

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

September 11th 2026

Headteacher's News

We hope you found the recent 'Meet the Teacher' sessions informative, and we look forward to welcoming Reception, Year 5 next week. Year 1 meet the teacher is Wednesday 23rd Sept. If your child is in **KS1 or KS2**, you will shortly receive a copy of the **termly letter** via Google Classroom. This letter provides key information for your child's year group and will also be available on the **school website**. If you have not received it by the end of next week, please do let us know.

In assemblies this week, we introduced our **school values**, with **Respect** as our focus this half term. We expect all members of our school community to treat one another with courtesy and respect. We ask parents and carers to model these values in all interactions with staff and other members of our community. Abusive, threatening or intimidating language or behaviour will not be tolerated. In extreme cases, this may result in an individual being restricted or banned from the school site.

As a school, one of our key responsibilities is to monitor attendance. If your child is finding it difficult to get into school and you would like support, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Rogers, our Pastoral Lead, who can help with strategies to make mornings easier. Please remember that Herts County Council may issue fines where a child has 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence. Arrivals **after 9.30am**, without appointment evidence, will be recorded as an unauthorised absence for that session. Our attendance policy is on the school website. <https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/> I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

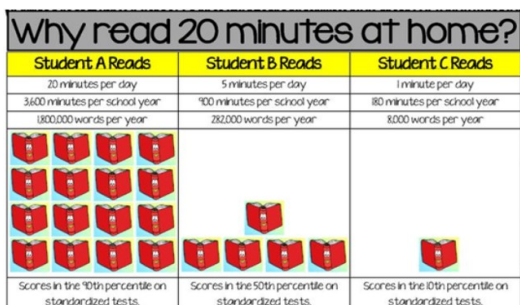
Summer Challenges

Reading: Today in assembly, the children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2026 were celebrated. They showed the medals and certificates they received from The Reading Agency in recognition of their achievements. Well done!

French Challenge:

A gentle reminder that Mrs Edwards would love to see if any children have completed the French holiday challenge during the summer. Please do bring in your work next week if you were able to do this.

Reading at home plays a vital role in developing children's language, vocabulary, imagination and confidence. Regular reading supports academic success across the curriculum and helps children develop a lifelong love of learning, curiosity and understanding of the world around them. Developing a love of reading early on lays the foundation for academic success and lifelong curiosity.



This chart clearly shows how reading a little each day can have a significant impact on your child's future.

Important Dates

Mon 14th Sept	Rec. 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Wed 16th Sept	Y5 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Wed 16th Sept	9am Volunteer reading sessions
Thurs 17th Sept	9am Volunteer reading sessions
Wed 23rd Sept	Y1 3.00pm Meet the Teacher
Wed 23rd Sept	Y5 Trip to Duxford
Mon 5th Oct	Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
	9.20am phonics parent workshop
Thur 8th Oct	KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
Wed 14th Oct	Whole school individual photos
Tues 13th Oct	Y2 walk to Waytemore castle
Mon 19th Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents
Tues 20th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Wed 21st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents
Thurs 22nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Fri 23rd Oct	Inset Day
26th-30th Oct	Half Term
Tues 8th Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am/2.30pm
Wed 9th Dec	KS2 Pantomime 1:30pm South Mills
Fri 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas production: 9.10am/2.40pm
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 17th Dec	KS2 13:45pm Carol Concert St Michaels
Friday 18th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
21st Dec—1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4th Jan	Inset day
Tues 5th Jan	School term starts
15th—19th Feb	Half Term
Thurs 25th Mar	2pm finish break up for Easter
30th Mar—9th April	Easter Holidays
=*Red = New Item / Change to Item	

Evacuation Procedures

Over the coming weeks, we will be practising our **fire evacuation** and **our invacuation** procedures to ensure all children are confident about the signals and know exactly what to do in the event of an emergency. For safety reasons, we kindly ask all adults to **sign in at the main reception** when entering the school site so we are always aware of who is present. If you are on site and hear the **fire alarm**, please make your way calmly through the nearest fire exit to the **large gazebo located between the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds**. If you hear the **class recall bell**, please make your way to the **nearest classroom or the staffroom**. Many thanks

Safeguarding

We are a nut free school as we have children with **nut allergies**. Please be careful not to include food containing nuts or nut products, such as peanut butter, pesto, almond paste, etc. Please refer to our website for more information. **Contact Details:** In case of an emergency, we must ensure we have up-to-date contact details on file. A **form** is available on the school website for you to update your details and to inform us of any changes to your email address, mobile phone number, address etc. Many thanks.

**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Enriching the Curriculum



This week Woodwind of Stortford came to Northgate and performed to KS2 during music assembly. They played a variety of woodwind instruments including the Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute and Oboe. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the instruments and listening to the variety of music that was played to them.

Reminders and Updates

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is fast approaching, and we will soon be asking you to donate food for the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank. Millions in the UK are living in poverty, including over 4 million children. Bishop's Stortford Food Bank provides emergency food parcels, non-food essentials, to local people in urgent need. They help residents of Bishop's Stortford and nearby villages through life's toughest moments. Items required include: tinned fruit/vegetables, tinned meat/fish, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauces, pasta, tinned soup, baked beans/tinned spaghetti, sponge puddings, cereal, jam., biscuits, crisps, coffee, tea, fruit juice -long life, squash, UHT milk, sanitary items, toilet rolls, toiletries, cleaning products, washing powder, and nappies. Children can bring donations to their classrooms from **Fri 2nd Oct—Thurs 8th Oct** Thank you.

Uniform

As the weather gets colder and wetter, please ensure that your child brings a suitable coat or jacket to school each day. We do go outside in light rain/drizzle. Children should be wearing full school uniform. Please see our website for details. For exceptional circumstances regarding uniform, please contact the office for advice. Letters must be provided explaining the reasons for not wearing school uniform, such as trainers or earrings. Children are **not allowed** to wear earrings or other jewellery in school. Soft clear plastic retainers/spacers may be worn. For children who have not had their earrings removed after the summer, please send an email to admin giving the date they are removed, with the subject; Earrings - For the attention of Mrs Tanner. We are still awaiting some letters.

Phones and Smart Watches

Children should not bring smartphones, smartwatches, or other mobile technology into school, as these can cause safeguarding concerns. If a device is found in school it will be returned directly to parents. Permission may be granted for children in Year 5 or 6 to bring phones if they walk home unattended and relevant forms have been completed. Please note, the school will not take responsibility for any loss or damage. The school encourages pupils who need to bring a phone to use a basic mobile phone rather than a smartphone.

One-to-one volunteer reading

We are looking for parents to help with reading in KS1 or KS2 (Mon-Thurs afternoons). Having an adult read with children greatly supports their learning. If you'd like to help, whether new or returning, please complete [Volunteer Agreement Form](#). Please be aware that all regular volunteers now require a DBS check. Safeguarding is essential, so all volunteers must attend annual update sessions. The next session, including reading support training, is on **Wednesday 16th September and also Thursday 17th September at 9.00am**. Please come to the office in order to join in. Thank you

Other Support

If you are interested in volunteering regularly in class, the library, helping children change books, or with simple admin, please inform the office or your child's teacher. Many thanks.

Celebration of Achievements



Ducklings: The whole class for settling in so well. They have enjoyed spending time in the forest school.

Puffins & Owls: The whole of Reception for making a wonderful start and settling into the class routines.

For homework last week, the children in each class designed a 'Star of the Week' certificate. Congratulations to the winners below for their brilliant designs. These will be used throughout the year to celebrate learning achievements.

Robins: Nova
Starlings: Larna
Skylarks: Iris
Nightingales: Max
Kestrels: Emily
Harriers: Emily

Wrens: Marnie
Sparrows: Cassia
Swifts: Everleigh-Mae
Kingfishers: Octavia
Kites: Maya
Hawks: William



European Day of Languages

Thurs 24th September is European Day of Languages. European Day of Languages celebrates the richness of languages and cultures across Europe, encouraging children to develop curiosity, respect and an appreciation for the different languages and cultures that make our world diverse. We are inviting parents who speak another language at home to come in during the week commencing 21st September to lead a short language session with their child's class. This could be a 15-minute introduction to greetings or sharing photos of a country. If you're interested, please email Mrs Gitto at harriers@northgate.herts.sch.uk. Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

Cool Milk

Would you like your child to receive milk during the school day? **School milk is available free for children under five and is around £20 per term for over fives.**

For more information please register with Cool Milk online: www.coolmilk.com

Free School Meals – Important Update

From September 2026, **all children living in households receiving Universal Credit are entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of household earnings.**

If your child is not currently registered for Free School Meals and you receive Universal Credit, You can either:

- **Apply directly through your local authority**

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

- **Complete our school application form** <https://forms.gle/HjgmUn5K2nLgx8j7> by 18th Sept and we can submit the details on your behalf.