

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

September 12th 2025

Headteacher's News

We hope you found the recent **'Meet the Teacher'** sessions informative, and we look forward to welcoming Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents next week.

If your child is in **KS1 or KS2**, you will shortly receive a copy of the **termly letter** via Google Classroom. This letter provides key information for your child's year group and will also be available on the **school website**. If you have not received it by the end of next week, please do let us know.

In assemblies this week, we introduced our **school values**. This half term, our focus is on **Politeness**, and our **Learning Power** is **'Teamwork Tiger'**. We have already seen some wonderful examples of teamwork around the school. If your child comes home with a Teamwork Tiger sticker, ask them to explain what skills they used to earn it!

As a school, one of our key responsibilities is to monitor **attendance**. If your child is finding it difficult to get into school, and you would like support, please speak to your child's class teacher or to **Mrs Rogers, our Pastoral Lead**, who can help with strategies to make mornings easier. Please remember that **Herts County Council may issue fines** for families where a child has 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence. A child arriving **after 9.30am**, without evidence of an appointment, will also be logged as having an unauthorised absence for that session. More details can be found in our **attendance policy** on the school website <https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/>

We hope you have an **enjoyable weekend**.

Important Dates

Mon 15th Sept	7.30pm PTA AGM
Tues 16th Sept	R 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Wed 17th Sept	Y5 Trip to Duxford
Wed 17th Sept	9am Volunteer reading sessions
Wed 17th Sept	Y1 2.50am Meet the Teacher
Thurs 18th Sept	Y6 9am Meet the Teacher
Tues 7th Oct	Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
	9.20am phonics parent workshop
Wed 8th Oct	KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
Thurs 16th Oct	Y2 walk to Waytemore castle
Mon 20th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Tues 21st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents
Wed 22nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Thurs 23rd Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents/information workshop.
Fri 24th Oct	Inset Day
27th –31st Oct	Half Term
Tues 9th Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am/2.40pm
Fri 12th Dec	KS1 9.10am/2.40pm Christmas production
Thurs 18th Dec	KS2 2pm Church service St Michaels Church
Fri 19th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
22nd Dec –2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5th Jan	Inset Day
Tues 6th Jan	School term starts
16th –20th Feb	Half Term
Fri 27th Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter
30th Mar –10th April	Easter Holidays

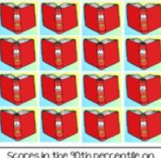


=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Summer Challenges

Reading: Today in assembly, the children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2025 were celebrated. They showed the medals and certificates they received from The Reading Agency in recognition of their achievements. Well done!

French: Some of the KS2 children who visited France during the summer successfully completed the French Summer Challenge set by Mme Edwards. In recognition, Mrs Edwards awarded them a pen and keyring inscribed with *"Continue comme ça!"* translated means "Continue like that!"

Reading with children plays a vital role in supporting language development, expanding vocabulary, and fostering critical thinking. It encourages imagination and creativity, while helping children appreciate different perspectives and cultures, promoting empathy. Shared reading also strengthens emotional bonds between adults and children, creating a supportive learning environment. Developing a love of reading early on lays the foundation for academic success and lifelong curiosity.

Why read 20 minutes at home?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3600 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year	60 minutes per school year
180,000 words per year	36,000 words per year	6,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

This chart clearly shows how reading a little each day can have a significant impact on your child's future.

Evacuation Procedures.

Over the coming weeks, we will be practising our **fire evacuation** and **class recall (invacuation)** procedures to ensure all children are confident about the signals and know exactly what to do in the event of an emergency.

For safety reasons, we kindly ask all adults to **sign in at the main reception** when entering the school site so we are always aware of who is present.

If you are on site and hear the **fire alarm**, please make your way calmly through the nearest fire exit to the **large gazebo located between the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds**. If you hear the **class recall bell**, please make your way to the **nearest classroom or the staffroom**.

Safeguarding

We are a nut free school as we have children with **nut allergies**. Please be careful not to include food containing nuts or nut products, such as peanut butter, pesto, almond paste, etc. Please refer to our website for more information.

Contact Details: In case of an emergency, we must ensure we have up-to-date contact details on file. A **form** is available on the school website for you to update your details and to inform us of any changes to your email address, mobile phone number, address etc. Many thanks.

Reminders and Updates

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival is fast approaching, and we will soon be asking you to donate food for the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank. Millions in the UK are living in poverty, including over 4 million children. The Bishop's Stortford Food Bank provides emergency food parcels, non-food essentials, and fuel support to local people in urgent need. They help residents of Bishop's Stortford and nearby villages through life's toughest moments. The items they require most include: [tinned fruit](#), [tinned vegetables](#), [tinned meat/fish](#), [tinned tomatoes](#), [pasta sauces](#), [soup](#), [sponge puddings](#), [cereal](#), [jam](#), [honey](#), [rice puddings](#), [biscuits](#), [crisps](#), [chocolate](#), [coffee](#), [tea](#), [fruit juice](#), [squash](#), [UHT milk](#), [sanitary items](#), [toilet rolls](#), [toiletries](#), [cleaning products](#), [washing powder](#), and [nappies](#). Children can bring donations to their classrooms from **Friday 3rd October—Tuesday 7th October**. Thank you.

Uniform

All children should be wearing full school uniform. Please see our website for details. If there are any exceptional circumstances regarding uniform, please contact the office for advice. Letters must be provided explaining any reasons for not wearing school uniform, such as trainers or earrings. If your child has recently had their ears pierced and cannot remove their studs yet, we require a letter from parents stating when they can stop wearing them. These earrings should be covered by medical tape or a plaster at school.

Phones and Smart Watches

Children should not bring smartphones, smartwatches, or other mobile technology into school, as these pose a safeguarding risk if used inappropriately. Items found in school will be returned directly to parents.

Permission may be granted for children in Year 5 or 6 to bring phones if they walk home unattended and relevant forms have been completed. Please note, the school will not take responsibility for any loss or damage. The school encourages pupils who need to bring a phone to use a basic mobile phone rather than a smartphone.

One-to-one volunteer reading

We are looking for parents to help with reading in KS1 or KS2 (Mon-Thurs afternoons). Having an adult read with children greatly supports their learning. If you'd like to help, whether new or returning, please complete the online form on our website to indicate your availability. If interested, please contact the office or your child's class teacher. Thank you.

Safeguarding is essential, so all volunteers must attend annual update sessions. The next session, including reading support training, is on **Wednesday 17th September at 9.00am**. Please come to the office in order to join in.

Other Support

If you are interested in volunteering regularly in class, the library, helping children change books, or with simple admin, please inform the office or your child's teacher. Many thanks.

European Day of Languages

Thursday 26th September is European Day of Languages. We are inviting parents who speak another language at home to come in during the week commencing 22nd September to lead a short language session with their child's class. This could be a 15-minute introduction to greetings or sharing photos of a country. If you're interested, please email Mrs Gitto at harriers@northgate.herts.sch.uk. Thanks to those who have already volunteered.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: The whole class for settling in so well

Puffins & Owls: Miles and Thomas



This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on 'Positive attitude'.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: Sharing some brilliant expanded noun phrases in their first writing lesson, starting the new school year with great enthusiasm in all subjects, settling in really well and being a wonderful role model to the other children.

Well done to:

Robins: Theo

Starlings: Khloe

Skylarks: Tiega

Nightingales: Georgia

Kestrels: Hazal

Harriers: Leo

Wrens: Amelia

Sparrows: Sara

Swifts: Martha

Kingfishers: Ava

Kites: Alice

Hawks: Eliza

For homework last week, the children in each class designed a 'Learner of the Week' certificate. Congratulations to the winners below for their brilliant designs. These will be used throughout the year to celebrate learning achievements.

Robins: Vinnie

Starlings: Jamie

Skylarks: George

Nightingales: William

Kestrels: Olivia

Harriers: Jackson

Wrens: Ivy

Sparrows: Charlotte

Swifts: Zorawar

Kingfishers: Flora

Kites: Aarva

Hawks: Eliza



Cool Milk

Would you like your child to receive milk during the school day? **School milk is available free for children under five and around £14 per term for over fives.** For more information please register with Cool Milk online: www.coolmilk.com

Theatre Production at Northgate

The Water Lane Theatre Company will be performing '**Fairy Tale Courtroom**' by Dana Proulx here at Northgate on:

Saturday 25th October at 2.30pm

Sunday 26th October at 11.30am & 2.30pm

In this imaginative play, the Big Bad Wolf and the Wicked Witch face trial for their fairy tale misdeeds. The story unfolds through testimonies from characters like Snow White, Dorothy, Sleeping Beauty, the Three Little Pigs, and Little Red Riding Hood. The audience acts as the jury, deciding the verdict and ending!

Tickets are suitable for ages 6 to adults:

£6.60 children (free under 5s)

£11.00 adults

£24.20 family (2 adults & 2 children, or 1 adult & 3 children) (All prices include booking fees)

Buy tickets at ticketsource.co.uk/waterlane.
More info: waterlanetheatrecompany.co.uk

Children are encouraged to dress as fairy tale characters and there will be a prize for the most entertaining costume!