support would be greatly appreciated! Hope you have a great weekend!

Enriching the Curriculum

Ahoy, Mateys! Pirate Day in Year 2

Today, Year 2 set sail on an exciting Pirate adventure! The children had a fantastic time making pirate biscuits, carefully choosing ingredients that would have survived long sea voyages. They used their food technology skills to weigh, measure, and mix their recipes, and even explored how ingredients change as they melt and cook. A huge thank you to all the parents who came aboard to help both classes!

In the afternoon, the children became true treasure hunters. They followed clever clues on a treasure hunt and discovered the hidden treasure! They also listened to a thrilling pirate story and shared their thoughts during a discussion about the text. The children had a swashbuckling day full of fun and learning, all thanks to the hard work of their class teachers and teaching assistants. Well done, Year 2—what a day of pirate adventures!



Important Dates

Tues 11th Nov	Y6 attend remembrance service in town
11th –13th Nov	Parent Consultations
17th–21st Nov	Well-being week
Fri 21st Nov	9.00am—9.30am “The Anxious Generation” talk for parents
Thurs 27th Nov	Y3 Orienteering walk to Waitrose
Fri 28th Nov	1.30pm KS2 Panto at South Mill Art (pick up from theatre)
Mon 1st Dec	PTA Elfridges shop for EYFS, Y1, Y3 and Y6
Wed 3rd Dec	PTA Elfridges shop for Y2, Y4 and Y5
Tues 9th Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am–2.40pm
Fri 12th Dec	KS1 9.10am/2.40pm Christmas production
Mon 15th Dec	Reception posting letters to Santa
Tues 16th Dec	11.30am EYFS/KS1 Christmas Lunch
Wed 17th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day and Santa Fun Run
Wed 17th Dec	9.00am Volunteer Coffee Morning
Wed 17th Dec	12.30pm KS2 Christmas Lunch
Thurs 18th Dec	Rock Steady Concert (Time TBC)
Fri 19th Dec	KS2 2pm Church service St Michaels Church
Fri 19th Dec	Break the Rules Day
22nd Dec—2nd Jan	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
Mon 5th Jan	Christmas Holidays
Tues 6th Jan	Inset Day
Mon 26th Jan	School term starts
Tue 27 th Jan	Y6 Victorian Day
16th—20th Feb	Y2 Old Northgate School walk
Fri 27th Mar	Half Term
30th Mar—10th April	2pm finish Break up for Easter
	Easter Holidays

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

Be Bright, Be Seen! Visibility on dark nights

As the winter months bring darker evenings, it's especially important for children to remember to 'Be Bright and Be Seen' when travelling to and from school. If your child walks home alone or with friends, please take a moment to think about what they are wearing. School uniforms and coats are often dark in colour, which can make children less visible to drivers and cyclists. Adding high-visibility or reflective strips to clothing, school bags, or bike helmets can make a big difference. Carrying a small torch or clip-on light is also a good idea to help them stay safe and visible. Together, we can help keep all our children safe during the darker months.

On Tuesday, BBC Look East visited Northgate to film Tony, our School Crossing Patrol, for Hertfordshire County Council's Stop Means Stop campaign. Thank you to everyone who took part — including Mrs Tanner our Head teacher and Councillor Paul Zukowskyj — for helping raise awareness of road safety. The interview aired on BBC Look East yesterday.



Enriching the Curriculum

Our Ducklings' class had a fun week. Enjoying the mild autumnal weather, they took part in a scavenger hunt for natural materials such as leaves, bark, and sticks. Afterwards, they joined in a maths-related activity, sorting these into piles of the same materials. Mrs Murant also read a lovely story to the children called *"The Leaf Thief"* by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater in the outdoor classroom.

To pay their respects ahead of Armistice Day next Tuesday, the children each made individual poppies, which were then collated and arranged to create wreaths. These have been beautifully displayed in their classroom windows.



Sport : Football

Yesterday evening, the Gold Team and Silver A Team played exciting matches at Manorfields.

The Gold Team faced a tough game, with Matty, Bill, and Dennis scoring before some great saves from Josh M secured a strong result.

The Silver A Team also impressed — Eliza and Marquis scored early, and although Manorfields levelled, the team showed great teamwork and spirit throughout.

Reminders and Updates

Fidget Toys

It has been noted that a few children have been playing with fidget toys during lessons. Children are not permitted to use fidget toys at school without prior agreement. These items can be a significant distraction for both children and teachers during learning time.

If you would like to speak to someone about your child's need for a fidget toy, please contact admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk, and we will forward your email to the relevant person.

Individual School Photos Reminder

School photographs are ready to view. Simply scan the QR code on your proof card and follow the instructions.

If you have not received your proof card or it has been lost, you can call the Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711. You will need your child's pupil admission number, which can be requested from the school office.

Winter Reads Challenge 2025–26

Bishops Stortford Library's Winter Reads Challenge is back! Running from **1 November to 31 January**, this free challenge encourages children (and adults!) to enjoy reading over the winter months.

Complete **six fun book-related challenges** — from reading tasks to creative activities like drawing a favourite character or writing a short story. There's even a Wild Card option for those who want to set their own reading goals!

Finish all six challenges by **31 January** to be entered into a **prize draw** to win an iPad and other great prizes.

To take part, simply visit Bishops Stortford Library to pick up your challenge card. Open to **all ages** — families welcome!

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week are:



Ducklings: Hextor and Toby

Puffins: Nylah **Owls:** William

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

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers this week for a range of skills including: demonstrating determination and resilience when learning, showing great independence and self management skills, using wonderful sensory imagery in their poetry and being so engaged with their work.

Well done to:



Robins: Edward

Wrens: Dylan

Starlings/Sparrows: Well done to everyone for their wonderful effort and enthusiasm on Pirate Day!

Skylarks: William

Swifts: Mia

Nightingales: Nightingales

Kingfishers: Kingfishers

Kestrels: Faith

Kites: Apryl

Harriers: Felix

Hawks: Joshua

Thank you!

A huge thank you to Stortford Man With A Van, D.R Autos Ltd, and AJ Dedman Garages for arranging delivery of lots of car tyres for our playgrounds before half term.

These tyres will help enhance playtime for all pupils across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 — we can't wait to show you what we do with them!



Amazon Wish List Gifting

The SEN Wishlist has been updated! Please check out what this department needs by clicking here. https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3ROLLCMRTHZAG?ref_=wl_share. Wish lists for each year group can be found by clicking: https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/amazon_wish_lists/666476.

Northgate School Association

PTA Fireworks Night

We hope you have a fantastic time at tonight's Fireworks night! A huge amount of effort has gone into making this event special, and we're so excited to see everyone enjoy it.

A big thank you to all our amazing volunteers, we couldn't do it without you! Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, we're officially sold out!

Friendly reminder: please bring cash with you tonight. A special thank you to our generous sponsors, Russell Property and N.H Vehicle Solutions, for their incredible support.

Shedquarters – Our Pre-Loved Uniform Store

Located in the playground and still open!

Affordable • Sustainable • Community

Find pre-loved uniforms, shoes, and costumes at great prices all while supporting the school.

The PTA Team