

January 20th 2023

Headteacher's News

You may be aware that the teachers union NEU are proposing strike action in the coming weeks. Choosing to go on strike is a difficult decision for staff. At this stage it is not known how it will affect Northgate though significant numbers of staff absent may mean certain year groups are closed. As soon as I have further information, I will update parents accordingly. The first proposed date is February 1st, then 1st, 15th and 16th March.

Thank you to all our new volunteers who came to our safeguarding sessions this week. We particularly value having parent helpers in school to help listen to children read. In KS1, we have adopted a slightly different approach to reading in line with our new phonics scheme, Little Wandle. Now this is working successfully, we are hoping for one parent to work with a group in each class, so please talk to the class teacher if you can help.

One of the key issues that was raised from the safeguarding parent questionnaire was uncertainty around what we teach about internet safety. Therefore Miss Hartley, our computing lead will be conducting a short session for parents on esafety day, Tuesday 7th February at 9am. This will explain in detail what we teach in relation to the topic.

Thank you for all your generous donations at the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's church. I am delighted to tell you that we raised £290.00 for the Isabel Hospice in memory of Claire Newman as well as supporting St Michael's church, which was a magnificent venue for our service. Have a lovely weekend.

Frost walk Nursery

Nursery class learn each week in the outdoor forest area. This week the children had a positive opportunity to see the awe, joy and wonder of the frost and ice. They all put on their winter clothing, wellington boots and armed with a magnifying glass, adventured across the field crunching and making patterns in the frost. The children watched ice dissolving in the sunshine, wrote letters, shapes and patterns in the frost and looked very closely at the crystallisation of the frost.



Reception: Chinese New Year.

As part of our work on our topic "Children around the world" the Reception children have been learning about the Lunar New Year. We heard the story of the great race which told the story of how the years were named and found out how people celebrated in China. Today we had a special celebration with spring rolls at snack time and an extra treat - fortune cookies! A huge thank you to Thomas and his mummy for getting them for us - we can't wait to open them at home and read our 'fortunes'!



House Football Competition

The winners of the House Football competition were the Normans. Congratulations to them and well played to all our children!

Year 5: Are working on a timeline of the space race between Russia and the USA. This photo shows the display that Class 9 have been putting together.



Important Dates

Tues 31st Jan	2pm Year 5 trip 'Festival of literature'
Thurs 2nd Feb	2pm Year 6 trip 'Festival of literature'
Fri 3rd Feb	2pm Year 3 trip 'Festival of literature'
Tues 7th Feb	Safer internet day
Weds 8th Feb	11.15am Year 4 trip 'Festival of literature'
Fri 10th Feb	Break the Rules Day
13th-17th Feb	Half term
Thurs 23rd Feb	Year 6 Music concert
Tues 28th Feb	Parent consultations 3.40 – 6.40pm
Weds 1st March	Parent consultation 3.30 – 6pm
Thurs 2nd March	World Book Day
Fri 3rd March	Happy Bag collection
Mon 6th March	7.30PM PTA committee meeting (online)
Thurs 9th March	Year 5 Music concert
Fri 10th March	PTA School Disco (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)
w/c 13th March	PTA Mother's Day Shop
Thurs 23rd March	Year 3/4 production
Tues 28th March	9.00am LSK2 Challenge with parents/work sharing
Weds 29th March	9.00am KS1 Challenge with parents/work sharing
Weds 29th March	Northgate's Got Talent
Weds 29th March	House cross country final
Thurs 30th March	9.00am UKS2 Challenge with parents/work sharing
Fri 31st March	Term Ends 2.00pm
Mon 17th April	Children return to school
May 2023	Y2 SATs Week
Mon 1st May	Bank Holiday
Mon 8th May	The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday
Fri 12th May	2pm PTA committee meeting (in person)
9th-12th May	Y6 SATs Week
Fri 19th May	PTA Film Night (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)
29th-2nd June	Half term
Mon 5th June	INSET DAY
Sat 10th June	PTA Summer Fayre
w/c 12th June	PTA Father's Day Shop
Mon 26th June	7.30pm PTA committee meeting (online)
12th -16th June	Y1 Phonics Week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)
12th -23th June	Y4 Times Tables Tests
Tues 13th June	Happy Bag collection
w/c 17th July	PTA Ice Cream Sales
Thurs 20th July	End of Term at 2.00pm
Friday 21st July	Occasional day

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

Managing tricky peer relationships

As a parent, it can be challenging to see our child struggling with friendships, exclusion, gossip, belittling and conditional friendship as this can affect a child's confidence and self-esteem. Helping children recognise the qualities of good friendships, promoting kindness, compassion and empathy as well as supporting a broad range of friendships, especially those outside of school, can all help.

Anxiety

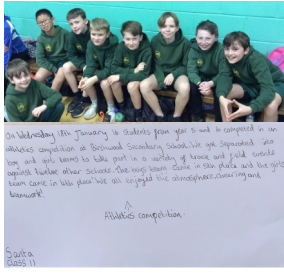
Anxious behaviour is common in children, especially as they come across new situations and experiences. The goal for most kids isn't to eliminate anxiety completely. It's really about giving them the skills to manage anxiety so it doesn't get in the way of enjoying life.

Coping with emotions

Encouraging children to talk can be very helpful, whether you're a parent, grandparent, friend or teacher. If you think a child you know has a problem, it can be hard to know how to start talking to them about it. Take a look at this NHS webpage for advice:

[Talking to your child about feelings - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Sports Hall Athletics at Birchwood mixed Year 5 and 6 Year pupils.



All participants did really well and had a lot of fun. There were twelve schools taking part. Northgate girls came 4th and the boys came 5th. Thanks for all your effort children!



Year 6: This week both classes have been studying William Morris and on Wednesday they started making collages from images of foliage, flowers and wildlife cut from magazines and wallpaper samples. The aim of this topic is to enable the children to draw confidently and adventurously from observation and to collate their ideas. The Children will eventually make their own print using their research inspired by William Morris. Below: photos of Class 11



Inspiration by Ava M

House Science Quiz

All children this week took part in a science quiz to see how much scientific knowledge they have remembered from KS1 and KS2. The highest scoring child from each class and each house was then selected to compete in the science house quiz final which took place today. A huge well done to all the children who took part in this but a particular well done goes to our quiz winners the Normans for both KS1 and KS2. Brilliant work everyone.

Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Darcy and Evan

R1: Jasper R2: Sophie

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on 'Maths.' Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: excellent progress with times tables, for trying really hard and showing fantastic independent learning in all maths lessons, for always trying their best in maths by answering questions, challenging themselves and helping others, fantastic understanding when calculating with decimals, for constantly challenging them self and always trying hard in maths lessons, for hard work and a positive attitude in maths, for excellent understanding, accurate calculations and measuring in our topic 'perimeters', for such hard work and understanding, for working extremely hard to use the written method when adding and subtracting decimals.

Class 1: Isobel

Class 7: Bohuslava

Class 2: Manuel

Class 8: Franky

Class 3: Rosie

Class 9: Jackson

Class 4: Lucas S

Class 10: Mekhi

Class 5: Jackson

Class 11: Pixibelle

Class 6: Amber

Class 12: Eva & Isabelle



A special mention goes to Jasper in R1 who has had the most exceptional week! He has achieved a lot of amazing learning and has been engaged and happy. Great work Jasper!



Reminders and Updates

Road Closures and safety update: letter from Mr. Alastair Ward-Booth

Mrs Tanner expressed the worries that she, parents and local residences have regarding the heavy traffic outside school and the safety of our children, by writing to our local MP Julie Marson, the Major Dave Anderson and town councillor Alastair Ward-Booth. We received a letter from Alastair Ward-Booth explaining that the problem is that diversionary routes are advisory, and numerous drivers are seeking to avoid the signposted diversion route in favour of 'rat runs' along Cricketfield Lane / Maze Green Road and Dane Acres.

He has asked for HCC/Cadent to improve the signage and make this more prominent such as 'residents' only access' signs to deter traffic. He explained that he and other residents have also been in contact with Greater Anglia to prevent rail replacement buses from using the route. He is also asking the police safer neighbourhoods team to patrol at peak times to mitigate the situation.

Please feel free to voice your concerns regarding the current traffic situation to our MP or town council on the following email address:

Bishop Stortford Town Councillor:

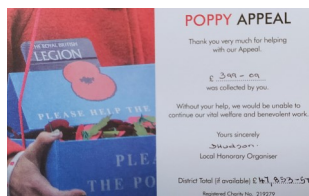
Alastair.Ward-Booth@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament for Hertford and Stortford:

Julie.marson.mp@parliament.uk

Royal British Legion

We have received a note from The Royal British Legion, thanking us for helping with their Poppy Appeal last year. The School raised an amazing £399.09! Thank you so much to all the families that contributed.



Northgate School Association

Photography Competition for 2023/2024 Calendar

Thank you for all your Winter Wonderland submissions! December's Winner is..... Kenny Millsom, Class 10! Congratulations! Kenny's photo will be the prime picture on our December 2023 calendar page. You can view it and our other favourite entries on our Facebook Northgate PTA Noticeboard! We are looking forward to seeing more "Frosty Fun" photographs for January. Deadline for entries is 1st February 2023!

Summer Fayre

Can you believe that we are already busily organising the Northgate Summer Fayre?! As always, we do need your help to run these events. Does anyone have or know of anyone who runs a garden centre or planting business, who would like to have a Plant Sale at our event? In addition, we are looking for people or a business who could run some fun 'Carnival themed' workshops during the Summer Fayre afternoon.

If you can help, please can you contact us via our email ptanorthgate@gmail.com. Your help is very much appreciated. Do look out for our booked events in the Newsletter Calendar!

Geri Wren and Jo Parrott
Your PTA Co-Chairs

