

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

January 13th 2023

## Headteacher's News

Happy New Year. I hope you had a wonderful festive holiday. It has been great seeing the children settle back to the new term. We have introduced our new assembly theme based on the school values. This half term we will focus on perseverance, linking this to the school's work on growth mindset. A growth mindset can help to remove invisible barriers to learning' as pupils begin to realise that we can all grow in our abilities through hard work, perseverance and practice. It is an understanding that everyone is not the same, but that everyone can get better if they work at it. Research shows that parents can have a powerful impact on their children's mindsets. The language you use and the actions you take show your children what you expect. Giving children praise for working hard rather than for 'being clever', accepting mistakes as learning opportunities, and encouraging positive self-talk are all practices that will support your child with their learning. There is a lot of information on the internet on how parents can support their children if you are interested.

We have also introduced our new learning power—reflective learner lion. This week we have had a house point focus on manners. Thank you to everyone who has responded to the safeguarding questionnaire. The leadership team and governors will analyse the data and reflect on any issues that have arisen from it.

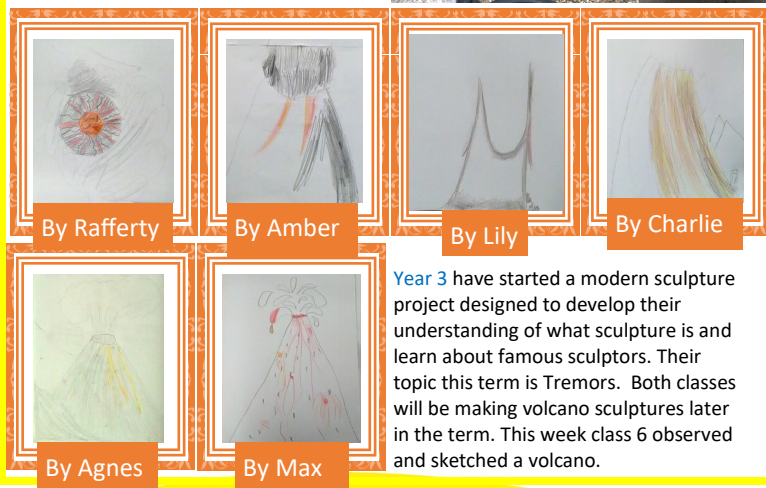
We look forward to seeing you across the term. There are lots of new dates so please have a look. You may have additional dates on your year group termly letter. Have a great weekend.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### **Excellence Awards Afternoon Tea.**

On Tuesday a child from each class who has shown a positive attitude to learning was invited to have a drink and biscuits with our Head teacher, Deputy Head and Assistant Head. They had a lovely chat as a group and were all given certificates to take home. Well done children!

The **Reception** children have braved the wet weather to explore our updated Outside Learning Areas. We have enjoyed digging and building in our Construction Area; shared stories in our Storytelling Circle; imagined new worlds in our Woodland Cottage Role Play and been creative in our Mark Making Gazebo. Hopefully the rain will stop next week and we will be able to visit our minibeast friends in The Bug Hotel!



**Year 3** have started a modern sculpture project designed to develop their understanding of what sculpture is and learn about famous sculptors. Their topic this term is Tremors. Both classes will be making volcano sculptures later in the term. This week class 6 observed and sketched a volcano.

## Important Dates

Wk/beg Mon 16th Jan	House science knowledge quiz
Wk/beg 30th Jan	Festival of literature
Tues 7th Feb	Safer internet day
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
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 <b>2.00pm</b>
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
29th-2nd June	Half term
Mon 5th June	INSET DAY
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
Thurs 20th July	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
Friday 21st July	Occasional day

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Safeguarding

It is helpful to understand the difference between relationship conflicts such as arguments/teasing that are irregular and bullying which is repeated behaviour over time by an individual or a group, which is intentionally hurtful to another individual either physically or emotionally.

Inevitably, children will have conflict with friends and learning to manage these social situations is an important part of their emotional development. In contrast, bullying is intended to harm emotionally or physically and exerts a power imbalance. Bullying is potentially very harmful to a child, particularly if it persists. It is good to routinely talk about the tough stuff of life together. It's more likely that your child will come and tell you if they are being bullied because they will have learnt that it's OK to talk about difficult times. It is never too late to start talking!

Please find attached useful information regarding bullying for parents on this link: [Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](#)

At Northgate we want our children to know not to suffer in silence and we want to encourage them to talk to their class teacher if they feel something is not right. We want to embed in all our children that making people sad is bad. If you as parents have any concerns please email or speak to the class teacher and they will look into the situation. Please refer to our Anti Bully Strategy under policies and documents on our website.



Year 5 started their science project 'Stargazers' this week. The photos show Class 10 on the playground after looking at the horizon in order to prove that the Earth is a sphere.



Year 6 started to learn recorder on Thursday with Mrs Cheung. This was very exciting for them all!

The children took part in the house football competition this week. All the children played with such enthusiasm which made it a great tournament! The scores are being counted and we will let you know which house has won soon!



## Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Hanna and Luca

R1: Freya

R2: Chloe

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on 'Positive attitude'

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: motivating everyone during house football, having a great attitude and answering lots of questions, showing great confidence in maths and reading out loud in guided reading, making an effort to be friendly and positive to a variety of children in class, always being positive, trying their best at all times, having a positive attitude in all subjects, showing a much improved attitude to learning, participating in all lessons by putting their hand up, volunteering to read aloud and actively editing their work in English, always being positive especially in maths this week, trying really hard with their phonics, being positive when learning is more challenging, having a positive attitude towards independent learning, trying their best to include focus skills in their work, constantly listening well and following instructions quickly.

Class 1: Sofia Class 7: Harry

Class 2: Chloe Class 8: Ivy

Class 3: Bea Class 9: Rose

Class 4: Izzy Class 10: Kenny

Class 5: Chloe Class 11: Harry

Class 6: Alex Class 12: Felicity

## Reminders and Updates

### Recruitment

We are looking for SEN TAs to work with teachers as part of a professional team to support teaching and learning for SEN pupils. Providing learning support to pupils who need particular help to overcome barriers to learning. Working hours can be flexible, so if you feel that this a career you would like to get into please email Mrs. Jeffcoate on the following address. secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk

### Road Closures and safety.

Please make sure you and your children are extra careful when walking in and out of school and driving and parking along Cricketfield Lane as it is extremely busy at the moment due to the closure of Hadam Road. We have received lots of concerned messages from local people and parents who are worried about accidents occurring. We must all be considerate, respectful and careful during this challenging time. Herts County Council are still looking for a crossing patrol person for outside Northgate. If you know someone that could be interested please ask them to contact Hertfordshire County Council by telephone on 01992 556803 or by email at scp.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

### Paying dinner money.

If your child has a dinner money account that is currently in deficit this needs to be paid as soon as possible, along with a sufficient credit amount. Letters will be coming out shortly regarding unpaid accounts. Thank you.

### Colouring books and Lego/Duplo bricks.

If you have any colouring books that are unused or Lego or Duplo bricks unwanted we would love you to donate them to us. We would like them for playtimes for the children. Thank you for your support.

### Lost Property.

If your child has lost an item/items of uniform please come and look in the lost property boxes in the school office lobby. We have a large collection of unnamed jumpers/cardigans etc. These have not been collected and are just sitting there, please come and look and if you can use something please take it. Small lost items such as watches, necklaces, rings and much more are kept in the office, please ask for details.

### Uniform

Please be reminded that children should be dressed in smart winter uniform, school shoes should be worn not boots and trainers should only be used for PE. Children should not be wearing earrings or jewelry. Hair that falls below the shoulder should be tied back.

## Northgate School Association

Happy New Year and we hope you had a wonderful festive and relaxing break! We have lots of events planned over the forthcoming months, so please look out for updates in the Newsletter, on our Facebook page and various posters up around the school!

### Break the Rules Day

Due to the school closure on the last day of term in December, our Break the Rules Day has moved to Friday 10th February 2023. Please see attached poster for the updated rules that can be broken on the day!

### Photography Competition for 2023/2024 Calendar

Our January's theme is FROSTY FUN! Please email all entries by 1st February 2023 to [calendar@northgatepta.com](mailto:calendar@northgatepta.com). Please remember we can only accept photos taken by our students.

Winners to be published in the Northgate PTA Academic Calendar 2023/24.

Geri Wren and Jo Parrott

Your PTA Co-Chairs

## Reception and Nursery Applications

Please note applications for Reception close on Sunday the 15th January 2023

Applications for Nursey open at 9.00am Monday 16th January 2023 please click the link below to apply or visit our website. Closing date 10th March

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc\\_KYuDhHEN2t\\_8vVNaOQ6b38FuqbGiqcvGe3\\_rG3BPhntLxQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_KYuDhHEN2t_8vVNaOQ6b38FuqbGiqcvGe3_rG3BPhntLxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Volunteer Readers

The children of Northgate would really benefit from more volunteer readers to help our them improve their reading, cognitive and language development skills. If you or someone you know could offer some of their time to help please click on the link below. Thank you.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrtkU13W3z0Fnig7332GK-FVE-GXMy9BHtbEqudZWf4LcA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrtkU13W3z0Fnig7332GK-FVE-GXMy9BHtbEqudZWf4LcA/viewform?usp=sf_link)