

October 4th 2024

Headteacher's News

I hope you found the PSHE workshop and the Year 3/4 multiplication workshop useful this week. The PowerPoint from the sessions will be available on Google Classrooms. We are always happy to alter these workshops to further support parents, so if you would like to give feedback from the sessions, please email us at:

interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk.

This week, three local headteachers, who are part of our local Envision group, came into school. Envision focuses on improving teaching and learning for children in Bishop's Stortford. The focus of their visit was the development of vocabulary within the school. They visited lessons, spoke to staff and children and fed back to leaders about the positive practice that they saw as well as ideas for next steps. It is always beneficial to get others opinions on our practice to help us further develop.

Next week, we are delighted to welcome parents to our short harvest assemblies. Reception's will be at 9am on Tuesday followed by a phonics workshop. Year 1 and 2 will be 9am on Wednesday followed by a parent workshop for Year 2 parents. Please enter through the school office for these events. Due to space constraints, unfortunately we cannot invite parents to our KS2 assembly. Our harvest collection this year will be once again for the local food bank. Please see the information on the next page about what is needed this year. Donations will be happily received from Monday. Year 5 and 6 parents are invited to our parent workshop on Wednesday evening. Please note that the sessions are the same as last year. Thank you for your continued support and have a good weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum

Northgate will celebrate Black History Month this October. In Monday's assembly, Mrs. Ahwe explained that the celebration began in 1926 with historian Carter G. Woodson, who sought to highlight the achievements of black, brown, and mixed heritage Americans. The UK has participated in Black History Month since 1987.

Throughout October, students will engage in various activities, learning about significant black, brown, and mixed heritage British people, both past and present. They will explore different music genres daily, focusing on the contributions of black artists. Special visitors will include Mr. Olusola Adebisi, a storyteller and drummer, and Mr. Andrew Muhammad, "The Investigator," a leading expert in Black history and culture.

In English, students will read stories related to Black History Month, such as Coming to England by Floella Benjamin, celebrating the Windrush generation, and The Story of Ruby Bridges, which highlights her contributions to equality and education. Traditional African tales like Handa's Hen and The Spider Weaver: A Legend of Kente Cloth and many more.

Hazel from Nightingales shared: "We learnt about Fleur East, a 36-year-old artist. Her mother is Ghanaian, and her father is English. Fleur is a rapper, songwriter and known for being on The X Factor and Strictly Come Dancing."

Additionally, there will be a poster competition over the half term, providing children with a fun opportunity to create and win exciting prizes!



Important Dates

Tues 8th Oct	9.00am Recep. Harvest assembly (parents) 9.20am Recep. Phonics workshop (parents)
Wed 9th Oct	9.00am KS1 Harvest assembly (parents) 9.20am Y2 parent workshop 6.00pm Y5/6 Parent information evening.
Mon 14th Oct	9.05am KS1 Reading with parents
Mon 14th Oct	Visit from Mr Adebisi drummer/storyteller
Tues 15th Oct	9.05am UKS2 Reading with parents
Wed 16th Oct	Individual pupil photographs
Wed 16th Oct	9.05am LKS2 Reading with parents
Wed 16th Oct	Y5 Duxford Trip
Thurs 17th Oct	9.05am EYFS Reading with parents
Fri 18th Oct	10.45am LKS2 charity bake sale
Mon 21st Oct	'The Investigator' BH and cultural workshop
Thurs 24th Oct	Cultural and natural hair non-school uniform day and BHM Quiz.
Fri 25th Oct	Inset Day
28th Oct—1st Nov	Half term
Fri 8th Nov	5.00pm-8.00pm PTA Fireworks
12th/13th Nov	Parent consultations (info to follow)
18th Nov	Wellbeing Week
Tues 10th Dec	9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production EYFS
Fri 13th Dec	9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production KS1
Tues 17th Dec	KS2 Pantomime at South Mill Arts
Tues 17th Dec	EYFS/KS1 Christmas lunch
Wed 18th Dec	Christmas jumper day
Wed 18th Dec	KS2 Christmas lunch
Wed 18th Dec	Volunteer coffee morning 9am
Thurs 19th Dec	KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Fri 20th Dec	Break the rules day
Fri 20th 2pm	End of term
Fri 24th Jan	Young Voices Choir at the O2

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Heritage and Cultural non-school uniform day

On the last day of this half term, Thursday 24th October, we are encouraging all children to come into school in non-school uniform to celebrate their own heritage and culture. We would like children to wear suitable clothing that represents their culture and heritage. For example they could wear the colours of a national flag or a football kit from a particular country. One of the many celebrations throughout the year is World Afro Hair Day. As a way of acknowledging this day, as part of non-uniform day on the 24th October, we are encouraging children to wear their hair naturally, just be you! We are asking for a donation on the day to fund special visitors who will be doing interactive workshops with the whole school during the month. These include Mr Adebisi, a drummer and storyteller, and 'The Investigator' workshop.

Safeguarding: Parking outside school

Our crossing patrol man received a complaint from a local resident this week regarding a parent parking on Cricketfield Lane. The resident's driveway had been partially blocked, which made it really difficult for them to get their car onto the road, making them late for an appointment. Please always park with courtesy and consider the safety of all the children, parents, staff and wider community.

An evacuee from WW2 visits Year 5

Methuli and Daisy from Kites explained "Ruth, who is 92, came in and made a speech about how she was evacuated as a 6 year old child from Enfield during WW2. She was sent to a family in Hertfordshire along with her brother and later joined another family in Yorkshire. Ruth's mother decided to bring them back home after a year. Her father was too old to fight for his country, but she remembers him building the family a underground Anderson Shelter in the garden to protect them. She explained that it was cold, damp and didn't smell very nice down there! In Enfield, they lived behind a railway station and one night, during an air raid, all the houses behind them were flattened. The class asked what it was like for Ruth during that time. She said that it wasn't very nice, but everyone just got on with it. Someone in the class asked her whether she ate food such as corned beef and Spam during the war. Ruth said she had it a lot! The class really enjoyed her visit and found her fascinating".



National Poetry Day 3rd October

Nightingale class wrote poems on the theme of Autumn. Alice J wrote "Autumn is wonderful, when all the leaves fall down all golden and brown. Autumn has the smallest breeze that lifts over all the trees. Sweets and treats on Halloween day, everyone can play". Brilliant work!

Sport

Northgate Gold and Silver 1 team played away at Manor Fields after school yesterday. Both teams played a really good game but unfortunately the result did not go in their favour.

Bake Sale

On the 18th October Ellie, Elsie and Bea from Hawks will be holding a charity bake sale for Years 3 and 4. This is to raise money for the Red Cross, Ukraine and Gaza crisis appeals. Prices of cakes will range from 50p to £1.50. The sale will be held at break time in the dinning room. All ingredient will be clearly listed on the items.



Reminders and updates

Absences

If your child is unwell please call the office on **01279 652376** or email absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Please ensure that, when reporting an absence, you provide the specific reason why your child cannot attend school. Stating that they are simply "unwell" is not sufficient, and failure to provide a clear explanation will result in this absence being recorded as unauthorised.

Amazon Wish Lists

Below are links to each year group's Amazon Wish list containing books and items that the teachers have carefully selected for their class. We would like to suggest this as an alternative to birthday sweets. If you are in a position to support the school in this way, please have a look through. If you see something you would like to buy, just follow the same process as you would if you were ordering something for yourself. Items will be delivered directly to the school, marked for the attention of the relevant teacher. Thank you for your support; it is much appreciated. Any questions, please contact Louisa Layer.

[SEND Wish List](#) [Nursery Wish List](#) [Reception Wish List](#)
[Year 1 Wish List](#) [Year 2 Wish List](#) [Year 3 Wish List](#)
[Year 4 Wish List](#) [Year 5 Wish List](#) [Year 6 Wish List](#)

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Emily and Sahil

Puffins: Tillie **Owls:** Florence



This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on 'Writing'

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: applying targets from handwriting sessions into their work, writing a fabulous newspaper introduction, brilliant independent work, wonderfully descriptive and interesting writing, creating an amazing narrative about Endurance, practising independent editing with their writing, retelling a story beautifully and always challenging themselves! Well done to:

Robins: Wyatt

Starlings: Harvey

Skylarks: Thomas

Nightingales: Ege

Kestrels: Alexis

Harriers: Maya

Wrens: Lola

Sparrows: Freya

Swifts: Flynn

Kingfishers: Aarav

Kites: Amber

Hawks: Amanda

Harvest Festival

Please bring in donations of food to school on Monday 7th October for Harvest Festival. There will be boxes in each class to put items in. We will display the items at our harvest assembly and then they will be donated to the Bishop's Stortford Food Bank.

Wanted items include: crisps, chocolate, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, sponge puddings, biscuits, coffee, tea, fruit juice, cereal, tinned meat/fish, jam, honey, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes, rice puddings, UHT milk, soup, sanitary items, toilet rolls, toiletries, cleaning items and nappies size 4/5/6.

Mrs Morgan would like donations of cat and dog food (no fish) for the charity 'Herts for Hedgehogs'. She will kindly take the food up there to them. Please bring donations to the office, please note they do not like fish!

Northgate School Association

PTA Events Calendar

The PTA is busy working on lots of lovely events for our children and families to enjoy over the academic year. Please see our Events Calendar attached. If you have any ideas for future events or you would like to help us, please do contact us at ptanorthgate@gmail.com. We'd love your support!

Halloween Tuck Shop

Our Halloween Tuck Shop is taking place on Tuesday 22nd October where you can buy lollies and treat bags at pick up time. Lots of sweets treats! Please bring cash if possible.

Christmas Cards and Gifts (we know it's early!)

Before half term, each child will bring home a Christmas order form where they can create fabulous artwork which can then be converted into Christmas cards and gifts. Please return it to your class teacher by Friday 8th November 2024, so we can ensure you get your products by the end of November!

Our Fireworks Night

The response to this event has simply been fantastic. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there. We do need volunteers to make it a success. If you can, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-50510704-northgate>

Thank you for your continued support.
Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team