

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

February 26th 2021

## Headteacher's News

All the staff are delighted to have the children return to school on Monday 8th March. We want to ensure the children have a successful return and hope the discussions at the parent teacher consultations next Tuesday and Wednesday should support this. Please ring the school office if you haven't yet made an appointment.

As we mentioned in our letter sent out earlier this week, we need to ensure our school community keeps safe, therefore the measures put in place last term will remain for the time being. Staff are now taking lateral flow tests twice weekly to support this.

When we return to school, we will make our initial focus wellbeing and activities that engage the children. Whenever we discuss with the children what they enjoyed over the year, dressing up days are always mentioned. We have therefore decided to move most of our World Book Day activities to Thursday 11th March when we are all back in school. The children can dress up as an adjective such as a colour, or sleepy, brave, sporty or something more personal to them. We are sorry but we will be unable to hold a playground parade this year.

After 31 years at the school Mrs Curtis has decided to retire at the end of this term. We will all be extremely sad to see her leave us and will all really miss her. In the summer term we will be delighted to welcome Lorraine Hayes who will be working in the Nursery with Mrs Bull and Mrs Wilkes.

Before half term, Mr Foote, our Chair of Governors, wrote regarding needing new governors with a speciality in law or HR/recruitment. If you would like to express an interest, or would like further details, please contact [secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk).

Have a enjoyable weekend.

## Safeguarding

### Raise Resilience for Parents in Hertfordshire

Want to support your children now and beyond the pandemic?

Raise Resilience has supported over 2,500 parents, up and down the country, since the start of the pandemic.

You can join six 1-hour sessions to explore and build resilience and receive learning materials to use at home with your children. If you are unable to attend the sessions live, then each session is recorded and available to catch up on-demand.

This programme is fully funded by Herts County Council, and is **FREE** for 1,000 parents who live or work in the area. More information can be found in the leaflet attached to this email.

### Supporting a Worried Child - Return to School after Lockdown

Our SENCo, Mrs Wallace, has produced a PowerPoint Presentation for parents (with audio) on 'Supporting a worried child - Return to school after lockdown'. Please find this essential resource attached to the email.

## Important Dates - 2020/21

Tues 2nd March	Parent Consultation Meetings
Weds 3rd March	Parent Consultation Meetings
<b>Thurs 11th March</b>	<b>World Book Day</b>
<b>Fri 19th March</b>	<b>Comic Relief</b>
Fri 26th March	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 12th Apr</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>Mon 3rd May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>
10th-13th May	KS2 Internal SATs week
May 2021	KS1 Internal SATs
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
<b>Mon 7th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Tues 8th June</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
7th-11th June	Yr 1 Phonics Screening and Yr 2 Retakes
7th-18th June	Yr 4 Multiplication Tests
<b>Tues 20th July</b>	<b>End of Term at 2.00pm</b>
<b>Weds 21st July</b>	<b>INSET day</b>
<b>Thurs 22nd July</b>	<b>OCCASIONAL DAY</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Year 1 - Learning about Art

Year 1 looked at the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy and then created their own art outside using natural materials. They also linked this to the shape work they have been doing in maths.



## Recycling Yoghurt Pots

Key Stage 2 are asking for the children to please bring in their used small yoghurt pots to use as glue pots in school. If you have any spare pots, please make sure they are thoroughly washed and send them in via the children's classroom. Thank you.

## Reminders and Updates

**School Office** The school office staff continue to work in school on a rota until we return on 8th March. Please contact them by emailing [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk) for general queries, or [secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk) for messages relating to key workers or to contact a member of the leadership team.

## Year 6 Victorian Day

To kick off our activity-packed Victorian day, we dressed in clothes that the children would have worn and made gruel for breakfast. It seemed that none of Year 6 thought that it was very appetising! Personally, I thought it was like eating glue and was shocked that workhouse children would have to eat it every day. During a morning zoom lesson, Baroness Lehzen told us about Queen Victoria's childhood. We learnt that she had a very strict childhood which didn't involve any friends and that she was forbidden to spend any time on her own. When she became Queen, she was described as a miserable leader. However, perhaps it is understandable given her upbringing.

The next part of the day was based around household chores and how they would have been carried out. My choice of task was to beat a rug, which would get rid of the dust, since they didn't have hoovers. As I didn't have a carpet beater (which the Victorians used), I used an old tennis racket instead which was quite effective!

In the afternoon, we had fun playing Victorian games and making some Victorian toys. In those times, poorer children made dolls out of wooden pegs. We did the same. I created a hopscotch ladder on my kitchen floor using masking tape to mark out the squares. Another game played by the Victorians was Quoits, which we luckily already had. Victorian day was fascinating because we managed to experience part of a Victorian child's life.

### Jamie Class 11

Jamie (C11) playing Quoits



### Ena (C11)

A popular Victorian thaumatrope featured a picture of a bird and a cage. When you spun the thaumatrope, the two images became one and it would appear that the bird was actually in the cage.



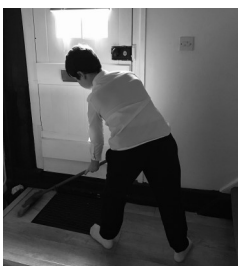
Oliver (C11) writing on a blackboard



A Victorian peg doll



Beck (C11) working hard at his Victorian chores.



## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery	In-School: Agnes	R1: Freddie
	Home Learner: Gabriel	R2: Hazal

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on being a technology whizz.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for impressive coaching skills on Scratch and using the appropriate features of email to compose and send emails successfully.

Well done to:

Class 1: Cora	Class 7: William
Class 2: Oscar and Agnes	Class 8: Quincy
Class 3: Dylan	Class 9: Alfie
Class 4: William	Class 10: Mia-Grace
Class 5: Luca	Class 11: Jamie
Class 6: Albie	Class 12: Charlie

## Northgate School Association

### 250 Club February Winner

Congratulations to Susan Tidman who was drawn as this month's 250 Club winner. A cheque for £516 is making its way to you!

### Mother's Day

I'm sure we are all delighted to hear the news that the children can return to school on 8th March and the children are looking forward to seeing their friends and teachers in the flesh! At the end of the first week back it is Mother's Day. We won't be able to run our break-time shop as usual unfortunately but we would still like to offer the children a chance to shop virtually for their Mother's Day gifts, especially while actual shopping is currently still difficult. We will be asking the teachers to share with the children the selection of gifts we have available to buy during their live sessions next week. The gifts will then be available to pre-order and pay for online. We will label the gifts 'option 1', 'option 2' etc. so the children do not have to reveal their choice of gift to their mummies. Gifts will be safely distributed in school at the end of the first week back so the children have their gifts in time for Mother's Day. We will send full details out next week so please keep an eye out for our email and Facebook updates.



### Summer Event

PTAs across the country will be jubilant at the news that summer events are very likely to be able to return. The summer event is often our biggest fundraiser of the year and we would really like to be able to celebrate getting through this pandemic with something special. We will be putting our thinking caps on to get something wonderful organised for our school community. If anyone would like to get involved in the planning or implementation of a summer event please get in touch with us by emailing [ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com).