

December 1st 2023

## Headteacher's News

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Ofsted inspection that was carried out this week. As I'm sure you've seen in the news recently, these inspections can have an overwhelming impact on the whole school community and everyone involved in the process. However, we are proud of all the hard work, commitment and support that our fantastic staff, pupils, governors and parents/carers have shown throughout the process. The children were/are exemplary and did an amazing job, sharing the wonderful learning and experiences we have at Northgate. We expect the report to come out in January, when we will be able to share their findings.

We have a very busy two and a half weeks ahead with all our Christmas activities. The children have been working hard and are excited to share some wonderful performances with you. Next week, we are delighted to share our Reception nativity and the Bishop's Stortford Year 6 carol concert at St. Michael's church. Please check dates, times and pick up details on the next page as there are times the KS2 children need to be picked up from different venues.

I hope you have a great weekend.

## Enriching the Curriculum

**Nursery** have been looking at shapes this week. The children enjoyed playing with construction toys and printing shapes onto paper. Some of the children used shapes to make images of houses. Also, there were some Christmas-inspired images, such as snowmen.



**EYFS** have been very creative today, decorating their classrooms for Christmas. Initiating role-play with their friends in the post office and being Elves wrapping presents and weighing them.

**Year 3** talked about the meaning behind Advent. They learned that four candles are

lit every night during Advent. One candle in the first week, then an additional candle for each week until Christmas. The first candle represents anticipation of the coming Messiah, the second represents faith, the third symbolises joy and the final candle symbolises peace. The word Advent comes from the Latin word adventus (arrival). The children used their knowledge to write amazingly creative words in an acrostic poem using the word 'Advent'. Brilliant!



## Important Dates

Mon 4th Dec	Year 6 Carol concert at St Michaels (Year 6 pick up from St Michael's church at 8pm)
Wed 6th Dec	9.15am and 2.15pm reception nativity play
Thurs 7th Dec	Night Shelter Class 8 Jackson Square trip
Fri 8th Dec	Stepping Stones Christmas coffee morning 9.00am –10.00am
Fri 8th Dec	Year 3 Geography Field Trip, (Walk to Waitrose)
Mon 11th Dec	9.00am Reception winter walk and letter posting
Mon 11th Dec	2.45pm Nursery Christmas concert (in class)
Tues 12th Dec	1.30pm KS2 Pantomime at South Mills (pick up from theatre)
Tues 12th Dec	1.30pm KS1 Hurricane Panto visit
Tues 12th Dec	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Lunch
Wed 13th Dec	10.30am and 1.00pm Nursery Christmas crafts
Wed 13th Dec	KS2 Christmas Lunch
Wed 13th Dec	9.15am and 2.15pm KS1 Christmas production
Thurs 14th Dec	Reception Christmas activity day
Fri 15th Dec	Christmas Jumper day at school
Fri 15th Dec	8.45am Nursery Christmas concert (details to follow).
Mon 18th Dec	Volunteer coffee 9am
Mon 18th Dec	2pm KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Tues 19th Dec	Break the rules day
Tues 19th Dec	<b>2pm End of term</b>
Wed 3rd Jan	<b>Inset day</b>
Fri 12th Jan	2pm PTA Committee Meeting
Fri 26th Jan	Year 5 Visit from Wonder Dome
Wed 31st Jan	Young Voices Choir—O2
Mon 5th Feb	Year 6 Victorian Day
Mon 4th Mar	7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting
5th & 6th Mar	Parent Consultations
Thurs 14th Mar	2.30pm Year 6 Music Concert
Fri 22nd Mar	Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Thurs 28th Mar	Last day of term
29th Mar—15th April	Easter Break
Thurs 25th April	2.30pm Year 5 Music Concert
Thurs 9th May	2.30pm Year 4 Music Concert
Fri 10th May	2pm PTA Committee Meeting
13th—16th May	Y6 SATS
Mon 20th May	Year 6 Trip to the 'Crucial Crew'.
Thurs 24th May	2.30pm Year 3 Music Concert
27th—31st May	Half Term
Mon 3rd May	Inset Day
Mon 3rd June	Y4 national multiplication assessments
3rd—7th June	Year 6 School Journey Kingwood
Mon 10th June	Y1 National phonics, screening.
Fri 14th June	Year 5 Egyptian Workshop
Fri 21st June	Year 2 trip to Paradise Wildlife Park

=\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Nursery Provision Survey link

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 or will not choose us to with the current options to complete the short Nursery provision survey using this link - <https://forms.gle/spJgwQUBTwKmk8oa9>. Deadline for completion is 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## Safeguarding

**Please do not leave your child unattended** when you are dropping them to school in the morning.

All children are the responsibility of their parents until 8.45am and must be supervised until they are through the gates when they are opened **at 8.45am** (Nursery 8.35am)

It is vitally important that the children are not left alone.

Many thanks.

## Reminders and Updates

### Year 6 Carol Concert at St Michael's church.

Both classes will be doing a practise at the church in the afternoon, so please pick your child up from the church at 3pm. Every Year 6 child **must bring a packed lunch** that day. For the evening performance the doors will open at 6.40pm and the performance should finish at 8.00pm. Children must be dressed in **smart full school uniform** please. A reminder that there is only space per family to watch the performance.

### Reception Christmas nativity

Wednesday 6th December at 9.15pm and 2.15pm. Please remember to bring your tickets with you! If possible, try not to bring younger siblings or be prepared to remove them if they are making a disturbance. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Nursery Christmas concerts—in class

Monday 11th December at 2.45pm and Friday 15th December at 8.45am.

### KS1 Christmas production - 'Baarmy in Bethlehem'

Wednesday 13th December 9.15am and 2.15pm. Please bring your tickets with you. If possible, please do not bring younger siblings or be prepared to remove them if they are making a disturbance. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Reception and KS1 Christmas lunch - Important Information

Tuesday 12th December: Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be having their Christmas lunch. Meals **must** be booked in advance on School Grid. **Years 3-6 will need a packed lunch sent from home on this day as there will be no school lunch option available.**

### KS2 Christmas lunch - Important Information

Wednesday 13th December: Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be having their Christmas lunch. Meals **must** be booked in advance on School Grid. **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will need a packed lunch from home on this day as there will be no school lunch option available.**

### KS1 Panto (in school)

Tuesday 12th December: Hurricane productions are coming in to school to perform "Dick Wittington".

### KS2 - Panto

Tuesday 12th December: Our KS2 children will be walking to the South Mills Theatre in the afternoon to watch 'Cinderella'. The children will be having a home made packed lunch in their classroom before they go as KS1 have their Christmas lunch in the dining hall. Pick up from outside the **theatre** for year groups is as follows: **Year 3—3.20pm** **Year 4—3.25pm, Year 5— 3.30pm, Year 6—3.35pm.** Please note siblings in **KS1 can be picked up from school from 2.55pm** to help with collecting KS2 children from South Mills. To let the office know in advance Please email: [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk)

### Key stage 2 church service

Monday 18th December: 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. Children must be dressed in smart full school uniform please. A reminder that there is only one space per family to watch the performance due to limited space in the church.

### Fundraising Christmas jumper day

Friday 15th December: This year we will be supporting the Isabel Hospice. Pupils and staff can choose to wear a Christmas jumper instead of a school jumper and a tie. The rest of the school uniform **must still be worn as usual.** We are suggesting a donation of £1 which will be collected in class on the day.

### Break the rules day

Tuesday 19th December: More details to follow shortly. School will close at 2pm on Tuesday 19th December. Night owls will run from 2pm and close at 6.30pm as usual.

### Silver Leys Car Park (Rugby Club) - pick up and drop off

The car park will be **closed** from next Monday evening at 10.30pm until Tuesday 5th December at 5pm. It must be empty for re-lining. Heavy equipment will be involved in the process so it is essential that no cars or people are on site. The work will commence from the Hadham Road entrance.

### Healthy Snacks for children

Please ensure that healthy snacks are given to children for break time, such as fruit and yogurts etc. Children **should not** be eating crisps etc.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Nursery: Florence and Oliver

R1: Fintan R2: Oscar

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on "Performance"

Well done for: working hard to learn lines and performing enthusiastically every time in rehearsals, giving 100% in music lessons and singing the Christmas songs beautifully, excellent expression in concert practice, excellent pitch and projection when practising lines, for always singing beautifully with 100% effort, leading the class in singing practice.

Class 1: Otto	Class 7: Matty
Class 2: Annaya	Class 8: Oscar
Class 3: Isabella	Class 9: Aditi
Class 4: Evie	Class 10: Finley
Class 5: Shay	Class 11: George
Class 6: Anaya	Class 12: Vishu



## Enriching the Curriculum Sport



Pupils from Year 3 and 4 went to HECCSport on Thursday to represent Northgate in a Rapid Fire Cricket event. The children played really well and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Team Northgate came third overall, which is a brilliant achievement!

Well done children!

## Northgate School Association

### Russell Property Christmas Card Competition

All Northgate children were given the opportunity to enter the Russell Property Christmas Card competition and the results are in! Russell Property were overwhelmed by all the wonderful entries and said a huge thank you! Our winners are:

<b>Winners</b>	<b>2nd Runner Ups</b>	<b>3rd Runner Ups</b>
Nicolae, Class 3	Lucas, Class 5	Matilda, Class 2
Miken, Class 7	Thomas, Class 9	Alexandra, Class 10

Each of the above children have won a book token. Our winners, Miken and Nicolae, have also had their beautiful creations printed into Christmas Cards. All prizes to be issued next week. The finalists and winners will be posted on Russell Property's Instagram feed from next week!

### Pre-loved Christmas Jumper Sale

Just a reminder, we are holding our Pre-loved Christmas Jumper sale in the School Office again on Friday 8th December in readiness for the School Christmas jumper day on Friday 15th December.

### Christmas Quiz

**First week of December** - All children will be given the opportunity to enter the Northgate PTA Christmas Quiz for £1. There will be two quizzes- one for EYFS/KS1 and one for KS2. All correct entries will be entered into a prize draw and we have three amazing prizes for each Key Stage.

Our prizes are: **EYFS/KS1** 1st Prize: Jellycat Candy Cane and Wreath  
2nd Prize: £15 Entertainer Voucher, 3rd Prize: Craft Bag

**KS2** 1st Prize: The Week Junior Newspaper Subscription, 2nd Prize: £15 Entertainer Voucher, 3rd Prize: Craft Bag

Each entry wins a Candy Cane too! Look out for the quiz next week!

### Christmas Tuck Shop

Our Christmas Tuck Shop is taking place on Wednesday 13th December where you can buy lollies and treat bags at pick up time. Our Halloween sale was popular, so we hope this will be too! Lots of sweets treats! Please bring cash. Please see poster attached.

**Have a lovely weekend.]**

**Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team**