

November 10th 2023

Headteacher's News

It was lovely to see so many of you on parents' evening this week. We hope you found it useful, and gained a better understanding of your child's strengths and areas your child now needs to work on. If you have any feedback for the leadership team, please email interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Across the year, we do try to organise a range of house events and next week we will be holding a House Geography Quiz, where all KS1 and KS2 children will have an opportunity to take part in the first round. The winners from each class will then take part in the final next Friday. Questions will be based on topics from our school curriculum.

Thanks to the PTA for organising the fantastic firework evening. Our PTA AGM is on Monday evening. A large number of our current members, who have done a fantastic job organising events for the last few years will be stepping down. Therefore, if you would like events like our summer fayre and fireworks to go ahead next year, we need new members. Events are organised as teams. If you are keen to support but can't attend on Monday, please let the PTA know. Have a good weekend.



Enriching the Curriculum

The local fire brigade came to see EYFS on Monday morning. They showed the children one of their fire engines and all the equipment they keep on board. The firefighters explained how the hoses and ladders work and the children got to see the 'Jaws of life', a hydraulic rescue tool used by first responders to help save lives. One of the parents, Mr Hay, who is a firefighter, spoke to the children in the classroom about fire safety. The children really enjoyed this experience and have been dressing up all week. The children

made lots of amazing art work too!

It was Pirate day in Year 2, on Monday. The costumes the children wore were amazing, they all looked fabulous. In geography they learned about locations pirates might sail to and they made biscuits, working as a group to weigh and mix ingredients before shaping their biscuits. They were very disappointed to learn that pirates did not have sugary biscuits!



Important Dates

Mon 13th Nov
Mon 13th Nov
Mon 20th Nov
Fri 24th Nov
Fri 24th Nov
28th—29th Nov
Mon 11th Dec

Fri 15th Dec

Tues 12th Dec

Tues 12th Dec

Tues 12th Dec

Wed 13th Dec

Wed 13th Dec

Mon 18th Dec

Mon 18th Dec

Tues 19th Dec

Tues 19th Dec

Fri 12th Jan

Fri 26th Jan

Wed 31st Jan

Mon 4th Mar

Fri 22nd March

Fri 10th May

13th—16th May

Mon 20th May

Mon 24th May

Mon 3rd June

3rd—7th June

Mon 10th June

Fri 14th June

Fri 21st June

Year 6 walk to War Memorial in town

7.30pm PTA AGM

1pm Nursery visit from the Police

9am Nursery visit from the Police

Year 5 Stortford Fields trip

Dogs Trust in School

2.45pm Nursery Christmas concert (details to follow).

8.45am Nursery Christmas concert (details to follow).

1.30pm KS2 Pantomime at South Mills (pick up from theatre)

1.30pm KS1 Hurricane Panto visit

Reception and KS1 Christmas Lunch

KS2 Christmas Lunch

9.15am and 2.30 am KS1 Christmas production

Volunteer coffee 9am

2pm KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)

Break the rules day

2pm End of term

2pm PTA Committee Meeting

Year 5 Visit from Wonder Dome

Young Voices Choir—O2

7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting

Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle

2pm PTA Committee Meeting

Y6 SATS

Year 6 Trip to the 'Crucial Crew'.

7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting

Y4 national multiplication assessments

Year 6 School Journey Kingwood

Y1 National phonics, screening.

Year 5 Egyptian Workshop

Year 2 trip to Paradise Wildlife Park

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

Visibility on dark nights

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**.

Think about what your child is wearing? School uniform and coats maybe dark and children are safer if they are visible. You can easily add high-visibility reflective strips on their clothing, school bags or bike helmets. Additionally, they could carry a torch.

No Dogs Policy

Dogs are **not** permitted on the school grounds at anytime, this means during school hours or after school hours (excluding assistance dogs). Dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in an unfamiliar, busy, noisy and crowded school environment and that this can lead to unexpected behaviour in even the best-behaved pet. Some children may have allergies and there is always the potential of fouling. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, thank you. We have the Dogs Trust coming into school 28th and 29th November to teach the children about safety around dogs.

Veteran Mark Thornwill came into school to talk to our KS2 children in assembly about the importance of remembrance day and why it is something that should never be forgotten. Mark was a Sergeant Major in the Army who specialised as an engineer. During his service he spent time in Germany, Rhodesia, Zimbabwe, Norway, Borneo and Northern Ireland. He is a qualified jungle service instructor and a free fall parachutist. The children were so interested in what he had to say and we thanked him so much for coming to Northgate. 'Lest we forget.'



The Executive Council ran their first meeting with the School Council today. We voted on what we should raise money for with our next fundraiser and what prize could be awarded to the class with the

most Athletics points at the end of each half term.

Enriching the Curriculum - Sport

Sonny, a coach from Tottenham Hotspurs came in to teach the children ball skills this week. This included dribbling and ball control using different parts of the feet. The children all loved this and really enjoyed seeing Sonny again, as he worked at Northgate last year, before joining Spurs. Thank you Sonny.



'On Thursday our girls' football team went to Bishop's Stortford College and played a match against them. It was tight at the beginning as the College scored a great goal. A couple of seconds after that, Matilda scored a jaw dropping goal to make it even. A few more goals went in the back of the net from Niamh and Arabelle. After half time, the College scored their second goal,



but Matilda scored again making it 4-2 at the end. It was such a fun match and everyone enjoyed themselves.' By Arabelle Class 10.

Two of our boys' football teams played a match at the College also on Thursday, they were determined and skilful as usual and the scores were: **Gold Team: 4-3 Silver A Team 0-2**

Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament Thursday 9th November.

'Yesterday afternoon, ten children from upper KS2, participated in a basketball tournament against other schools in Hertfordshire. The event was played at Birchwood. Even though we were all in the Aspire team, we came second overall. Everyone showed great sportsmanship and lots of resilience. On the first match, the boys were falling behind, but the girls amazingly turned it around to four all. Out of all of the five matches we played, we won 3 and lost 2. All the matches were five minutes long and the girls and boys swapped after half time. Only four people were playing at one time so everyone got four games each. We hope that next time, we can enter as a complete team. We would like to say thank you to Mr Brown for organising the event'.

By Lottie and Eden Class 12

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Nursery: Axl and Mila

R1: Sophia R2 Giulia

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on 'Science' Well done for: making excellent observations and carrying out accurate experiments, great understanding and explanation of separating mixtures, having great scientific knowledge and a wonderfully inquisitive mind, explaining their ideas clearly using scientific vocabulary, always working hard and listening well in science lessons, for improving their scientific knowledge and for brilliant understanding of the parts and functions of a plant.

Class 1: Joshua

Class 2: Connor

Class 3: William

Class 4: Ettie

Class 5: Lucy

Class 6: Eliza

Class 7: Isabella

Class 8: Agnes

Class 9: George

Class 10: Rose

Class 11: Jackson

Class 12: Mekhi



Reminders and Updates

You can now order Christmas dinners for your child on the school grid. Orders must be completed before Tuesday 5th December.



Wed 13th Dec is Christmas lunch day for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Tues 12th Dec is Christmas lunch day for Reception and Year 1 and 2.

On the day that it is not your child's year group's Christmas lunch your child will need to bring in a packed lunch from home that they will eat in their classrooms.

SEND Fundraiser

We are raising money for a new sensory room. Please click on the link for more information and how to donate on our school website: https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/new_sensory_room_fundraiser/670204

Northgate School Association

General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting for the Northgate PTA will be taking place at 7.30pm on Monday 13th November 2023. This meeting will take place at the school and online. If you would like to join us online, please contact ptanorthgate@gmail.com for the online meeting details.

At this meeting, all current trustees and elected committee members step down from their posts and a vote takes place for re-election.

Please find attached a list of the current roles and responsibilities within our PTA. If you would like to be considered for a role, please contact me on the email address above.

Russell Property Christmas Card Competition

Russell Property has offered to run their Christmas Card competition again this year. This is an opportunity for the children of Northgate to produce a design for their Christmas Card.

There will be two winners- EYFS/KS1 and KS2. Each winner will get a £10 book token and a pack of Christmas Cards with their creation. Two runner ups in each age category will also get book tokens. The winning designs will then be printed on 500 cards that Russell Property send to clients and local businesses. All entries will also feature during December in Russell Property's window and on their social media.

Children will be given the opportunity to enter this competition during Sparkle/Golden Time. Good luck everyone!

Have a lovely weekend.

Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team