

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

September 11th 2020

## Headteacher's News

We have been very proud of all the children this week as they have adjusted to life back at school with the latest changes. The teachers have been delighted to get to know their new classes and start the term's learning.

There are substantial adjustments we all need to make, and will need to continue to make, as we try our best to keep our school open. Details have been sent out related to children displaying symptoms of Covid, and I wish to clarify that any child displaying any one symptom, including a temperature of 37.8° or over, will need a Covid test before they can return to school. Yesterday afternoon I spoke to the Department of Education who confirmed this to be the case.



We would like to say an enormous thank you to the school community, and in particular the Northgate PTA, for the money they have donated to the school for the new computer suite.

The PTA have funded new chairs, tables, cupboards and a new whiteboard, while the school has funded 30 new laptops.

The change of furniture has made it a much more versatile learning space, and I am delighted that classes have already started using it. We believe this area will support an improvement in the teaching of computing this year.



I would like to thank Mrs Lane, our Business Manager, who put together a successful bid for new fencing around the school. We are extremely fortunate to have been awarded this ESFA grant funding which will include new electric gates, CCTV and security lighting. This will significantly improve the security and safety of the school for staff and pupils.

Finally, congratulations to our PE teacher, Mrs Pursglove, who is pregnant and will be starting her maternity leave at the end of the Autumn Term. Wishing you a lovely weekend.

## Safeguarding

We have been alerted to a distressing video that has been posted on TikTok. We would strongly advise that while this video is being removed, your child does not use the app to avoid seeing anything that may cause them distress. We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight to all parents that the recommended age for a TikTok account is 13+ years old.

## Important Dates - 2020/21

Weds 30th Sept	Harvest Celebration/donations to Food Bank
Thurs 15th Oct	Parent information videos released
Weds 21st Oct	Happy School Bag Collection
<b>Fri 23rd Oct</b>	Black History Day
26th - 30th Oct	October Half Term
<b>Mon 2nd Nov</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
3rd - 6th Nov	Wellbeing Week
Tues 10th Nov	Parent Consultations
Weds 11th Nov	Parent Consultations
Weds 16th Dec	School virtual Christmas videos released
Fri 18th Dec	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 4th Jan</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
Fri 26th March	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 12th Apr</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>Mon 3rd May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
<b>Mon 7th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Thurs 22nd July	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Covid-19 Updates

Earlier this week we sent out information relating to Covid which we hope you found useful. If you have any further questions relating to Covid in school, please email [interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk) and we will aim to answer as many of your questions as we can, in line with the latest guidance.

If your child shows one or more symptoms of Covid and you have taken them for a test, please ensure you let the school office know by emailing [absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk). A copy of your results should also be emailed to this address.

Please note that the school are unable to provide medical advice. Further Information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> or by calling 111.

### Home Testing Kits

If you would like to request a home testing kit this can be done by visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

A copy of the instructions that are inside the packs can be found here: [Home Testing Kit Instructions](#)

An instructional video on conducting testing at home can be found here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xaw8DsF2lgc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xaw8DsF2lgc)

You **must** register test kits online to receive a result: [test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit](https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit)

**Return test kits** via a Royal Mail priority box. You can find your nearest priority box via this link (please tick the 'Show my nearest priority postboxes' box): [www.royalmail.com/services-near-you#/](https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you#/)

## Northgate's New Normal - Assembly Time

Earlier today, Mrs Tanner held her first 'virtual' assembly as she was beamed from the hall to every classroom in school.

Today's assembly welcomed the children back into school and Mrs Tanner talked to them about this half term's assembly theme - Responsibility.

Our Celebration Assembly will take place every Friday and certificates will be given out in class.

Learner of the Week awards will start again from next week.



## Golf - Free Trial Lessons

Sharp Shooters Golf Academy are offering Northgate pupils a months free trial of golf lessons. Classes are held at Ash Valley Golf Club in Much Hadham.

Please find attached a flyer containing more information.

To book your free trial lessons, please contact [info@sharpshootersgolf.co.uk](mailto:info@sharpshootersgolf.co.uk) and let them know you are from Northgate School.

## Walking to School

Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking, have produced some interesting resources to encourage primary aged children to walk more.

Walking, scooting or cycling to school can help reduce both congestion and parking issues during peak times outside school. Walking is also incredibly important for health and wellbeing. For more information visit:



[www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools)

## School Association

CONGRATULATIONS to Fiona Wood who was the winner of this month's 250 club draw and will be receiving a cheque for **£536!!!** There are still numbers available to join the club if you too would like to be in with a chance of winning cash each month. Membership forms are attached to this newsletter.

Has your child seen our new ICT suite yet? We've heard great things about it and the children seem to love it! The PTA was able to contribute £12,000 towards the refurbishment of this much needed resource from past fundraising efforts. Despite the restrictions of a global pandemic, the PTA will continue to fundraise as best it can so that we can continue to contribute to valuable resources for our children. If you've any suggestions of COVID safe fundraising ideas we would be delighted to hear about them.

Email [ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com).

## SENDCo

Childline Kids have a range of online games and breathing exercises for children under 12. The links for these valuable wellbeing resources are shown here.

[www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/](http://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/)

[www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/games/](http://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/games/)

## Reminders and Updates

### Key Stage 1 - Hand Sanitiser

Thank you for sending your children into school with individual hand sanitiser bottles. From Monday 14th September, sanitiser for the Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be dispensed in school and the children no longer need to bring individual bottles with them to use in school.

### Secondary Transfer

The parents/guardians of Year 6 children will have been sent "Secondary Transfer 2020" information today. Please be aware that applications should be made on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) and applications MUST be made by 31st October 2020.

### Staggered Entry Times

As you will be aware, in order to minimise pressure points around school at drop off and pick up times we have introduced staggered start and end times and allocated entry and exit points. To help us keep to the plans we have put in place, please ensure you arrive at the given time, with only one accompanying adult, and remember to adhere to the social distancing guidance.

### Forgotten Items

Unfortunately only essential forgotten items such as medicine or glasses can be dropped off at the school office. Children who have forgotten their home packed lunch or water bottles will have access to water in class and a school packed lunch on that day. If your child does bring their own packed lunch, please ensure they can open all the packaging themselves and ensure that all items are nut free. Birthday sweets are not being given out in school.

### Online Forms

In order to negate the need for paper forms and letters to be brought into the school office, online forms are now provided on the home page of the [school website](#) for you to complete. These include change of contact details, absence requests and photo permissions.

### Medical Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment during school hours please complete the online medical appointment request form on the home page of the school website and email a copy of the appointment confirmation to [absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk).

### School Clubs

The club list for the autumn term is now on the school website. Registration forms for clubs such as football club will not be accepted into the school office. Please contact the club leader directly to confirm attendance at your child's chosen club(s).