

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

February 12th 2021

## Headteacher's News

As this half term draws to a end, I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone on the excellent level of engagement across the last six weeks. We appreciate the level of challenges families have dealt with but believe the approach the school has taken will have minimised the impact the current lockdown period has had on learning and pupil progress, and has supported their wellbeing.

We appreciate the recent online learning fatigue and tried to ensure this week included different activities such as the family science challenge, which we hope your children enjoyed. Thank you to Mrs Crumpler for organising it. Please see page 3 for some of the amazing constructions created. We are also delighted to post the link to our website for our 'virtual gallery' of the work the children sent in during mental health week on the theme 'Express Yourself.' The children have sent in an amazing wealth of work and have been a joy to look at. Well done everyone! Thank you to Miss Hartley and Miss Nolan who have edited them for us.

We look forward to the announcement in half term, or soon after, about the 8th March being a possible return to school date, for at least some year groups.

Parent consultations will be the 2nd and 3rd March which we hope can be used to share information for a smooth transition back to school. These will be phone conversations, as they were last term, and we believe this is the best solution to use the limited time available without the risk of technical errors.

Please note that the INSET day has been moved from the 22nd February to 21st July. Therefore, there will be online learning on 22nd February.

I would like to publicly thank the all staff for their efforts, their dedication and their confidence to adapt so quickly. I am very proud to work with them all.

I hope you have a relaxing, screen free holiday and manage to get outside in the slightly warmer weather that is promised.

## Literature festival

This week the Bishop's Stortford College Literature Festival took place and the classes have enjoyed listening to lots of different authors. These sessions are now available to watch on catch up via the following link: [Festival of Literature](#)

The authors were chosen to engage and enthuse the children, no matter their age group. From Primary age upwards, each author is sure to excite and connect with the children, inspiring them to read more and find joy in the written and spoken word.

## Safeguarding - Children's Mental Health Week

Our SENCo, Mrs Wallace, has put together an informative leaflet full of useful tips and advice on children's mental health and wellbeing. Further information and advice sheets can also be found on the Northgate [Pastoral Support](#) page.

## Important Dates - 2020/21

15th-19th Feb

**Mon 22nd Feb**

**Mon 22nd Feb**

Tues 2 March

Weds 3 March

Fri 26th March

**Mon 12th Apr**

**Mon 3rd May**

10th-13th May

May 2021

31st May-4th Jun

**Mon 7th June**

**Tues 8th June**

7th-11th June

7th-18th June

**Tues 20th July**

**Weds 21st July**

**Thurs 22nd July**

February Half Term

**INSET DAY - cancelled**

Children Return to online learning

Parent Consultation Meetings

Parent Consultation Meetings

End of Term at **2.00pm**

**Children Return to School**

**May Bank Holiday**

KS2 Internal SATs week

KS1 Internal SATs

May Half Term

**INSET DAY**

**Children Return to School**

Yr 1 Phonics Screening and Yr 2 Retakes

Yr 4 Multiplication Tests

**End of Term at 2.00pm**

**INSET day**

**OCCASIONAL DAY**

## Nursery Year - Chinese New Year

This week the children in Nursery have focused on learning about Chinese New Year. They have created various Chinese decorations such as lanterns or dragons. Children, both at home and in school, created their own dragon dance, alongside percussion sounds from instruments or household items.

To our families who celebrate Chinese New Year

过年好 / 過年好



## Science Fair

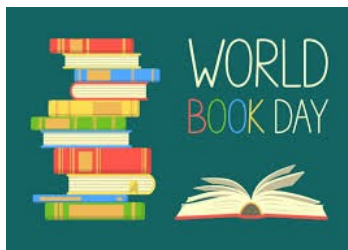
### KS2 Science Fair at Herts and Essex

This year, the Science Week theme is Innovating the Future. Is there something you have always wanted to know the answer to? Wondered what would happen if...? Is there a topic you would like to find out more about? Is there a scientist who you really admire or a scientific career you would like to find out more about?

Mrs Crumpler has put together a short video with lots of information about this year's challenge (<https://youtu.be/eUSiglhb30>). Entries must be with her by Friday 26th February and must be submitted using the form attached to this email and sent to [class11@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:class11@northgate.herts.sch.uk).

## World Book Day - Thursday 4th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day this year by spending the day completing activities and learning around the wonder of books.



### Dressing as an adjective

We are asking the children to dress up as an adjective for the day. This could be dressing as a colour (green) or emotion (happy) or any type of adjective you can think of! If you would like to take pictures of your child/children and send them in to their teacher, we would love to see them.

We will be holding a whole school family quiz based on books at 9.30am, so we hope you can join in with that. The classes will also have stories read to them by different teachers at various point during the day. The times will be confirmed nearer the time. In addition to this there will be different activities for your child to take part in which will be organised by their teachers.

Our local MP is running a short story competition. If you would like to take part in that please follow the link to view the attached flyer. The winners will be announced on World Book Day. [Short Story Competition](#)

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery	In-School: Emily J	R1: Olivia
	Home Learner: Thomas	R2: Thomas

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on reflective learning.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for looking back over their work and improving their learning skills.

Well done to:

Class 1: Poppy	Class 7: Curtis
Class 2: Annabelle	Class 8: Annie
Class 3: Sebastian F D	Class 9: Felix
Class 4: Lauren	Class 10: Finley
Class 5: Olivia	Class 11: Frank P
Class 6: Lottie	Class 12: Sonny

## Reminders and Updates

We are seeking an experienced and committed Teaching Assistant to work in our Nursery class.

Further details on the role and how to apply can be found at: [Teach In Herts](#)

## Express Yourself Videos

In Children's Mental Health Week we asked the children to submit work that expressed how they were feeling, whether this was a piece of art, a lego creation or a short video. Compilations of the work from each year can be found on our website [Northgate Primary School](#)

## Wellbeing Activity Books

We have attached two activity booklets to this email which have been designed and created by the children from Class 11 as part of their weekly Wellbeing sessions with Mrs Leeks.

Thinking about the "5 Ways to Wellbeing", they decided to GIVE to the school community by creating these activity books for the children of Northgate to complete over half term.

We hope you all enjoy them!!

## Hertfordshire's 100 Challenge

The Hertfordshire 100 challenge is in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore where the children can complete 100 of any activity over a day or a week. Please find a flyer attached.

## Northgate School Association

Well done on making it to half term. We really hope the children enjoy their disco this evening and that you all have a wonderful half term break.

We would like to apologise for the delay in drawing the February 250 club winner - juggling home schooling and working has left the committee with very little time so please bear with us and we will do the draw as soon as we can!

## School Governing Body

### School Governors Needed

We regularly review the make-up of the school's governing body to ensure that we have as wide a range of experience and expertise as possible to support the school and its senior leadership team. We have identified the need for two additional governors, one with a legal background who could act as a legal sounding board for the senior leadership team and governing body, as well as fulfilling the general role of a governor, and the second governor with HR/recruitment experience who can sit on the HR committee.

Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children. Being a school governor involves a commitment to attending governing body meetings - six full governing body and six committee meetings a year (please note, HR meetings take place during the school day). The committees consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. Governors will visit the school to understand the way the school runs, but also at times be involved in specific projects or discuss specific issues. They also need to be prepared to complete relevant training. They are actively involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the Headteacher and senior leaders.

We would welcome expressions of interest from a parent or anyone from the community who would like to give back and has an interest in education. If you would like to speak with a governor currently working with the school to better understand the role, please contact the School Office to arrange.



## Family Science Challenge Gallery

This Wednesday we all enjoyed our family science morning. Both at home and in school, our children rose superbly to the challenge of building bridges. We hope you enjoyed the day!



Oscar (C7), Willow,  
Florence (N)

Jack (C10)



Ally (C10) and Evelyne (C4)

Kim (C11)



Lucy (C11) and  
Olivia (C5)



Lars (C11) and Rosie-May  
(C1)

William (C5) and Grace (C9)



Jackson (C5)



Olivia (C5)



## Snowman Gallery

We all woke up on Monday to wonderful snowy scenes. We encouraged the children to spend some time outside, away from their screens having fun in the snow.



Eren and Talia (N)

Abigail (C10)



Ruby (C11)

Toby (C10)

Isla J (C11)



Isla A (C11)

