

September 26th 2025

### Headteacher's News

This week we were delighted to welcome headteachers from other local schools into our classrooms as part of Envision, our local schools' partnership. Through this collaboration, schools work together to share expertise and raise the quality of education for all children in our community.

The visiting heads spent the day reviewing teaching and learning across our school, and their feedback was very positive. Some of the points they noticed included the high quality of pupils' behaviour and engagement in lessons, a well-sequenced and carefully planned curriculum, and teachers giving clear instructions and strong models to support learning.

It was encouraging to have the quality of our teaching and learning validated by external colleagues. At the same time, the process gave us a valuable opportunity to learn from others and reflect on ways to develop our practice even further.

On Thursday 2nd October, the Department for Education will carry out the Autumn school census. One key figure they collect is the number of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children taking a free school meal on that day. Please encourage your Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 child to have a school meal on Census day, even if they usually bring a packed lunch. This one day determines how much free school meal funding we receive for the entire next school year. If fewer children take a meal, we receive less funding, meaning the school may have to cover the shortfall (often running into thousands of pounds) from an already tight budget.

Have a wonderful weekend.

### Enriching the Curriculum

#### European Day of Languages

Northgate celebrated European Day of Languages this week by opening our hearts and minds to the benefits of learning other languages. We discovered our rich linguistic community through children sharing greetings in different languages and parents generously giving up their time to talk about a different language in class. Children also had the opportunity to learn about famous people and the value of languages in their careers. Did you know that the King speaks four main languages? English, French, Welsh and German. On Thursday, there were language quizzes, a daily mile language trail and a hotly contested KS2 house French quiz - well done Romans! The children also very much enjoyed guessing the staff member and their language in assembly. I wonder if they could share one with you?

Many thanks for supporting this at home as the children really have benefitted from us all sharing a love for languages.

Thank you so much to the parents that gave their time this week to share and talk with the children about their own languages, which included Spanish, Turkish and Czech and our thanks to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Gitto who arranged the day.



### Important Dates

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

Thurs 2nd Oct

Thurs 2nd Oct

Fri 3rd Oct

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

Tues 7th Oct

Wed 8th Oct

Fri 10th Oct

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Oct

Thurs 16th Oct

Fri 17th Oct

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Oct

Mon 20th Oct

Tues 21st Oct

Wed 22nd Oct

Thurs 23rd Oct

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

Fri 24th Oct

27th – 31st Oct

Fri 7th Nov

Tues 9th Dec

Fri 12th Dec

Thurs 18th Dec

Fri 19th Dec

22nd Dec – 2nd Jan

Mon 5th Jan

Tues 6th Jan

16th – 20th Feb

Fri 27th Mar

30th Mar – 10th April

= \*Red = New Item / Change to Item

**Black History Month launch**

Repeat Volunteer Safeguarding Session

**School census day**

Food collection starts for Harvest Festival

**Visit from local author Aida Kiraya**

Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents)

9.20am phonics parent workshop

KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents)

**Tea & Talk for Parents – Mental wellbeing**

**Visit from Mr Adebiyi - African storytelling**

**and drumming**

Y2 walk to Waytemore castle

Y3 Visit from Spirit of the Wild

**Show Racism the Red Card Day (wear red**

**on the day)**

EYFS 9am reading with parents

Y3/4 9am reading with parents

Y1/2 9am reading with parents

Y5/6 9am reading with parents/information

workshop.

**Cultural Heritage Day / World Afro Hair Day**

**(non-school uniform day) and Black History**

**Month Quiz**

**Inset Day**

**Half Term**

**PTA Fireworks Night (Details to follow)**

EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am/2.40pm

KS1 9.10am/2.40pm Christmas production

KS2 2pm Church service St Michaels Church

**2pm finish Break up for Christmas**

**Christmas Holidays**

**Inset Day**

**School term starts**

**Half Term**

**2pm finish Break up for Easter**

**Easter Holidays**

### Safeguarding

#### Road Safety and Parking Reminder

A resident of Cricketfield Lane approached Tony, our crossing patrol person, yesterday to raise a concern that parents are regularly parking across their driveway, blocking access in and out. This is not acceptable – please refrain from parking in front of driveways.

It has also been reported that many cars are turning in the road outside school during drop-off and pick-up times, which is causing significant chaos. Please be mindful of where you park, drive slowly, and stay aware of pedestrians and other road users.

We are pleased to see more families parking at the rugby club and using the crossing with Tony to walk safely to school. Road safety is regularly discussed in school, but it is equally important to reinforce this learning outside of school. Setting a good example helps our children understand and follow safe behaviours—it's a topic even our youngest learners can grasp.

Thank you for helping keep our school community safe.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### Class Reading Journals

To promote a love of reading, every week, one child from each class will design and write a piece in their class reading journal, showcasing a book they have read and enjoyed. Children can describe why they liked the book or share their favourite characters. This initiative encourages creativity and helps students reflect on and connect with the stories they read. By the end of the year, we will have a wonderful collection of 30 fabulous books recommended by our students themselves

### Reading in EYFS



Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will bring a library book home each week to encourage book exploration and responsibility for their book bags. These books will be changed weekly. We kindly ask parents to read the book with their child, discussing the story, characters, and explaining any unfamiliar vocabulary. This shared reading time is crucial in nurturing a love of reading. This week, our EYFS children met their class bird toys— Dilly and Dally Ducklings, Peter Puffin and Barney Owl. Each week, four children will take home these cuddly friends to share stories with them. Please take a photo of your child reading with their bird toy and send it to the class email so we can celebrate their reading adventures in class books and displays!

### Little Wandle Phonics Programme

At Northgate, we use the Little Wandle Phonics Programme from Nursery up to Year 2. This phonics-based approach helps young children develop strong reading skills through a structured framework that guides both parents and teachers. It ensures children can confidently decode and understand words. Families can access helpful resources on the Little Wandle website: [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#). The website features short videos to support pronunciation, printable resources, and well-known nursery rhymes. No login is needed, making it an easy and convenient place to support your child's phonics learning at home.

## Reminders and Updates

### Black History Month – Get Involved!

This October, we're celebrating Black History Month and would love for parents to join us in enriching our students' learning. This is a special opportunity to honour the contributions and achievements of black and brown people worldwide.

We invite parents to share stories, talents, or activities in the classroom, related to Black History Month and culture. such as reading books, leading creative projects (like drumming or art), sharing recipes, or talking about inspiring historical figures. If you're interested, please contact your child's teacher, the school office, or email Mrs Ahwe at [sparrows@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sparrows@northgate.herts.sch.uk) to arrange a visit. Thank you for helping make this celebration meaningful for our students!

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week are: **Ducklings:** Maximilian and Sylvie **Puffins:** Bethany **Owls:** Rory  
'Learner of the Week' focus' on Learning Powers. The children were praised for: fantastic proof reading and editing skills, use of high level vocab and sharing their extensive knowledge of animals. Well done to:

**Robins:** Larna  
**Starlings:** Darcy  
**Skylarks:** Otto  
**Nightingales:** Hepzi  
**Kestrels:** Beren  
**Harriers:** Amber

**Wrens:** Ralph  
**Sparrows:** Luca  
**Swifts:** Max  
**Kingfishers:** Benjamin  
**Kites:** Mya  
**Hawks:** Mia



## School Councils and Committees

Pupils elected to join these groups are:

### School Council

Our Student Council gives children a voice in school. Elected by classmates, members share ideas, organise events, and help improve school life. It's a great way to build leadership and teamwork skills.

<b>Puffins:</b> Ivy & Miles	<b>Owls:</b> Colette & Hussain
<b>Robins:</b> Freya & Theo	<b>Wrens:</b> Winter & Noah
<b>Starlings:</b> Khloe & Tom	<b>Sparrows:</b> Iris & Olly
<b>Skylarks:</b> Edith & George	<b>Swifts:</b> Penelope & Nate
<b>Nightingales:</b> Lilly & Charlie	<b>Kingfishers:</b> Edy & Robbie
<b>Kestrels:</b> Bea & James	<b>Kites:</b> Shay & Lucas
<b>Harriers:</b> Sydney & Henry	<b>Hawks:</b> Ellie & Bill

### School Eco Council

Our School Eco Council works hard to keep Northgate clean and green! The children help with litter picking and organise paper recycling, encouraging everyone to reduce waste and recycle. Their efforts raise awareness about caring for our planet and inspire positive change.

<b>Puffins:</b> Harriet	<b>Owls:</b> Amber
<b>Robins:</b> Florence	<b>Wrens:</b> Noah
<b>Starlings:</b> Ada	<b>Sparrows:</b> George
<b>Skylarks:</b> Ava	<b>Swifts:</b> Thomas
<b>Nightingales:</b> Isabella	<b>Kingfishers:</b> Rex
<b>Kestrels:</b> Nicolas	<b>Kites:</b> Emily G
<b>Harriers:</b> Anastasia	<b>Hawks:</b> Chloe

### WID (Wellbeing Inclusion and Diversity) Committee

The WID (Wellbeing, Inclusion, and Diversity) Committee is a student-led group that organises school events and playtime activities to ensure every child feels included; they take pride in supporting children's wellbeing and celebrating diversity.

**Skylarks:** Octavia, Anaaya & Mia  
**Swifts:** Freya  
**Nightingales:** Evie B  
**Kingfishers:** Sophie & Tito  
**Kestrels:** Faith, Autumn, Olivia, Benedict & Hazal  
**Kites:** Eliza & Mya  
**Harriers:** Ladi  
**Hawks:** Rosie, Bella, Isabella & Emma

## Northgate School Association

### Northgate Fireworks Night Friday 7th November

This fantastic event is back on! But we need help!  
If you can spare a little time please contact the PTA on  
[ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com)  
Information regarding tickets will follow shortly.