

February 7th 2025

Headteacher's News

Safer Internet Day 2025, which takes place on the 11th of February 2025, this year is based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.

On this Safer Internet Day, we will be considering how to spot, respond to and report all types of scams online. Scams can take many forms and may target anyone, including young people. These top tips for parents are recommended to keep your family safe online:

- Enjoy going online together
- Talk about their online experiences
- Make use of settings, especially relating to online purchases
- Explain that not everything online is true
- Make sure they know they can always come to you

For children, key risks include unofficial game trades, which can be fun but risky, so always use official in-game tools to ensure fair swaps. Avoid trust trades or trading outside the game, as these are often scams where they could lose your items. Phishing scams trick people into giving away personal information by pretending to be trusted companies. Help your child to know that if they receive a suspicious message or link, don't click it—tell a trusted adult and report it. For further support regarding this, please visit the Safer Internet Day website which has a section tips for parents and carers: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>. Other websites for parents include, NSPCC, National Cyber Security Centre, or CEOP Education. Have a fantastic weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Mrs. Clynes and her **Year 6** English group had a thrilling atmospheric reading session on Tuesday as a well-earned reward for their incredible storytelling. The students crafted fantastic tales inspired by the haunted ruins of Whitby Abbey in Yorkshire, the setting that sparked Bram Stoker's imagination for *Dracula* in 1890. To bring their stories to life, the group stepped into a dark sensory room, where flickering torchlight cast eerie and dramatic shadows. Immersed in the gothic ambiance, the students took turns reading their work aloud, finding that the darkness heightened their focus and deepened their connection to each other's words. A huge well done to all the young writers for their creativity and engagement!



On Monday, parent helpers visited the school to assist the **Year 2** children with their DT project. The children used boxes, dowels, and wooden discs to construct vehicles, which they thoroughly enjoyed building and painting. Their creativity shone through, resulting in some fantastic designs.



Important Dates

Mon 10th Feb	Y5 Visit from Wonderdome.
Tues 11th Feb	Internet Safety Day
Wed 12th Feb	Y6 local walk
Thurs 13th Feb	EYFS/KS1 School Council Bake off
10th—14th Feb	Literature Festival at the BSC
17th-21st Feb	Half term
Thurs 27th Feb	KS2 School Council Bake off
4th & 6th Mar	Parent Consultations (Details to follow)
Tues 4th Mar	Rec/Y1 Trip to Stortford fields Story Teller
Thurs 6th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
WK beg 10th Mar	Maths games/work sharing with parents
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am
	Wed KS1 —9am, Thurs LKS2 —9am
	Year 6 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 13th Mar	Well-being Event (for parents/carers)
Fri 14th Mar	Neurodiversity week
W/C 17 th Mar	Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time)
Fri 21st Mar	Mother's Day Shop
	Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted)
W/C 24th Mar	9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance
Wed 26th Mar	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Thurs 27th Mar	EYFS/KS1 & KS2 School Disco with Book Fair
Fri 28th Mar	Science week—Visit from Fab Science
Fri 28th Mar	Y5 Instrumental Concert
WK beg 31st Mar	Break the Rules Day
Thurs 3rd April	Term Ends 2pm
Fri 4th April	Easter holidays
Fri 4th Apr	Children back to school
7th- 21st April	Year 4 Instrumental Concert
Tues 22nd Aril	Bank Holiday
Thurs 1st May	Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Mon 5th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 15th May	End of term
Wed 21st May	Inset day
Thurs 22nd May	Half term
Fri 23rd May	Father's Day Shop
26th—30th May	PTA Summer Fayre
W/C 9th June	Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow)
Sat 14th June	Sports Day (details to follow)
Wed 2nd July	Reserve Sports Day.
	Break up for summer holidays
Fri 4th July	Occasional day
Fri 11th July	Start of New School Year
Tues 22nd July	
Wes 23rd July	
Thurs 4th Sept	

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding:

Dangerous parking outside school can cause increased safety risk to both children and parents. **The yellow zigzag lines outside school indicate that stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. The highway code states that these areas should be kept clear during school hours.** These restrictions are in place to keep you and your children safe.

Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger!

The staff car park **must not be** used for drop-offs in the mornings. This is a busy area, and unauthorised use creates additional hazards. If you require access for an exceptional reason, please contact the school office in advance.

Enriching the Curriculum

During their immersive Victorian Day experience provided by 'History off the Page' this week, **Year 6** stepped back in time to 1897. The class took part in engaging activities that brought the era to life. Dressed in fantastic period costumes, the children began their day with the headmaster taking the register, followed by a morning prayer, which they carefully wrote on slates using chalk. They then practised writing with pen and ink, crafting games, and had the rare opportunity to examine a fascinating collection of antique Victorian artifacts up close. These included a bugle, ice skates, medical equipment, tools, toys,



games, and books.

As part of their oceans topic, **Year 4** visited the Sea Life Centre in Southend this week. April and Maisy from Nightingales shared their favourite moments, which included: observing zebra and leopard sharks, electric eels, stingrays, starfish, and lobsters. As well as exploring the seashore and collecting their own shells. Teachers and helpers were incredibly impressed with the children's behaviour throughout the trip—well done Year 4!

Sport

On Wednesday, **Year 3/4** participated in a Sports Hall Athletics event at Birchwood. Bea from Nightingales shared that everyone had a fantastic time competing in events such as hurdles, chest push, and long jump. The team performed brilliantly, securing 2nd place out of 12 schools—an amazing achievement!

Reminders and Update

School Council and Executive Council Bake off Event!

Get ready for some delicious fun! Next Thursday, the school council have organised a **EYFS/KS1 Bake-Off**, so any children from **Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2** may take part. If your child would like to enter, they will need to bake and decorate a cake. The School Council will be judging the cakes based on taste and decoration, and there will be a chance to win a small prize! There will be a whole school **cake sale after school on Thursday** to raise funds for the School Council. Further details with precise arrangements to follow. The **KS2 Bake-Off** is after half-term, on Thursday 27th February. This will be KS2's turn to showcase their baking skills.

World Book Day Thursday 6th March 2025

We will be celebrating World Book Day. We encourage children to come to school dressed up as an **adjective**. For example: 'athletic- sport's kit, sparkly- sequin item of clothing, fantastical- royal outfit etc...' Please be as creative and adventurous with your adjective choice as you can. If you already have a fancy-dress outfit, try and find a suitable adjective with your child. We will be hosting our annual World Book Day parade on the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds at approximately 8:55. After all the children have gone though, parents will go through the gates straight onto the playground. The parade usually lasts

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Nylah and Rishant



Puffins: Bonnie **Owls:** Dominic

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: Shining as a teamwork tiger and being so accepting and understanding of everyone, responding to feedback on reading/writing and improving greatly, always giving 100% effort to their work, having a great can do attitude and working through problems independently.

Well done to:

Robins: Luna

Wrens: Albie

Starlings: Penelope

Sparrows: Harvey

Skylarks: Ashton

Swifts: Georgia

Nightingales: Lottie

Kingfishers: Emily

Kestrels: Sophia

Kites: Methuli

Harriers: Isla

Hawks: Viktor

Vacancies

Northgate is advertising on Teach in Herts. The role is Learning Support Practitioner for a Year 1 SEN Pupil. The hours are 8.40am - 1.10pm Monday—Friday, term time only until July 2025. If you are interested and feel this may suit you then please apply on:

https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/learning-support-practitioner-for-a-sen-pupil_100554.htm

Early Birds, Night Owls and Little Ladybirds

Pre-Schools are recruiting! And have a number of positions available across their settings:

- Level 3 (or higher) Early Years Manager
- Level 2 and/or 3 Early Years practitioners
- Night Owls cook (training can be provided for this role)

If you, or someone you know, would be suitable for any of these roles and would like to be a part of their team, where staff are rewarded with additional benefits such as free and discounted childcare places, extra paid holiday etc please email to register your interest.

Northgate School Association

Northgate PTA Lottery

Thank you so much to all our parents/carers who spoke to us at pick up today about the New Northgate PTA Lottery. Thanks for joining the Lottery!

The Northgate PTA Lottery is an opportunity to WIN up to £1,000 every month while making a real difference for Northgate Primary School! With school funding tighter than ever, your support through this lottery helps provide vital resources and unforgettable experiences for our children.

You can secure your ticket now, by using the following link: bit.ly/northgateptalottery

We are so pleased to announce our second winner, Fernando Binder. Huge congratulations and enjoy your winnings!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!
Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team