

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

September 5th 2025

Headteacher's News

A very warm welcome back to the Autumn term and to all the new families joining our community. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break. We've had an excellent start to the term, with the children settling in brilliantly, demonstrating positive attitudes to learning, and looking incredibly smart in their uniforms. The year ahead promises to be full of exciting opportunities, and our staff have planned a wide variety of engaging events and experiences to make it another memorable year.

Welcome to all our new teachers, Miss Day and Mrs Rolfe. We also welcome Marley Thistlewaite to the staff team, who will be working in Year 3. You will have opportunities to meet your child's teacher at the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions over the coming weeks. We greatly value working in partnership with parents to support every child's learning and wellbeing. If you have a concern relating to your child, please speak with the class teacher. To arrange a meeting, you can send a note, use the new class email address, or speak with the teacher at the end of the school day. Please note that teachers are not available for conversations at 8:40am, as they are busy preparing for lessons. If you have a message for the teacher in the morning, please speak to the office.

If, after speaking with the class teacher, you still feel the matter has not been resolved, you are welcome to arrange a meeting with one of our middle leaders this year: Mrs McFarlane, Mr Sainsbury, Mrs Shepherd, or Mr Brown. They will be happy to support you further. For safeguarding reasons, we kindly ask that adults do not go around the back of the school in the mornings. Anyone who needs to come into school during the day should sign in at the school office. I look forward to seeing all students develop and make good progress this year, whilst working in partnership with our parents. Mrs J Tanner.

Parental Involvement

We value your support and involvement in the school and there are a number of ways for you to become involved:

One-to-One Reading

We are looking for parents who would like to help with reading in KS1 or KS2 (Mon-Thurs) in the afternoons. Having an adult read with children makes a huge difference to their learning. Reading will start on **Monday 8th September**. If you would like to help this year, whether you have previously helped before or not, please complete an on-line form to let us know when you are available. You can find this on our website. Safeguarding in schools is paramount and all adults volunteering will need annual updates. If you do want help in school, I would be grateful if you could ensure that you attend this session. If you are interested in helping in class, please contact the office or your class teacher. Thank you.

The next session for volunteers will be on **Wednesday 17th September at 9.00am and will include a supporting reading training session.**

Other Support.

If you are interested in committing time each week to volunteering in a class or in the library, helping children change books or with simple admin work, please let the office or your child's class teacher know. Many thanks.

Important Dates

Wed 10th Sept	Y5 9am Meet the Teacher
Wed 10th Sept	Y2 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Thurs 11th Sept	Y3 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Fri 12th Sept	Y4 9am Meet the Teacher
Mon 15th Sept	7.30pm PTA AGM
Tues 16th Sept	R 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Wed 17th Sept	Y5 Trip to Duxford
Wed 17th Sept	9am Volunteer reading sessions
Wed 17th Sept	Y1 2.50am Meet the Teacher
Thurs 18th Sept	Y6 9am Meet the Teacher
Tues 7th Oct	Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
	9.20am phonics parent workshop
Wed 8th Oct	KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
Mon 20th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Tues 21st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents
Wed 22nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Thurs 23rd Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents/information workshop.
Fri 24th Oct	Inset Day
27th –31st Oct	Half Term
Tues 9th Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am-2.40pm
Fri 12th Dec	KS1 9.10am/2.40pm Christmas production
Thurs 18th Dec	KS2 2pm Church service St Michaels Church
Fri 19th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
22nd Dec—2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5th Jan	Inset Day
Tues 6th Jan	School term starts
16th—20th Feb	Half Term
Fri 27th Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter
30th Mar—10th April	Easter Holidays

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Contacting Class Teachers

The new class emails are below. Please be aware these are not for emergency information as they may not be looked at daily. Please allow 3 working days to receive a response.

Mrs McFarlane - ducklings@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Miss Prow - puffins@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Aziz/Mrs Cope - owls@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Miss Day - robins@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Stephens/Mrs Hickey - wrens@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mr Sainsbury - starlings@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Ahwe/Mrs Rolfe - sparrows@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Jones/Mrs Pratt - skylarks@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Miss Cotterell - swifts@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Venning - nightingales@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Shepherd - kingfishers@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Hartley - kestrels@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Ferdinand/Miss Adams - kites@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Layer/Mrs Gitto - harriers@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mr Brown - hawks@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Safeguarding

Medicines: If your child requires medicine during the school day, a 'Administration of Medication' form must be completed. You will find the form on our school website or [here](#). An adult must hand the medication in/collected to/from the school office. **Children must not bring medicines to school in their bags or pockets.** The medication must be in its original packaging, with leaflets, in date and, where relevant, have the pharmacy label attached. It is vital that parents **keep aware of expiry dates** and replace items such as inhalers and auto-injectors prior to expiry.

EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY

Reminders and Updates

School Day

The gates open at 8:40 AM and close at 8:50 AM. All reception children should come to the **main gate**, where they will line up with their class teachers and walk together into their class.

If you arrive after 8:50 AM, please go through the school office to sign in. Pick-up is at 3:20 PM, with all children being collected from outside their classrooms. We kindly ask parents and carers to stand behind the line in the playground to ensure that teachers can clearly see you when releasing your child.

Uniform Reminders

Skirts and trousers must be smart school wear. The Upper Key Stage 2 children are expected to wear a shirt and tie. Ties are optional in Lower Key Stage 2. **All items of uniform must be named.** Smart black shoes should be worn, without flashing lights (or with the lights turned off). Children are **not allowed** to wear trainers, fashion shoes or boots.

Children are **not allowed** to wear earrings or other jewellery in school. Children who have not had their earrings removed after the summer need to have a letter explaining the situation with the date they are removed, addressed to Mrs Tanner. Smart watches must not be worn in school. Hair accessories must be bottle green. No extreme hairstyles are allowed. Thank you for your support.

During PE lessons all children should wear bottle green shorts (unbranded) with and a white t-shirt (with school logo or unbranded white t-shirt) or a **bottle green** tracksuit. **PE Days are as follows:**
Nursery—Wednesday, Reception—Tuesday and Thursday, Year 1 Tuesday and Wednesday, Year 2—Monday and Friday, Year 3 Tuesday and Thursday, Year 4 Monday and Wednesday (Nightingales normal uniform on Wednesday as Swimming), Year 5 Monday and Friday, Year 6 Tuesday and Friday.

Water bottles

Please make sure your children's water bottles are named. Thank you.

School Lunches

Pre-ordering lunches on School Grid allows the kitchen sufficient time to order the correct amounts of food for each week. Please try to do this as much as possible, thank you.

Mobile Phones/Permission to walk home

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school, unless walking home alone (UKS2). The school encourages children to bring **non smart phones**. **A year 5 or 6 child may have permission from their parent to walk home alone (please fill out a permission slip on our website stating this.)** If you submitted this form last year, you will need to fill it out again for this school year. All phones will be handed to their class teacher as they come into registration and will be given back to them at the end of the day. On days when they are not walking home alone, UKS2 children should not have phones in school.

Parking

Please remember to show consideration to others when driving and parking near the school. If possible, please use the rugby club for parking and cross with Tony, our crossing patrol person. Traffic wardens and local police do monitor the area during drop-off and pick-up times to ensure the safety of our children.

Glue Sticks

As you may know, schools are facing increasing financial challenges. If you would like to help, one way is by providing your child with a named glue stick.

Summer Reading Challenge

If your child participated in the summer reading challenge, we would love to see their certificates and medals! We will be celebrating their achievements in an upcoming assembly.

French Challenge

Mrs Edwards would love to see if any children have completed the French holiday challenge during the summer. Please bring in your work if you were able to do this.

Pupil Premium Grant

If you are struggling financially and think you may need help, then please consider checking your eligibility for free school meals by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Please look out for further communication from Northgate regarding support with eligibility checks. We would like to help identify anyone who might be able to claim funding towards additional staff time, support financially with school trips, extra computers, books, trips, etc. If you have any questions or would like help with an application, please email Mrs Ferdinand on pupilpremium@northgate.herts.sch.uk.

Healthy Snacks

We have an increasing number of children in school with a range of allergies, including a **severe airborne allergy**. To ensure that all children can learn and play in a safe environment, we are making some changes to the playtime snacks allowed in school. Starting from this term, the only snacks permitted at playtime will be **fruit or vegetables (This can include dried fruit but it must not be coated in anything such as yogurt etc)**. This will help us reduce the risk of allergic reactions, while also supporting our ongoing commitment to promoting healthy eating.

For children in **EYFS and Key Stage 1**, fruit/vegetables will continue to be provided in school as usual.

We kindly ask that parents to ensure any snacks brought from home are fruit/vegetables only.

In line with county guidelines, our school has decided not to allow birthday sweets. Families are welcome to celebrate by donating another gift such as a book for their class (suggestions are on our Amazon wishlists). www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/amazon_wish_lists/666476

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep all of our pupils safe and well. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

European Day of Languages

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On Thursday 25th September, Northgate will be celebrating European Day of Languages. We are looking for any parents or carers who speak another language. We would love it if you could come in to a class or year group and give a short talk about your language in the week commencing 22nd September. Last year, we had amazing feedback from the children and would like to do this again. Some examples were reading a short story in another language, teaching some key vocabulary or showing some pictures of a country where that language is spoken. This would be something like a 15 minute session and can be with your child's class or another class. Please email Mrs Gitto at harriers@northgate.herts.sch.uk if you are interested. Thank you!

Communication

Newsletter & Instagram

The newsletter is our main form of communication to parents and it is usually sent out after school on Friday afternoon (it can also be found on the school website). If you are not receiving emails or your email address changes, please let the office know ASAP. We do have an Instagram and facebook account [@northgateprimary school](https://www.instagram.com/northgateprimaryschool), which allows us to share exciting Moments—please follow us.

Nursery parents

Nursery parents should have received a welcome email to set up an account on Arbor. This will allow you to view and update your child's information easily. If you have any problems or queries, please call into the office, and they will be happy to assist you.