

December 15th 2023

Headteacher's News

This has been a fun festive week for everyone. Audiences thoroughly enjoyed KS1's performance of 'The Big Little Nativity', impressing everyone with their fantastic singing, dancing and the clarity of their speaking. We were proud of them all. We wish to thank parents for their support, particularly for supplying their costumes. On Monday and Friday Nursery performed their Christmas concert for parents and sang beautifully! I would like to thank all our staff and volunteers for their time and energy putting such tremendous productions together.

Thank you to the PTA for funding the KS1 and the KS2 pantomimes. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves—KS1 with 'Peter Pan' in school, and KS2 who all attended 'Cinderella' at South Mills.

We enjoyed really successful Christmas lunches this week. Our thanks go to all of our kitchen staff for the meals and to the PTA for their help.

We look forward seeing KS2 parents at St Michael's church on Monday for the carol service. Due to lack of space in the church, we are asking for one parent per family to attend. There will be a collection at the end of the service in aid of Isobel Hospice and the church.

Well done to Maxwell in Class 9, who won the competition to design the cover to the order of service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing team and community at Northgate, who continually work extremely hard to give the best opportunities for the all the children.

I would like to wish everyone at Northgate a very happy Christmas and to thank everyone for their support during the year.

Enriching the Curriculum

Monday morning Reception children went on a winter walk to a local post box where they posted letters to Father Christmas. On Tuesday, after a delicious Christmas lunch cooked by our catering team, the children had a huge surprise, Father Christmas actually came to visit Nursery and Reception during their Christmas party. He didn't stay too long as he has lots to sort out in time for the big day!



Year 1 and Year 2 watched an exhilarating performance of 'Peter Pan' by Hurricane Productions in the week. The children loved it and Evie from Class 4 has written about her experience.

Year 3 cooked muffins as part of their DT this week and the whole building smelt delicious. We have some budding bakers in the making. Well done! children!



The Peter Pan was amazing because it was fun to watch! It had lots of music and sounds.

Important Dates

Mon 18th Dec
Mon 18th Dec

Tues 19th Dec

Tues 19th Dec

Wed 3rd Jan

Thurs 4th Jan

Fri 12th Jan

Fri 26th Jan

Tue 30th Jan

Wed 31st Jan

Mon 5th Feb

Mon 4th Mar

5th & 6th Mar

Thurs 14th Mar

Fri 22nd Mar

Thurs 28th Mar

29th Mar—15th April

Thurs 25th April

Thurs 9th May

Fri 10th May

13th—16th May

Mon 20th May

Thurs 24th May

27th—31st May

Mon 3rd May

Mon 3rd June

3rd—7th June

Mon 10th June

Fri 14th June

Fri 21st June

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

9am Volunteer coffee morning
2pm KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church at 3pm)

Break the rules day

2pm End of term

Inset day

Children back to school

2.00pm PTA Committee Meeting

Year 5 Visit from Wonder Dome

Year 2 walk to Northgate old school

Young Voices Choir—O2

Year 6 Victorian Day

7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting

Parent Consultations

2.30pm Year 6 Music Concert

Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle

Last day of term

Easter Break

2.30pm Year 5 Music Concert

2.30pm Year 4 Music Concert

2pm PTA Committee Meeting

Y6 SATS

Year 6 Trip to the 'Crucial Crew'.

2.30pm Year 3 Music Concert

Half Term

Inset Day

Year 4 national multiplication assessments

Year 6 School Journey Kingwood

Year 1 National phonics, screening.

Year 5 Egyptian Workshop

Year 2 trip to Paradise Wildlife Park

Attendance this Term

| Yr | % |
|----|-------|
| R | 96.42 |
| 1 | 94.45 |
| 2 | 94.45 |
| 3 | 97.24 |
| 4 | 96.38 |
| 5 | 96.59 |
| 6 | 96.62 |

| Our target | 96% |
|--------------|--------|
| Whole school | 96.29% |

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------|
| 0 days off | 100% | Fantastic! |
| 5 days off a year | 97% | Good |
| 10 days off a year | 95% | Slight concern |
| 20 days off a year | 90% | Concerned |
| 30 days off a year | 85% | Very concerned |

Christmas Reading Challenge

Please see the Christmas trees attached for fun ideas to encourage reading over the holidays. See how many baubles you can complete. We do not set homework over the break. However, if you do want to support your child's learning this holiday, please read. After all, reading is all around us!

Christmas visit to Elm View Care Home.

Today, our choir went and performed at the new local care home, Elm View. They entertained the residents with a performance of beautifully sung carols. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate our talents and give back to the local community. We look forward to sharing more opportunities with the links that we have made with Elm View in the New Year.



Financial Help for families at Northgate

Northgate are launching a new process to help parents and the school who may be missing out on financial support. Currently the process can take a very long time, which means the school misses out on potential funds to help support your child/children.

Look out for an email before the end of term with details of how to grant us permission to enter you parent/carer's NI and DOB into the Free School Eligibility Checker through a google form. If you are interested in completing it now, the link is <https://forms.gle/R9DJivmhE4rHFkgYA>

Reminders and Updates

KS2 church service

Monday 18th December: Children must be dressed in smart full school uniform please. The performance will begin at 2.00pm and finish at 3.00pm. If you have younger children in school to pick up, they can wait with their teachers until you arrive. A reminder that there is only one space per family to watch the performance due to limited space in the church.

Break the rule's day: Tuesday 19th December

This is a PTA fundraising day and children can pay 50p per rule to break certain school rules. Children should still come in uniform, except for the aspects of the rules they have broken, eg wearing trainers. Please see the poster about what rules they can break.

Last day of term

School will close at **2pm on Tuesday 19th December**. Night owls will run from 2pm and close at 6.30pm as usual.

Reception Applications

Applications for Reception places close on Monday 15th January. There is a tour of the school scheduled for 9/01/2024 at 9.45am with Mrs Tanner with limited places. If you know anyone that would like to attend, please ask them to call the school office on 01279 652376 and book a place.

Nursery Provision

We are looking to understand if there is a requirement for Northgate to alter our current nursery provision, and possibly explore other options such as 30 hours childcare. To help us know what our community would like, please can we ask you or anyone you know who would be interested in sending their little one to Nursery. Please complete the short Nursery provision survey using this [link - https://forms.gle/spJgwQUBTwKmk8oa9](https://forms.gle/spJgwQUBTwKmk8oa9). Deadline for completion is 29th December. Nursery applications open on the 18th January 2024.

Dinner account

Please ensure that your child's dinner money account is in credit ready for next term.

Celebration of Achievements

Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have achieved our 'Excellence award' this term. They have all shown a consistent positive attitude to learning and exemplary behaviour. They are all invited for drinks and refreshments with Mrs Tanner on Tuesday morning in recognition of their efforts. Well done children!

Nursery: Ralph and Rosa

R1: Ada **R2:** Albie

Class 1: Octavia Class 7: Annabelle

Class 2: Maximillian Class 8: Alexander

Class 3: Mia Class 9: Bohuslava

Class 4: Heidi Class 10: Daniel

Class 5: Nicolas Class 11: Alexandra

Class 6: Mya Class 12: Vishu



Safeguarding

In the run up to Christmas, it's especially important to be aware of toys and devices that use button batteries (the flat disc-like silver batteries) and to make sure we keep children safe by using, storing and disposing of them properly. It's extremely dangerous to swallow button batteries or to insert them into noses or ears where they can still create a circuit and cause harm.

Button batteries are in far more products that you might initially think, including car key fobs, musical cards, books as well as toys that are powered and household electrical items, such as a thermometer.

Always make sure that button batteries are securely stored out of sight and out of reach of children. When they are no longer powering items, dispose of them safely and do not leave them around – they can still harm children if swallowed, even if the product they power needs new ones.

Northgate School Association

Break the Rules Day

Don't forget it's Break the Rules day on our last day of term! An opportunity to be a little bit naughty breaking the following rules: **wear grey socks/tights, wear your tie (UKS2), no nail varnish, no coloured hair, no hair gel, only green hair accessories, no jewellery, no trainers/fashion shoes, no squash in your water bottle, no Christmas jumpers/accessories. And only these rules, please!** Please pay 50p for every rule you break.

Christmas Quiz

Today was the last day that entries for the Northgate PTA Christmas Quiz could be submitted. Thanks to everyone who has taken part- just a little bit of festive fun! The winners will be announced on Monday and the results will be advertised on our Facebook Page. If your child has won, they will be coming home with their prize next week. Plus everyone who entered receives a candy cane!

Thank to our PTA Committee Members, our volunteers and Northgate staff for all their help, support and advice. You all make such a significant difference to the PTA's work.

We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing Christmas!

Gerri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team

A message from Mrs Edwards and Class 6, who had lots of fun doing a Christmas themed quiz in French on Thursday!

Nous vous souhaitons "Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee".

