

March 24th 2023

## Headteacher's News

Well done to Year 3 and 4 for their fantastic production of Pirates Vs Mermaids. They commanded the stage with their amazing acting, singing and dancing. Well done children! Thanks to all the parents for your support, particularly for supplying the costumes, and our fantastic staff for putting the show together.

Next week we are looking forward to our Creative Thinking Week. We have already started our KS1 and KS2 creative writing project with work linked to the book 'The Tunnel'. We hope the creative approach to this unit is inspiring the children to become writers. As part of the week we will have a whole school house challenge on Monday and please remember for that each class will need cardboard and tubes for this.

We look forward to inviting parents for sessions to work with your child developing their thinking skills and then for your child to share their books with you. Please see dates in the diary. Parents will be invited into the dining room while the children are registered and sessions will finish at 9.30am  
Well done to our all the children who represented the school this week in sporting fixtures and at the Bishop's Stortford Pupil Voice Network.  
**Have a good weekend.**

## Year 3 and 4 Production

On Thursday, the Year 3 and 4 children put on two fantastic performances of their production 'Pirates vs Mermaids'. They all worked incredibly hard to learn their lines, sing and perform beautifully. We are very proud of them all. Thank you to parents/carers for supporting their children learning their lines and for providing all their amazing costumes.



## Enriching the curriculum



Inspired by Anthony Browne's book The Tunnel, Year 1 children ventured into the woodland area on Thursday to make their own mud creatures on tree trunks. The children collected natural resources such as mud, acorn shells, leaves, twigs and used these to mould faces onto the tree trunks. They had lots of fun and were not afraid to get muddy! Everyone had a go and helped

each other. Children doing the daily mile will be able to appreciate the art work.



We are delighted to announce that our school has again, been awarded the Quality Mark for Early Years! Achieving this quality mark celebrates the commitment of our EYFS team to continually improving standards and providing high quality education and provision for our Nursery and Reception children. It represents an external validation and acknowledgement of good provision, practice and performance and is also recognised by OFSTED.

## Important Dates

w/c 27th March  
Mon 27th March  
**Monday 27th March**  
Tues 28th March

Tues 28th March  
Tues 28th & Weds 29th  
Weds 29th March

Weds 29th March  
Weds 29th March  
Thurs 30th March  
Fri 31st March  
Mon 17th April  
**Fri 28th April**  
May 2023

**Mon 1st May**  
**Fri 5th May**  
**Mon 8th May**  
**Fri 12th May**

9th-12th May  
Fri 19th May  
29th-2nd June  
Wed 7th June  
**Mon 5th June**  
5th-9th June  
Sat 10th June  
w/c 12th June  
Mon 26th June  
12th -16th June  
12th -23th June

Tues 13th June  
**Thurs 6th July**  
**Friday 7th July**  
w/c 17th July  
**Thurs 20th July**  
Friday 21st July

**Monday 4th September** Children return to school

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Creative thinking week  
Year 3 visit to Colchester castle  
**Easter craft day**  
**9.00am Reception challenge with parents/work sharing**  
9.00am LSK2 challenge with parents/work sharing  
Computer Explorers—Lego robotics workshop  
8.45am Nursery morning children & 2.45pm afternoon children challenge with parents/work sharing  
9.00am KS1 challenge with parents/work sharing  
House cross country final  
9.00am UKS2 challenge with parents/work sharing  
Term Ends **2.00pm**  
Children return to school  
**Y4 Trip to Southend Sealife Adventure**  
Y2 SATs Week  
**Bank Holiday**  
**The King's coronation whole school picnic**  
**The King's coronation bank holiday**  
2pm PTA committee meeting (in person)  
Y6 SATs week  
PTA film night (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)  
Half term  
Y3 Celtic Harmony trip  
**INSET day**  
Y6 School journey  
PTA Summer fayre  
PTA Father's day shop  
7.30pm PTA committee meeting (online)  
Y1 Phonics week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)  
Y4 Times tables tests  
Happy bag collection  
**Year 6 Performance rehearsal**  
**Year 6 Performance**  
PTA Ice cream sales  
**End of Term at 2.00pm**  
Occasional day  
Children return to school

## Safeguarding



Snapchat is one of the most popular social media platforms and is widely used by young people to send 'disappearing' pictures, videos, and messages. Parents and carers need to understand more about the app while also keeping their children safe. Please click [here](#) for a parents guide to snapchat

### Free Support for Hertfordshire Families

**The Hertfordshire Family Centre Service have lots of fun activities for families this spring!** As the cost of living continues to rise, it helps that all of their sessions are free and also drop-in. Run by professional, qualified staff in Early Years, their groups offer a wide range of activities for you and your children to enjoy and play together. They are an opportunity for you to meet other local families and get advice and support from the Family Centre team. Family Support staff will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have and if you need any extra help, they can point you in the right direction. For the latest What's On guide please see their website

### The Bishop's Stortford Pupil Voice Network

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Year 6 School Council and Executive Council visited the college to participate in a pupil voice meeting. While there, we took part in many activities and listened to speakers. We met up with other school councils and one thing we learnt about active listening. This is about listening skills being just as important as speaking, active listening makes the other person feel heard and valued. *By Poppy in Year 6*

**Well-bean gardening club** this week planted chitted potatoes in bags. The children will enjoy watching these grow over the coming months and then harvesting them around 10-13 weeks. The group also sowed Dahlia seeds in compost that they mixed themselves with a little Horticultural grade vermiculite for drainage. The school is going to look so colourful in Summer! Please email [Wendy@wellbeangardening.com](mailto:Wendy@wellbeangardening.com) if your child is in Year 4,5 or 6 and is interested in joining.



### Quicksticks Hockey



20 children across Years 5 and 6 took part in a Quicksticks competition against a range of schools. **Northgate A team** played exceptionally throughout the completion which led them to reach the final and securing 2<sup>nd</sup> place. **Northgate B team** played brilliantly against 3 schools and successfully won every game. Well done to all!

Year 5 took part in a virtual athletics competition earlier this month. Children had to complete a range of different events and results were compared to other schools across the county. Northgate did really well and were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 19 competing schools. Fantastic achievement!

## Reminders and Updates

### Parent volunteers we need your help!

On Wednesday 29th March at 9.00 Mrs Layer would really appreciate some help from parent volunteers to laminate and trim packs of resources for KS1 and KS2. If you would like to help, please email Mrs Layer on [r2@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:r2@northgate.herts.sch.uk). Thank you for your support.

### Northgate Community Project

As we are all aware, more and more families are struggling with increases in the cost of living, especially due to increased supermarket prices. To support some of our families we would like to offer them a household hamper for the holidays. This would include everyday items such as toilet roll, toothpaste, washing powder, deodorant and sanitary products as appropriate.

If you feel you may be in a position to help by donating some of these products, we would all be very grateful. Please leave any donations of the following new items in the donation box in the front foyer.

If you would be interested in receiving one of these, please email Mrs Ferdinand at [suzanne.ferdiand@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:suzanne.ferdiand@northgate.herts.sch.uk)

### Forgotten Items

As a school, we encourage children to be independent. Part of this is remembering to bring everything they need each day for school. Please try to encourage your child to remember all the items required for the day. The office is very busy, especially first thing in the mornings, and they do not have time to continually deliver children's belongings to the classrooms, unless it is absolutely necessary. We try not interrupt classes to deliver forgotten items, e.g. PE kit, reading records, etc. Items will not be delivered to the classes until break time/lunchtime.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: **Wyatt** R1: **Max** R2: **Maddie**

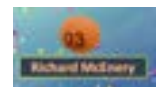
This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on Music. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: showing confidence and enthusiasm in music, wonderful singing and dancing, fantastic performance which was delivered in confidence, excellent singing and performing in the spring production, fantastic singing during spring concert, wonderful performance during the spring concert, brilliant piano player and fantastic contribution to the spring concert, outstanding performance in the spring concert, fantastic guitar recital.

Class 1: <b>Jess</b>	Class 7: <b>Lulu</b>
Class 2: <b>Toby</b>	Class 8: <b>Ruby</b>
Class 3: <b>Lucy</b>	Class 9: <b>Noemie</b>
Class 4: <b>Esmay</b>	Class 10: <b>Jack</b>
Class 5: <b>Sophia</b>	Class 11: <b>Aiden</b>
Class 6: <b>Melly</b>	Class 12: <b>Oscar</b>



## Northgate School Association

**250 Club** Congratulations to ball number 3, Richard McEnery, for winning the 250 Club for March! A cheque is on its way to you!



**Barracudas**—Did you know that Barracudas Activity Day Camps provide school holiday camps for children aged 4.5 years to 14 years? There are over 80 activities to choose from and if you recommend a friend, both you and your friend receive £20! A fantastic opportunity for your children to make new friends and boost their confidence! Please see attached poster for more information. *Thank you to Barracudas for sponsoring our PTA.*

**Easyfundraising**—Following the closure of Amazon Smile, we would really love to encourage you to raise money for our Northgate PTA using **easyfundraising**. 'Easyfundraising has partnerships with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend on their website to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand'.

Sign up to easyfundraising on their website or using their app- it's free! Every little helps as they say! Our unique website is: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/northgate-association/>

**Stikins Name Labels**—Please remember to order your name tags for your children's school uniform. Labels can be ordered from Stikins via their website at [www.stikins.co.uk](http://www.stikins.co.uk) using the school fundraising number 14587. The Northgate PTA receives commission for each order, so you're helping the school too!

**Standon for Schools**—Just a reminder about Standon Calling which is an unforgettable festival weekend for your family. Immerse your brood in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, with entertainment for all ages across main stages, woodland, water and dedicated kids' areas. For every order placed, using our unique booking link below, 10% of the total face value will be donated to Northgate PTA. Plus we get discounted tickets! Our link is: <https://go.kaboodle.co.uk/Northgate-Primary-School-CM232RL>

**With times being so tough, we are so grateful to the above companies for supporting us. If you know of anyone who would like to support and sponsor our PTA, please do contact us on [ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com).**

Your PTA Co-Chairs,

**Geri Wren & Jo Parrott**