

March 17th 2023

Headteacher's News

Our county attendance officer visited the school this week, as schools have a legal duty to promote high levels of attendance. She was concerned about the number of children who are persistently absent or late and would like the leadership and governors to consider fining parents for holidays and for unexplained absences. Our school absence rate has not currently improved from last year, when we had so much covid. We are aware that many children in the school have some serious illnesses, but there are a number of children who are regularly off with minor ones. I have been advised not to authorise vague statements such as 'unwell' or children who are regularly taking days off with minor ailments such as headaches, particularly if this happens regularly or there is a pattern of certain days. Please support your children's education by ensuring they are in school as much as possible. This not only impacts their learning but also helps your child secure social relationships. Mrs Leeks, our pastoral lead, can work with families where a child is struggling to get into school. Parents whose children are persistently absent with an attendance below 90% (equivalent to a day off each fortnight) will be receiving attendance letters shortly 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 good weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual.

As part of Neurodiversity Celebration Week the school's Diversity, our Inclusion and Well Being Council made a video to share with staff and students that helped to explain a bit about Neurodiversity and how we can all be understanding of our differences. The video will be going out on Google classrooms so parents can re-watch it with their children.

This week the [nursery class](#) have learnt about going to the café. In the children's initiated learning time, they have had the opportunities to learn in different areas inside and outside, such as, learning about real coins while making rubbings, observe cascading fine sand from giant teapots and even learnt what cutlery materials would be magnetic.

As part of their weekly music lesson with Mrs Black they enjoyed singing counting songs such as Five currant Buns in a baker's shop or Ten fat sausages sizzling in a pan. They also learnt about the vibration echo of ringing a triangle.



Important Dates

Thurs 23rd March

w/c 27th March

Mon 27th March

Mon 27th March

Tues 28th March

Tues 28th & Weds 29th

Weds 29th March

Weds 29th March

Weds 29th March

Thurs 30th March

Fri 31st March

Mon 17th April

May 2023

Mon 1st May

Mon 8th May

Fri 12th May

9th-12th May

Fri 19th May

29th-2nd June

Wed 7th June

Mon 5th June

5th-9th June

Sat 10th June

w/c 12th June

Mon 26th June

12th -16th June

12th -23th June

Tues 13th June

w/c 17th July

Thurs 20th July

Friday 21st July

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Year 3/4 production 2.15pm and 6.00pm performances

Creative thinking week

Year 3 visit to Colchester Castle

9.00am reception challenge with parents/work sharing

9.00am LSK2 Challenge with parents/work sharing

Computer Explorers—lego robotics workshop.

Morning children 8.45am/afternoon children 2.45pm nursery challenge with parents/work sharing.

9.00am KS1 challenge with parents/work sharing House cross country final

9.00am UKS2 challenge with parents/work sharing

Term Ends **2.00pm**

Children return to school

Y2 SATs Week

Bank Holiday

The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday

2pm PTA committee meeting (in person)

Y6 SATs Week

PTA Film Night (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)

Half term

Y3 Celtic Harmony Trip

INSET DAY

Y6 School Journey

PTA Summer Fayre

PTA Father's Day Shop

7.30pm PTA committee meeting (online)

Y1 Phonics Week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)

Y4 Times Tables Tests

Happy Bag collection

PTA Ice Cream Sales

End of Term at 2.00pm

Occasional day

Safeguarding

Important information about Medicines

A medicinal product is any product that maybe used to treat a physical condition. These include prescription, over the counter and non-prescription remedies such as [lip balms](#), [Vaseline](#), [lozenges](#) and [creams](#) etc.

All medication must be supplied in its original packaging with inserts/ information leaflets and original prescription label where applicable.

No nuts or nut products are allowed in school this includes **salves/ creams**.

All requests for medication to be administered must be accompanied by a "request to administer medication form". Which can be found on the school website under parent information—medication. When the form has been submitted the medication must be handed to the school office. **Medication must never be in a childs bag.**

This is a safety requirement to ensure that children do not share Medications, as they are not aware of others' allergies.

The **Reception** children have been combining art and science to investigate what will happen when we mix different coloured paint. We used red, blue and yellow paint to predict what would happen and then paint one hand in one colour and the other a different one. Then we rubbed our hands together to see what new colour we would make. We had lots of messy fun and explored the world around us.

Year 5 & 6 went on a trip to The Bishop's Stortford College this week for science sessions. They looked at forces and studied a forensic crime scene. This was very educational and informative for the children and they really enjoyed the experience.



Reminders and Updates

Parent volunteers we need your help!

On Wednesday 22nd March at 9.00 Mrs Layer would really appreciate some help from parent volunteers to laminate and trim packs of resources for KS1 and KS2. If you would like to help please email Mrs Layer on rec2@northgate.herts.sch.uk. Thank you for your support.

Northgate Community Project

Many families are struggling with increases in the cost of living, especially due to increased supermarket prices. To support some of our families we would like to offer them a household hamper for the holidays. If you feel you may be in a position to help by donating some of these products, we would all be very grateful. Please leave any donations of the following new items in the donation box in the front foyer.

(Washing powder, soap (nut product free), handwash (nut product free), toilet roll, kitchen paper, anti-bacterial spray, dishcloths, shampoo, deodorant, sanitary products, nappies, tissues)

If you would be interested in receiving one of these, please email Mrs Ferdinand at Suzanne.ferdiand@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Parking complaint

We have received a complaint regarding a problem with parents double parking at drop off. On one occasion this week, a parent double parked and actually left their car for 5-10 minutes, blocking another parent's car, consequently making them late for work. We all lead busy lives, but please be mindful of others. It is very frustrating for parents that get to school early to ensure they can leave promptly and they are not able to.

Glue stick donations!

We currently have a shortage of glue sticks in school. They are used every day in most lessons! We would really appreciate any glue stick donations (Pritt Stick or similar). If you would like to donate a glue stick to your child's class, please send them in with one and they can give it to the class teacher for the class to use. Thank you.

Clubs

We have a whole range of clubs children can join at Northgate please click [here](#) to see our spring term clubs list.

Year 3/4 Production

The Year 3/4 production 'Pirates and Mermaids' is on Thursday, 23rd March. Tickets are limited to a maximum of two per family (one daytime, one evening). We appreciate some families would like more but we are limited for space. The door will be open at 2.00pm for the afternoon performance and 5.30pm for the evening performance and the children need to be back at school for 6.00pm. Please can the children bring their costumes into school by next Monday 20th March.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Amara and Jenson R1: Harvey R2: Evelyn

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on 'Writing'. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: a huge improvement in the presentation of their work and quality of writing, including a range of openers in her diary writing, amazing progress with their writing, making a big effort to write a high level newspaper report with formal language, amazing independent sentence writing, imaginative writing, using a range of conjunctions, making fantastic progress, using more creativity and imagination, for showing huge improvement in their effort and quality of writing, fantastic persuasive writing on why we should keep playtime. High quality pieces across genres demonstrating a command of grammatical techniques and ambitious vocabulary choices.



Class 1 Thomas

Class 7: Rose

Class 2: Louie

Class 8: Rita

Class 3: Freddie

Class 9: Elyse

Class 4: Alfie

Class 10: Mathew

Class 5: Sasha L

Class 11: Annie

Class 6: Felix

Class 12: Jude

School Dinner Charges

The summer menu will be released on Tuesday 17th April. In line with this date, Herts Catering have increased their prices which will unfortunately reflect on the cost to parents for a school dinner. The cost of all school meals will therefore increase to £3.20 per day, effective from 17th April 2023.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive free school meals. Please look out for further information which will be sent out separately.

Northgate School Association

Mother's Day

We want to wish all our Mothers and Carers a wonderful Mother's Day! We hope you enjoy your gifts.

Thank you to Katie Homer, Natalie Gill and Louise Smith for taking the lead on this event. We had an overwhelming response to our Mother's Day Shop this year- thank you.

Photography Competition

Is it spring yet? Have you spotted any first signs?!

The March calendar theme is "Spring is in the air". We can't wait to receive your photos of the first signs of spring you've found!

Please send in your photo entries to calendar@northgatepta.com for the chance to be published in our school calendar, and receive a winners certificate and a free calendar for you and your family! Please note we can only accept photographs from Northgate students.

Standon for Schools

Just a reminder about Standon Calling which is an unforgettable festival weekend for your family. Immerse your brood in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, with entertainment for all ages across main stages, woodland, water and dedicated kids' areas.

For every order placed, using our unique booking link below, 10% of the total face value will be donated to Northgate PTA. Plus we get discounted tickets!

<https://go.kaboodle.co.uk/Northgate-Primary-School-CM232RL>

The more tickets bought via our unique link, the more money is raised for our school – and the more fun will be had by all at Standon Calling!

Your PTA Co-Chairs: Geri Wren & Jo Parrott