

April 17th 2026

Headteacher's News

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful break. We are delighted to begin the new term and to see the children returning ready to learn, grow, and embrace new opportunities. This term, in our assemblies we introduced our a new school value: Perseverance, and our new Learning Power, Resilient Rhino. We will be encouraging children to keep going even when learning feels challenging, to learn from mistakes, and to develop confidence in overcoming obstacles. We will be supporting the children in understanding that progress often comes from persistence and a positive mindset.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting summer term, with a range of engaging topics and special events planned for all year groups. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

This term, all National Assessments will take place. On Wednesday 13th May, we will be holding a parent information session about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, which take place in June. Year 6 assessments will begin on 11th May, and Year 4 pupils will complete their Multiplication Tables Check in June. Pupils in other year groups will be completing their assessments during the last two weeks of May.

See you at the PTA disco tonight. Have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

We've had a fantastic start to the term with our new PULSE play programme. On Monday, each class explored the equipment, learned how to use it safely, and quickly embraced the wide range of play opportunities on offer.

It has been wonderful to see children of all ages mixing so naturally, collaborating, sharing ideas and supporting one another. This has created a playground full of energy, creativity and smiles.

All areas have been carefully risk assessed, with staff trained and strategically placed to support safe play while encouraging children to take measured risks and build independence. We are incredibly proud of how positively the children have embraced PULSE.

The Oak—our new multi-activity climbing structure—is available as part of PULSE and is also proving to be a hit with all ages.

Thank you to Mrs Layer, and all the staff/parent volunteers who made this initiative possible.

To help keep equipment in good condition and for safeguarding reasons, please ensure children and siblings **do not use** school equipment before or after school. Thank you for your cooperation.



Finally, thank you to our PTA and Northgate families for their generous donations. Please enjoy some snapshots from the past week on the next page. For further donations needed see page 2.

**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Important Dates

Fri 17th April	PTA school disco
Mon 20th April	10am Owls visit to the Library
Mon 20th April	Y3 Greek Day
Wed 22nd April	11am The Library visiting Ducklings.
Thurs 23rd April	Y5 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 23rd April	10am Skylarks visit to the Library
Mon 27th April	10am Puffins visit to the Library
Wed 29th April	10am Robins visit to the Library
Mon 4th May	Bank Holiday
Tues 5th May	9.15am Reception visit from Karate coach
Thurs 7th May	Y4 Instrumental Concert
11th—14th May	Y6 SATs
Mon 11th May	10am Swifts visit to the Library
Wed 13th May	9am Y1 meeting re Phonics Screening.
Fri 15th May	Y4 Viking Day
Fri 15th May	10am Kestrels visit to the Library
18th—22nd May	Neurodiversity Week
Tues 19th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 21st May	Y3 Instrumental Concert
Fri 22nd May	End of term
25th—29th May	Half term
Mon 1st June	Inset day
Tues 2nd June	First day back at school
2nd -12th June	Y4 National Multiplication tests.
Sat 6th June	PTA Summer Fayre
W/C 8th June	Y1 Phonics screening
Mon 8th June	Reception trip to Willows Farm
Mon 8th June	10am Sparrows visit to the Library
Mon 15th June	10am Starlings visit to the Library
Wed 17th June	Y5 Egyptian Day
Wed 17th June	10am Wrens visit to the Library
Mon 22nd June	10am Kites visit to the Library
Thurs 25th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Thurs 25th June	Y6 Performance at South mill (details TBC)
29th June—3rd July	Y6 Residential PGL Overstrand Hall
Mon 6th July	10am Harriers visit to the Library
Wed 8th July	10am Hawks visit to the Library
Thurs 9th July	Move up day
Fri 10th July	Sports Day
13th—17th July	Art Week
Mon 13th July	10am Kingfishers visit to the Library
Wed 15th July	10am Nightingales visit to the Library
Mon 20th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Tues 21st July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
Wed 22nd July	Occasional day
23rd July—31st Aug	Summer Holidays
1st & 2nd Sept	Inset day
Thurs 3rd Sept	Start of New School Year
*Red = New Item / Change to Item	

Safeguarding

Please remember to keep having the important conversations about staying safe at home and at school.

Regular, open discussions help children feel confident to speak up if they are worried or unsure. Here are some simple ways you can support safeguarding at home:

Encourage open conversations – Let your child know they can always talk to you about anything, big or small.

Talk about trusted adults – Remind your child who they can speak to if they feel worried at home or at school.

Online safety – Check privacy settings and remind children not to share personal information or talk to people they don't know online.

Safe routines – Make sure children know what to do if plans change, such as who will collect them or where to go for help.

Enriching the Curriculum



Creative Ways to Talk About Emotions

This week, Mrs Rodgers, our Pastoral Lead, worked with some KS1 children to explore emotions through *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas. Using lollipop sticks, googly eyes and pipe cleaners, the children created characters to represent different feelings.

Parents may find it useful to use the book and the colours at home to support a child who is struggling with their emotions. This fun, creative activity helped the children recognise and express their emotions in an engaging way. There are many ideas also available online to encourage conversations about emotional wellbeing.



Reminders and Updates

Uniform and accessories

Due to the unpredictable weather, please ensure that your child is prepared for anything, with both a raincoat and a sun hat in their school bag each day. Sunglasses are not permitted during break times. If your child requires sunglasses for medical reasons or uses prescription sunglasses, we kindly ask that you provide a letter explaining the need. Thank you.

School uniform School uniform should be smart and presentable. Jumpers and cardigans should either have the school logo or be plain bottle green. Branded clothing is not allowed. Children should wear school shoes, not sandals, with trainers only permitted on PE days. Second-hand uniform is available for sale in shed quarters in the play ground. Please ensure payment is made by scanning the QR code on show. If you have any donations to drop them into the school office.

Dinner Money Accounts

Please check the balance of your child's dinner money account on School Grid. Outstanding debts must be paid immediately. Accounts should always be in credit.

Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Maximilian and Sylvie

Puffins: Izzy **Owls:** Rishant

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers and our school code.

Well done to:

Robins: Harriet

Starlings: Lola

Skylarks: James

Nightingales: Elliott

Kestrels: Benedict

Harriers: Daisy

Wrens: Inci

Sparrows: Wyatt

Swifts: Nate

Kingfishers: Ella

Kites: Henry

Hawks: Hugo

Music

On Thursday, we were lucky to have two musical visitors to Northgate, inspiring interest in music through fun, interactive assemblies.

We were delighted to welcome Josie Cowley from Stortford Youth Choir, who inspired pupils with her passion for singing and shared her love of choral music. The youth choir is welcoming new members and invited our children to consider joining to experience the joy of singing together.

Mr Carvello, one of our music tutors, showcased the cello to KS1 and KS2. The children really enjoyed recognising the pop music he played with this beautiful instrument. Please see the clubs and activities list for all available instrumental lessons at Northgate.



Donation Request for Pulse

As part of our PULSE initiative, we will be shortly opening a scooter section on the playground and are seeking donations of scooters and helmets. If you have any scooters at home that are no longer used, we would greatly appreciate your support in donating them to the school. Please send them in on a Monday or Thursday to the school gates.

Please see a list of items we do and do not need below:

We need: toy diggers, bike helmets, scooters, colouring pens, chalk, bricks, builder hats, mini gardening tools and bagged soil.

We do not require: kitchen equipment, books, maths games, dressing-up items or hangers.

Family Support for Parents and Carers

There are parental sessions available across Hertfordshire to help parents and carers feel supported, confident and connected. The Hertfordshire Family Centre Service offers free groups, workshops and one-to-one support, alongside opportunities to meet other local families. Additional help is available through Families First, providing early guidance and tailored support. You can explore local sessions and services by clicking the link below:

<https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/Search?CategoryId=102>