

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

16th May 2025

Headteacher's News

Well done to our Year 6 children, who completed their National SATs tests this week! As always, they worked incredibly hard and we're very proud of their positive attitude throughout. A big thank you to the staff who provided breakfasts each morning—this made a great start to the day for everyone involved.

This week, we were made aware of an incident involving children posting completely inappropriate content on social media, with some parents unaware it was happening. We understand how challenging it can be to navigate the world of social media as a parent, but it's essential to remind children that their safety is a priority—and that includes online. Please ensure your child understands that you may check their mobile devices to help keep them safe. To support parents in this area, we've arranged an information session led by our IT partner, Eduthing. This session is especially aimed at parents of children in Upper Key Stage 2, though all parents are welcome to attend. The session will be on Wednesday, 16th July at 8.50—9.20am before the challenge session and the work sharing for upper KS2. See attached poster. If the session proves useful, we'll look into running a similar one next term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Year 3 performed their first instrumental concert for parents and carers yesterday. The children entertained the audience with a scarf dance and a body percussive piece, then some individual children performed solo pieces. Well done children; you were all fabulous!

Year 6 have spent time over the last few weeks learning about creating great adverts. The School's Business Manager, Ms Morris, tried to bring an element of realism to their learning by explaining the importance of good advertising. The session explored the fundamentals of effective marketing and the art of creating compelling adverts. The focus was on what makes a good advert compared with a bad one, and key strategies to ensure adverts capture attention, engage the audience, and deliver clear messages.

Year 6 were asked to think about how this would relate to Northgate and what messages we could share about life at our school – why would children want to join us, and why would parents want to send their children here? The children were then challenged to create their own advert, applying these principles, and were offered the opportunity for their advert to be included in some of our marketing materials, including our welcome brochure or by being showcased at the upcoming new parents' open evening in June.



Rose and Evie from Harriers said, "In lessons we have been researching what makes a good advertisement and we are planning our individual adverts which will include bold positive statements and good graphic design."

Important Dates

Tues 20th May	Y1 Garg Animal Man
Wed 21st May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 22nd May	End of half term
Fri 23rd May	Inset day
26th—30th May	Half term
2nd—6th June	Y6 School Journey
Wed 11 th June	Class photos
2nd-13th June	Y4 multiplication assessments
Wb 9th June	Year 1 phonics screening week
W/C 9th June	Father's Day Shop
Mon 9th June	Reception trip to Willows Farm
Thurs 12th June	Non-uniform day in return for a bottle for our Tombola'
Fri 13th June	Y3 Celtic Harmony Trip
Fri 13th June	Y5 Egypt experience
Sat 14th June	PTA Summer Fayre
Wed 18th June	Y1 Trip to Audley End
Fri 20th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Wed 25th June	5.30pm—6.30pm EYFS Welcome Evening for children starting in Sept
Fri 27th June	Y4 Trip to Stansted Mountfitchet
Wed 2nd July	Y5 /6 rehearsal at theatre
Thurs 3rd July	Y5/6 performance at South Mill Art.
Fri 4th July	Sports Day (details to follow)
Thurs 10th July	School Transition Day (Nursery closed all day)
Fri 11th July	Reserve Sports Day.
Wed 16th July	8.50am Eduthing Online Safety Talk
14th—17th July	Challenge week. Sessions with parents
Mon 14th July	2.50pm—Nursery & Reception
Tues 15th July	9am—Year 3/4
Wed 16th July	9am—Year 5/6
Thurs 17th July	9am—Year 1/2
Mon 21st July	9.15am Yr 6 Leavers' assembly am
Tues 22nd July	Northgate's Got Talent
Tues 22nd July	Break the rules day
Tues 22nd July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
Wed 23rd July	Occasional day
2nd & 3rd Sept	Inset days
Thurs 4th Sept	Start of New School Year

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding:

Social Media and Children: What Parents Need to Know

Children and young people use a wide range of social media apps and websites. Popular platforms include Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and Discord. Although the minimum age to use these platforms is **13**, many children are introduced to them at a younger age.

Social media can offer positive experiences. It allows children to stay connected with friends and family, and gives them access to learning videos and gaming tutorials. However, there are also potential downsides. It's important for parents and carers to be aware of the risks and support their children in using social media safely. For helpful advice and guidance on how to keep your child safe online, please visit the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

Enriching the Curriculum

The children in Ducklings will be exploring different foods as part of their "Food Enrichment" topic in the next few weeks. The aim is to encourage them to try new things and develop a love for a variety of tastes and textures. It will be a great opportunity for them to learn about new flavours and talk about the foods they like and dislike.

As part of their science topic "Animals including humans" Year 4 have been learning all about the digestive system and how our body breaks down food. To help the students better understand this fascinating process, they conducted a hands-on experiment that visually demonstrated how food moves through the intestines. The children used tights to represent the intestines. They placed mashed banana, biscuit and orange inside the tights and gently squeezed them through, simulating how food travels and gets digested in our stomach and intestines. It was a fantastic way to bring our studies of the human body to life!



Music

Thank you to Rock Steady, who came in today to run interactive workshops with Years 1– 5. The children had the opportunity to join a band and play guitar, drums, keyboard and sing vocals.



Reminders and Updates

INSET day: Just a reminder that we have an INSET day next Friday, 23rd May!

School Library Books: Please remember to check at home for any school books, as these must be returned to their class.

Taking a child out of school: If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from school, please fill out an absence request form, which is located on the home page of the school website. Please remember that if you take your child out of school for a holiday this will **not be** authorised. Time out of school will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, which need to be agreed with Mrs Tanner in advance.

Parking: **Do not** park in the entrance to the staff car park at anytime, as it restricts staff and visitors from entering or leaving, but more importantly this must be kept clear for emergency vehicles. The rugby club offers a safe parking alternative.

Uniform Donations: Unfortunately, we are unable to accept second-hand uniform at the moment due to space restrictions. We will let you know as soon as we are able to. Thank you.

Hertfordshire Libraries centenary celebrations

As part of their celebrations Hertfordshire Libraries are holding a 100 day poetry festival from 13 March – 21 June 2025. They would love children to explore the world of words, rhymes, and stories. There are some amazing poems to listen to, creative poetry lessons to take part in, and a competition called 100 word poem challenge to kick-start their imaginations. To find out more click the following link. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/news-and-campaigns/hertfordshire-libraries-is-100.aspx> Poems need to be Submitted before Saturday 21 June.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Izzy and Teddy

Puffins: Liam **Owls:** Edward

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. **Well done to:**

Robins: Sofia

Wrens: Tom

Starlings: Flora

Sparrows: Adam

Skylarks: Juliet

Swifts: Wren

Nightingales: Apryl

Kingfishers: Owen

Kestrels: Matty

Kites: Sasha

Harriers and Hawks: The whole of Year 6! For their hard work during SAT's

Walk to School Week – Let's Get Moving!

Next week is Walk to School Week, and we are encouraging all children and parents to walk, cycle, or scoot to school each day. If walking the entire way isn't possible, a great alternative is to park at the rugby club and walk from there. This also gives families the opportunity to use the safe crossing with the help of Mr Claxon, our wonderful crossing patrol person. Walking to school has many benefits. It supports children's physical and mental health by reducing anxiety, lowering stress levels, improving mood, and boosting self-esteem. It also helps children learn about road safety and develop awareness of traffic rules and pedestrian behaviour. Walking with friends and neighbours encourages social interaction, builds a sense of community, and provides a chance for children and parents to enjoy some quality time together before the school day begins. **Let's make Walk to School Week a healthy, enjoyable experience for everyone!**

Northgate School Association

Don't forget our PTA Summer Fayre is on Saturday 14th June 2025 (from 12pm to 3pm) sponsored by Russell Property.

Hopefully today, your children have come home with a book of raffle tickets and a copy of our Summer Fayre brochure. Please return cash and the raffle ticket stubs to your Class Teacher or the School Office. Over 50 prizes to be won! Good luck!!

But we still need lots of lovely volunteers to help us make it the best Summer Fayre ever! Please, if you can, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-56183930-northgate>

Summer Fayre Stalls

Just a reminder if you are having a clear out over the weekend of books and cuddly toys, please drop them off at the school office as we are planning to have these popular stalls at our Fayre.

Please see attached our Northgate Summer Fayre poster- we look forward to seeing you there! Thank you for your continued support!

Hope you all have a relaxing weekend!
Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team