

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

February 13th 2026

Headteacher's News

A huge thank you to Bishop's Stortford College for welcoming Northgate children to their **Literature Festival** this week. On Monday, Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a sensory performance of The Flying Trunk by Last Unicorn Airways. On Thursday, some Year 3 and 4 pupils were entertained by author Jack Meggitt-Phillips, who spoke about his popular 'The Beast and the Bethany' series. The festival concluded on Friday with Year 6 listening to award winning Nathanael Lessore, who shared stories inspired by his South East London childhood. We hope these sessions inspired and further developed the children's enthusiasm for reading.

Reading plays a vital role in success at school and beyond, so please continue to support your children's reading over the holidays. This does not have to be limited to books – subtitles on favourite programmes, reading signs on days out, museum guides, comics, magazines, emails, blogs and audiobooks all help to develop strong reading skills.

Thank you to Mr Brown and Mr Sainsbury for organising our **Independent Enquirer Elephant Day**, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The activities helped to develop key skills and reinforced the message that working independently can sometimes feel challenging — and that this is completely normal. You can support your child's independence at home by establishing simple routines, offering choices, and giving small responsibilities. Encouraging them to pack their own bag, help prepare lunch, and manage morning and bedtime routines will build confidence and organisational skills.

Have a lovely half term break.

Enriching the curriculum

On Wednesday 11th February, **Year 5** visited Bayfordbury Observatory. This experience was an exciting way to learn about space beyond the classroom. It included an interactive talk on the solar system, a planetarium show, and a tour of the telescopes, with the oldest one dating back to 1970.

Unfortunately, the telescopes could not be used due to the damp weather. However, the children had the opportunity to turn the telescopes and focus them on a particular planet or constellation. The children also used a variety of spherical objects, ranging from a tennis ball to a peppercorn and a sesame seed, to help visualise the differences in the sizes of the planets.

Bayfordbury Observatory also offers public open evenings with talks and planetarium shows. For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.herts.ac.uk/bayfordbury/bayfordbury-observatory/visit-bayfordbury-observatory/public-open-evenings>



**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Important Dates

16th—20th Feb	Half Term
Mon 23rd Feb	First day back at school
Tue 24th Feb	9am Y5/6 Science Show at BSC
Wes 25th Feb	7.30pm PTA EGM (Parents welcome)
3th & 5th Mar	Parent Consultations
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Mon 9th Mar	Y4 Trip to Sealife Adventure Southend
Week beg 9th Mar	Playing maths games and work sharing
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS ——9am
Thurs 12th Mar	Wed LSK2 —9am, Thurs KS1 —9am
W/C 16th Mar	Y6 Instrumental Concert
Fri 20th Mar	Mother's Day Shop
Sat 21st Mar	Y 3/4 production 9:05 and 2:15
Wk beg 23rd Mar	Pulse Volunteer morning
Wk beg 23rd Mar	Science week (Fab Science/House quiz)
Tues 24th Mar	House Cross Country
Tues 24th Mar	8.55am—9.10am Parent Pulse presentation
Wed 25th Mar	Y4 Local river walk
Wes 25th Mar	Rocksteady Concert pm
Fri 27th Mar	4.40pm Live Zoom for Parents re: Pulse.
30th Mar—10th April	2pm Break up for Easter
Fri 17th April	Easter Holidays
Mon 4th May	PTA school disco
11th—14th May	Bank Holiday
18th—22nd May	Y6 SATs
Tues 19th May	Neurodiversity Week
Fri 22nd May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
25th—29th May	End of term
Mon 1st June	Half term
Tues 2nd June	Inset day
Sat 6th June	First day back at school
Thurs 25th June	PTA Summer Fayre
Thurs 9th July	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Mon 20th July	Move up day
29th June—3rd July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Tues 21st July	Y6 Residential PGL Overstrand
Wes 22nd July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
23rd July—31st Aug	Occasional day
1st & 2nd Sept	Summer Holidays
Thurs 3rd Sept	Inset day
	Start of New School Year

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Attendance this term

Yr	%	Our target	96%
R	95.9		
1	94.3	Whole school	95.3%
2	95.1		
3	95.4		
4	95.2		
5	94.8		
6	96.1		

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

Safeguarding

Internet Safety Please find attached a link to the current HFL parent newsletter, which talks about internet safety:
<https://www.hfleducation.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/autumn-2025-parents-newsletter-v2.pdf>

Enriching the Curriculum

Today, Northgate pupils took part in **Independent Enquirer Elephant Day**, focusing on developing independence, resilience, and problem-solving skills.

In the morning, children worked in mixed classes across their key stages to explore what it means to be an independent learner. They completed a range of mini challenges, including a productive failure task using money bags, organising and prioritising their morning routines, event planning, improving a butterfly drawing through evaluation. Nursery built a marble run bridge and raced Chinese New Year-themed boats by blowing them across water.



These activities promoted teamwork, communication, and perseverance, and it was wonderful to see pupils supporting one another and stepping outside their comfort zones.

In the afternoon, children returned to their own classes to apply their new skills to an in-class challenge, showing great creativity and determination throughout the day.

We are incredibly proud of how our pupils embraced the challenges and demonstrated the qualities of confident, independent learners.

This week, we celebrated **Safer Internet Day 2026** in school. The theme was *“Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.”*

In assembly, Mrs Adams, our computing lead, talked about what AI is and where children might see it, such as voice assistants, video recommendations, games and chatbots. We discussed how AI can be helpful for learning and creativity, but also why it is important to use it safely.

The children learned that not everything online is always true, and that AI can sometimes be used in unkind or unsafe ways. We reminded everyone to keep personal information private and to tell a trusted adult if something online makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

Year 6 have been combining their science work on electricity, their computing work on coding, and their DT skills to create fairground rides with moving parts. Ensuring the models worked involved a lot of perseverance, as pupils had to adjust and refine their designs to make sure the parts moved as they had planned. The end result was a series of very impressive models. Well done, Year 6!



Reminders and Updates

Afterschool Clubs

Don't forget to sign your child up for after school clubs for after half term. Sign ups are now available on Arbor. Please see our clubs timetable attached for details.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Thomas and Halle

Puffins: Alice **Owls:** Freya

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: Putting 100% into their work, working hard to manage emotions and working well with peers.

Well done to:

Robins: James

Wrens: Clemence

Starlings: Ada

Sparrows: Fintan

Skylarks: Jack

Swifts: Frank

Nightingales: Phoebe

Kingfishers: Robin

Kestrels: Faris

Kites: Jaycee

Harriers: Sebastian

Hawks: Marquis

Sport

This week, the children have been taking part in a **House Netball Tournament**. They competed as year groups during their PE lessons. The matches were competitive and full of energy, with pupils demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout. It was wonderful to see everyone supporting one another and representing their houses with pride.

Congratulations to Vikings House, who were the overall winners!

On Thursday after school, the **Gold football team** played against Little Hallingbury. The pitch was extremely muddy, but the whole team played a fantastic game and won 6–1. Dennis from Harriers scored an incredible five goals, and Matty from Hawks added one more to secure the victory. The team will play St Joseph's on the first day back after half term, so let's see if they can do it again!

French

This half-term a group of Year 2 children have had the opportunity to attend a French lunchtime club. They've been introduced to basic greetings, how to say their name, numbers and colours through fun games and songs. It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm for a new language and, if they would like to, they can continue their French learning at home using the free Language Angels app (details have been shared on Google Classroom). We look forward to welcoming our next group after the half-term break. Bonnes vacances!



Northgate School Association

The PTA will be holding an EGM on **Wednesday 25th February 2026 at Northgate, 7.30pm**, where this will be proposed and formally agreed. Everyone is welcome to attend to find out more.

Have a lovely half term.

The PTA Team