

March 20th 2026

### Headteacher's News

Well done to Year 3 and 4 who delivered a fantastic production of **Wind in the Willows** today, bringing the much-loved story to life with confidence and enthusiasm. The children impressed us all with their acting, singing, and teamwork, showing great dedication in both rehearsals and the performances. Thank you to our wonderful staff for their hard work and commitment, and to all families for your support in making the performance such a success. Thank you in advance to the families who have volunteered to help at our **PULSE Volunteer morning tomorrow**. PULSE will provide an enriched outdoor play programme for Northgate children, designed to support their development and wellbeing. Next week there is a **presentation for parents** at school and one online to learn more about it. Please see the details in reminders. The launch of PULSE will take place on Monday 13th April, and the children—who have already been briefed on what to expect—are very excited!

We are delighted that we have **new play equipment** being installed on our field, which will be ready after Easter. This large piece of equipment will allow many children to play at once and will be available for all children as part of PULSE, supporting strength, coordination, confidence, problem-solving and social interaction.

Please remember that, as with all of our outdoor play equipment, children and siblings are **not permitted to use it after school** for safety reasons. A **big thank you to the PTA** for their generous contribution towards funding both projects. We wish you all a lovely weekend.

### Enriching the curriculum

Last week, duck eggs arrived at our school, and excitement quickly followed when the first duckling hatched. The children named her Midnight, after her dark feathers. Soon three more ducklings joined her. Watching them grow, waddle, chirp, and swim has been a magical experience for the pupils. Children from across the school have enjoyed visiting and learning about these adorable new arrivals.



#### Pond Dipping – Year 1

Year 1 had a fantastic time pond dipping yesterday, discovering creatures beneath the water's surface. Using nets and trays, they found newts, water snails, and insect larvae. The children loved observing their findings up close, learning about habitats in a fun, hands-on way while showing great care for the pond and its wildlife.



**EVERY CHILD  
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

### Important Dates

Wk beg 23rd Mar	Science week (Fab Science/House quiz)
Wk beg 23rd Mar	House Cross Country
Tues 24th Mar	8.55am—9.10am Parent Pulse presentation
Tues 24th Mar	9am Reception Easter Activity Morning
Tues 24th Mar	Y4 Local river walk
Wed 25th Mar	Rocksteady Concert pm
Wed 25th Mar	4.40pm Live Zoom for Parents re: Pulse.
Fri 27th Mar	Break the Rules Day
Fri 27th Mar	2pm Break up for Easter
<b>30th Mar—10th April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Wed 15th April	PTA meeting/EGM
Fri 17th April	PTA school disco
Mon 20th April	10am <b>Puffins</b> visit to the Library
Wed 22nd April	11am The Library visiting Ducklings.
Thurs 23rd April	Y5 Instrumental Concert
<b>Thurs 23rd April</b>	<b>10am Skylarks visit to the Library</b>
Mon 27th April	10am <b>Owls</b> visit to the Library
<b>Wed 29th April</b>	<b>10am Robins visit to the Library</b>
<b>Mon 4th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Thurs 7th May	Y4 Instrumental Concert
<b>Mon 11th May</b>	<b>10am Swifts visit to the Library</b>
11th—14th May	Y6 SATS
<b>Fri 15th May</b>	<b>10am Kestrels visit to the Library</b>
18th—22nd May	Neurodiversity Week
Tues 19th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 21st May	Y3 Instrumental Concert
Fri 22nd May	End of term
<b>25th—29th May</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>Mon 1st June</b>	<b>Inset day</b>
<b>2nd -12th June</b>	<b>Y4 National Multiplication tests.</b>
Tues 2nd June	First day back at school
Sat 6th June	PTA Summer Fayre
Thurs 25th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
29th June—3rd July	Y6 Residential PGL Overstrand Hall
Thurs 9th July	Move up day
Fri 10th July	Sports Day
Mon 20th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly
Tues 21st July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
<b>Wed 22nd July</b>	<b>Occasional day</b>
<b>23rd July—31st Aug</b>	<b>Summer Holidays</b>
<b>1st &amp; 2nd Sept</b>	<b>Inset day</b>
Thurs 3rd Sept	Start of New School Year

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

### Safeguarding –Meningitis

The UK Health Security Agency is currently investigating a meningitis outbreak in Kent. Although rare, meningitis can become life-threatening very quickly, so it is vital to recognise the signs early—especially in children. Meningitis and septicaemia can start suddenly and may look like a cold or flu at first. A child with meningitis or septicaemia can get worse very quickly. If your child shows any of the following signs, seek urgent medical help—contact a GP, call NHS 111, or dial 999 in an emergency.

#### Symptoms in children:

High fever, severe headache, stiff neck, vomiting, sensitivity to light, cold hands and feet, drowsiness or difficulty waking, confusion or seizures, and a rash that does not fade when pressed.

If a child is ill and getting worse, seek medical help immediately.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/>

## Enriching the Curriculum

On Monday, **Reception** hosted a **Mother's Day breakfast** to celebrate the wonderful mothers, grandmothers and significant women in the children's lives, recognising all the love, care and support they give every day. The tables were laid with drinks and pastries, and the children sang a song called "Don't Forget to Tell Your Mum You Love Her".

Some children had taken cards they had made home on Friday, while others presented their mothers with one at the breakfast. It was a lovely opportunity to show appreciation and say thank you for everything they do. We hope everyone felt the love and enjoyed the atmosphere.



Last week, Hugo, Methuli, Eira and Agnes from our Executive Council represented Northgate at the **Bishop's Stortford Pupil Voice Network Annual Conference** at Bishop's Stortford College. The event brings together local school councils to share projects from their communities.

Our children presented PULSE Northgate's new play initiative to attendees, including the Mayor, Cllr Richard Townsend, and MP Josh Dean, and enjoyed a complimentary lunch afterwards.

## Reminders and Updates

### Pulse Presentation

Don't forget that on Tuesday 24th March, between 8:55am and 9:10am, there will be a **Parent Pulse presentation at school**.

This is a Q&A session for anyone who would like to learn more about this new play initiative.

For anyone who cannot make it in person, there will be a live session on Teams on Wednesday 25th March between 4:40pm and 5:00pm. The link will be emailed to all parents.

### Lost property

Please check the lost property box in our entrance this week, as any remaining items will be disposed of next Friday.

Additionally, **any scooters or bikes** left in the bike shed next Friday will be removed if not collected.

### Last Day of Term

Please remember that the school finishes for Easter next Friday, 27th March at 2pm.

### Clubs at Northgate

All clubs are now set up on Arbor ready for next term. Please log in to Arbor and go to Activities/Clubs to book for your child. Please note that **Crazy Crafts Club**, which runs on Mondays after school, has now finished for the year and will resume in the autumn term. Please see our clubs list attached

### SchoolGrid New Summer Menu

Please see attached the new summer menu from SchoolGrid. Please ensure that all children's lunch accounts are clear and in credit ready for the new term. It is always helpful for parents to book meals in advance, as this allows the kitchen to plan accordingly. Thank you.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

**Ducklings:** Iona and Fred

**Puffins:** Ruby **Owls:** Marnie

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers.

**Well done to:**

**Robins:** Bonnie

**Starlings:** Jenson

**Skylarks:** The whole Class for a wonderful performance in their play.

**Nightingales:** Arthur

**Kestrels:** Hazal

**Harriers:** Tommy

**Wrens:** Winter

**Sparrows:** Sebby

**Swifts:** Duru

**Kingfishers:** Rex

**Kites:** Freddie

**Hawks:** Chloe



## PULSE Donations

We are looking for donations for our new PULSE initiative. Please see the attached poster showing the items needed. If you are able to donate, please bring items into school on our allocated collection mornings: Mondays and Thursdays.

We have many play zones for the children to enjoy, such as construction, seasonal kitchens, a stage, and an art area, which we would love to fill. If you are able to contribute, we would be very grateful.



## Sportscool Easter Holiday Club at Northgate

Sportscool are running a SEND inclusive Easter holiday club 7th—19th April 2026.

The children will be entertained with multi sports and fun activities including: Axe-Throwing, UV Dodgeball, Inflatables, Laser Tag, Football, Gymnastics, Archery, Dance and much more. There are limited spaces available so please book as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Email [westessex@sportscool.org](mailto:westessex@sportscool.org) or Tel:07935535292

## Northgate School Association

### Break the Rules Day

Don't forget it's Break the Rules day on our last day of term, 27th March—an opportunity to be a little bit naughty by breaking **only** the following rules for 50p each:

**Wear grey socks/tights, Wear your tie (UKS2), No nail varnish, No coloured hair, No hair gel, Only green hair accessories, No jewellery, No trainers/fashion shoes, No squash in your water bottle**

**School Disco**—Friday 17th April. The Milky Bar Kid will be on the decks, we have pizza (must order in advance), glitter tattoos, snacks and glow items. As usual there will be two separate events and tickets are available to buy now:

**EYFS & KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2):** 5pm - 6.15pm - parents / carers must attend.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/eyfs-key-stage-1-disco/2026-04-17/17:00/t-plqneev>

**KS2 (Y3-Y6):** 6.45pm - 8pm - drop-off & pick-up.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/key-stage-2-disco/2026-04-17/18:45/t-plqneeng>

**As always, we need volunteers to enable events like this to happen, so please sign up here:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-62361653-disco>

The PTA Team