

**November 11th 2022**

## Headteacher's News

The school has a legal duty to promote high levels of attendance. Equally parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. We, as a school, set an individual target attendance of 96% and expect pupils to achieve this to maximize their life chances, as there is a clear link between low attendance at school and low achievement. Friendships can be affected by persistent absence, too: it can be hard for a child who misses lots of school to form relationships with their classmates. We monitor all absence thoroughly and provide attendance data to the Local Authority and the Department for Education. Our current level of absence is 95%.

Northgate works in collaboration with parents/carers to ensure that all children benefit from regular attendance. Mrs Leeks, our pastoral lead, works with families to support where a child is struggling to get into school.

A pupil becomes a 'persistent absentee' when they miss 10% or more schooling (equivalent to 1 day or more a fortnight across a full school year) for whatever reason. Where absence escalates to this level, the DfE expects schools to put additional targeted support in place to remove any barriers to attendance. Parents will be sent a letter and may be asked in for meetings to put an attendance plan in place. The school will consider not authorising absences at this stage and if low attendance continues, it is likely that a referral for intervention by the Local Authority will be considered.

At Northgate all school staff are committed to working with parents and pupil to ensure as high a level of attendance as possible and the best outcomes for all our pupils.

Have a lovely weekend.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### House Logo Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the house competition to design a logo for our new school display. We had so many wonderful entries. The House Captains had the difficult job of deciding the winners but eventually chose:

Romans - Evie W, Class 8  
Saxons - Albie K, Class 9  
Vikings - Oscar C, Class 6  
Normans - Eva M, Class 1  
Here are their wonderful designs, which will soon be on display in our school hall.



### Pirate Day Year 2

On Monday Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous Pirate Day! They all looked wonderful in their pirate costumes. Both classes enjoyed baking hard tack pirate biscuits, working as a group to weigh and mix ingredients before shaping their biscuits. They were very disappointed to learn that pirates did not have sugary biscuits! In PE we learned a pirate dance, role playing as pirates going on their first voyage. In music we sang a sea shanty. The children also enjoyed 'pirate maths' and beginning our new story in English, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch.



## Important Dates

Mon 14th Nov	7.30pm Northgate PTA AGM meeting
Tues 15th Nov	3.00pm EYFS Big Fund Raiser Cake Sale
Fri 18th Nov	Final of house science quiz
Fri 18th Nov	9.00am Stepping Stones coffee morning for parents of children with ADHD or suspected ADHD
Fri 18th Nov	2.30pm Toy sale new/nearly new (details to follow)
Tues 22nd Nov	Flu immunisations (for unvaccinated pupils)
Fri 2nd Dec	3.15pm Christmas Film Night
Wed 7th Dec	9.15am & 2.30pm Reception Christmas production
Tue 13th Dec	2.30pm & 5.30pm KS1 Christmas production
Tues 13th Dec	KS2 Christmas Lunch
Wed 14th Dec	R & KS1 Christmas Lunch
Thurs 15th Dec	KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Fri 16th Dec	Last day of Nursery before Christmas
Tues 20th Dec	9.00am Volunteer coffee morning
Tues 20th Dec	Northgate's Got Talent
Wed 21st Dec	Break the Rules Day
Wed 21st Dec	End of Term at 2.00pm
Thurs 5th Jan	INSET DAY
Fri 6th Jan	R—Y6 return to school after Christmas break
Mon 9th Jan	Nursery return after Christmas break
13th-17th Feb	Half term
Fri 31st March	End of term at 2.00pm
Mon 17th April	Children return to school
Mon 1st May	Bank Holiday
Mon 8th May	The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday
29th-2nd June	Half term
Mon 5th June	INSET DAY
Thurs 20th July	End of Term at 2.00pm

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Remembrance

Today to mark Armistice day  
Mrs Smith set up a beautiful display in the Early Years



The Nursery children also respected Armistice day by making unique poppies and then wearing them with pride.

Year 6 pupils watched a live webinar.

The children learnt what Remembrance is, why we remember, how soldiers were honoured after WW1. And how soldiers of all conflicts are honoured today. They will also visit the memorial in town next week to look at the wreaths that will have been left on remembrance Sunday.



## Safeguarding

### Be Bright, Be Seen

During the winter when the dark evenings are with us so early, it is vitally important for the children to understand that they need to **Be Bright to Be Seen**. Fluorescent material on coats and bags are good as they can be seen in daylight and dusk. **Reflective** material can be easily seen at night. We have been working on road safety in school to teach the children the importance of being seen in the dark.



## Enriching the curriculum

In Nursery this week children have been learning about firefighters. In phonics the children thoroughly enjoyed dancing like fireworks, making lots of amazing sounds.

### School Games Basketball Festival Thursday 10th November



Yesterday afternoon a basketball tournament took place at Birchwood High School. Northgate came 3rd place against the other schools and although we did not win the experience was really exciting!

The match got really tense when we narrowly shot a goal and it went in! I really enjoyed this tournament because it gave me an idea of how real basketball matches are played. By Eshaal Class 12

### Girls Football match on Thursday 10th November

Last night we played against Manor Fields School. Even though we lost, we played well and had great team spirit. The Manor Fields team played brilliantly and at the end both teams congratulated each other on a good game. By Noemie Class 9

## Reminders and Updates

### Pupil Absence

If your child is unwell, please phone the school and leave a message under option 1, or email the office on [absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk) by **8:30am each day your child is absent**. Your message needs to include the child's name, class and reason for absence. We have a duty of care to call you if your child is not in and no reason has been provided.

We will not authorise absence if your message just advises that they are unwell, poorly, under the weather etc. Please provide details.

In the case of sickness and diarrhoea you must keep your child at home until 48 hours after the last incident. Please keep your child off school if they have a temperature.

If your child is absent please delete any pre-booked dinners on School Grid before 08:55am each morning.

### Medical Appointments

All appointments should be made if possible out of school hours. Please e-mail details of the appointment **as soon as you get confirmation**. Please do **not leave this to the morning of the appointment**. Send an e-mail to [absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk). You must include a photo of an appointment letter, screenshot of a text or forward a confirmation e-mail. Please give details of the time you wish to collect/drop off and remember to book lunch on School Grid in advance of the day if you will miss morning registration.

### Holiday/Other Leave of Absence

It is very important that your child attends school every day. Where this is not possible through factors other than illness, a request must be made in advance by completing an [Absence Request Form](#) which is available on our website. The full [Attendance Policy](#) is also available on the school website

### The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your donations, we were over whelmed with your support.



### Whole school EYFS Big Fund Raiser Cake Sale

EYFS are running a cake sale on Tuesday 15th November at 3.15pm. The early years classes would like to raise as much money as possible so that they can repair and revamp their outdoor area. They have a few local companies fund matching the total donation from our parents and carers, so the more we make the better. The sale is open to the whole school and cakes are being made by children and staff. Hope to see you there!

### Data Collection Sheets

Please remember to hand in the data collections sheets that were given out at the parent consultation meetings, as we always need to know we have up-to-date information on all pupils. These can be placed in the grey box on the table in reception, thank you.

### Outdoor Shoes in KS2

Please could you send your child into school with an extra pair of shoes, trainers or wellies to change into for break and lunch during the colder months. This way they will have clean shoes inside school. Thank you for your consideration. KS1 children will not use the grass over the winter

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Sebastian and Harry

R1: Thom R2 Arthur



This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on Science. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: excellent observation and precise recording of the parts of a plant, for always putting a lot of effort into all of their subjects but especially during science this week, for making a detailed timeline of a human life and the different stages within it, for great enthusiasm when setting up science experiments to investigate melting and freezing and for developing confidence to use scientific vocabulary during class discussions.

Class 1: Adam

Class 7: Finley

Class 2: Aaron

Class 8: William

Class 3: Thea

Class 9: Theo

Class 4: Lucas

Class 10: James

Class 5: Bill

Class 11: Tommy

Class 6: Emily

Class 12: Matilda



## Northgate School Association

### Fireworks Night

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us at our Fireworks Event- what a night! We hope you had a very enjoyable evening.

### Christmas Film Night

Our Christmas Film Night is taking place on Friday 2nd December 2022 from 3.15pm. Please see attached poster for further details.

### Northgate Calendar

Don't forget our November theme, SPARKS IN THE SKY, Photography competition for next year's Northgate Calendar. Email entries to [calendar@northgatepta.com](mailto:calendar@northgatepta.com) by 1st December.

Winners will be published in the Northgate Academic School Calendar 2023/24. Student entries only.

### New / Nearly New Toy Sale

And also please don't forget our New/Nearly New Toy Sale is taking place on Friday 18th November from 2:30pm to 4:15pm.

If you have toys, books, puzzles, scooters, bikes, fancy dress / Christmas or other clothing items in new or nearly new condition, please book a stall here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A9A72CABF9CE9-christmas>

Stall holders take home all the profits!

If you're able to volunteer at the event, please volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49A9A72CABF9CE9-volunteer>

### PTA AGM

Last but not least our PTA AGM is taking place virtually on Monday 14th November at 7.30pm. Should you wish to attend, please let us know [ptanorthgate@gmail.com](mailto:ptanorthgate@gmail.com)

**Your Northgate PTA Co-Chairs**  
Geri Wren and Jo Parrott