

November 25th 2022

Headteacher's News

I am sure that you saw in the news this week that according to the watchdog, only 17% of "outstanding" schools kept their grade when they had a full re-inspection in 2021-22. The fall in grades comes alongside a new criterion for inspections, introduced in September 2019. It focuses on the curriculum and overall "quality of education". Ofsted's director of education, Chris Russell, has said, "Some newly downgraded schools may not have actually worsened, but instead that the new inspection framework has made the "outstanding" grade more "challenging and exacting". When Northgate was last inspected the curriculum focus was really just English and Maths, while now it considers the whole curriculum and put emphasis on what knowledge children retain in all subjects. As a school, we are awaiting Ofsted, and we continually strive for excellence in all that we do to provide the best possible education for all our pupils. However, we are aware that we are in a very different education environment with very much more challenging expectations from the time of the last inspection. If you would like the chance to tell Ofsted what you think of Northgate you can do so by clicking [here](#) for Ofsted Parent View.

There is the PTA AGM on Monday 28th November at 7.30pm. This is taking place online and everyone is welcome. Please see the PTA section for more details.

Have a great weekend.



Enriching the Curriculum

Autumn walk

On Monday [Year 1](#) went on a walk in our local area. We were looking for signs of Autumn as inspiration for our writing for the rest of the week. The children were asked to make 'weave boards' as part of their homework,

which they used on the walk to collect leaves, pine-cones, acorns etc. We had a wonderful time and managed to get back before the rain set in and just in time for a hot chocolate and a biscuit! Thank you to all the parent helpers, we could not have done this without you.



Gardening club

In gardening club this week the group searched the school grounds for evergreen foliage. They then made displays using oasis to take home. These were beautiful and had a lovely aroma.



KS2 Inter-schools Cheerleading Competition

The Northgate All-Stars were amazing at Birchwood on Wednesday. They scored top marks for their stunts, tumbling and team unity. The coach said that the team represented their school with a memorable performance and were brilliant!



Year 2 Sports Fixture

A few [Year 2](#) child attended their first sports fixture on Thursday which was a great success. Children participated in several ball skill activities and other games including target practise and team building games. Well done!

Important Dates

Mon 28th Nov	7.30pm PTA AGM (virtual meeting)
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
Wed 14th Dec	KS1 Finish school at 3.10pm
Wed 14th Dec	KS2 Pantomime South Mills "Jack and the Bean Stalk" (pick up from South Mills. You may pick KS1 children slightly earlier, more details to follow)
	Year 3—3.30pm
	Year 4—3.35pm
	Year 5—3.40pm
	Year 6—3.45pm
Thurs 15th Dec	KS2 St Michael's church carol service (Parents welcome. pick up from church at 3pm)
Fri 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper day.
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
May 2023	Y2 SATs Week
Mon 1st May	Bank Holiday
Mon 8th May	The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday
9th-12th May	Y6 SATs Week
29th-2nd June	Half term
Mon 5th June	INSET DAY
12th -16th June	Y1 Phonics Week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)
12th -23th June	Y4 Times Tables Tests
Thurs 20th July	End of Term at 2.00pm

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Become a Governor at Northgate

For more information on joining the Governing Board, please contact the school office by emailing secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk. An outline of a governor's role can be seen here <https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

Safeguarding

Playground equipment

Please do not allow your child to climb on the playground apparatus before or after school.

Even if you are supervising your child, other children are then encouraged to play who may not be supervised. There have been accidents in the past and your co-operation with this is appreciated.

Scoters

Please remind your children, including pre-schoolers, that they are not permitted to scoot or cycle on school premises. The entrance area is extremely busy in the morning and we do not wish to have any accidents. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent Supervision

Please remember to supervise younger children at all times in the playground as it is a very busy environment at drop off and pick up.

Enriching the curriculum

Basketball

Last Thursday Year 5 and 6 went to Birchwood Secondary school for a basketball tournament. Once we were there we were split into two teams. Team one did an outstanding job with their determination and team work. We dodged past the other teams and defended extremely well. Team 2 did an amazing job too working as a team and supporting each other. Thank you to Mr. Dunn and Mrs. Leeks

Northgate v Howe Green football match—silver and gold team.

On Tuesday Northgate played Howe Green. We won 7-0. Archie scored 4 goals, Matthew 1, Ronnie 1, Oscar 1 but unfortunately Freddie hit the cross bar. We really pushed the other team! By Freddie Class 9

'I think Mac and Alfie played really well, Alfie got man of the match!' By Theo Class 9

Girls' football

The girls' football match against Windhill on Wednesday after school was fun and we worked well together as a team. Sadly our team lost but Matilda scored a wicked goal! Both our goalies Olivia and Holly were amazing, Ruby and Holly were great defenders and Noamie was great at tackling. I think we play really well. By Daisy Class 9

Last night, Windhill 21 came to our school and played in a football match. Both teams played really well and at the end congratulated each other. Even though we lost, all of Northgate enjoyed the game! By Noamie Class 9

Religious studies

Year 5 are learning about Christianity in RE and on Wednesday we learnt about the bible stories that share the things that Jesus did, for example feeding the 5000. The class were in groups and had to act out something amazing happening. We had people being given millions of pounds, people being given mansions, and people rising back from the dead!



Reminders and Updates

Christmas Cards for Pupils

One of our parents has pointed out that if each child wrote a Christmas card to everyone in their class, that adds up to more than 13,000 cards across the school.

She has seen an idea which we think is inspiring. The suggestion is that each child writes/makes a card for the whole class and these cards are displayed in the classroom.

It makes sense that all of the children can appreciate each card and fewer cards end up in the recycling/landfill! We know children love to write cards to their friends, but it is something to think about.

School crossing patrol Vacancy - Job Share Considered

Hertfordshire County Council are looking for someone who would be interested in becoming the school crossing patrol.

They urgently need to appoint a school crossing patrol at your school. Do you know anyone who would be interested in taking up this position?

The pay is £10.60 per hour (excluding enhancements)

If you are interested or if you would like further information please contact: Active and Safer Travel Team on Tel: 01992 556803 or e-mail janet.fairhead@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Eco Council

The Eco Council held their first meeting this morning with Mrs Tanner. The main focus today was to consider how to improve litter problems within the school grounds. There was some very good discussions and the children's ideas were bountiful. After this meeting members liaised with Mrs Morris the School Business Manager and it was agreed that Northgate will source two new litter bins for the playground. There will also be a letter picking rota drawn up for lunchtimes. The Eco Council will also be working on designing a PowerPoint to show during the school assembly. They hope this will inspire all the children to become more mindful of their environment.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Emilie and Olivia



R1: Nicole R2: Novanna

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on Geography and History.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: using an atlas to locate different countries, mountains, identifying oceans, correctly naming the continents on a world map and for helping others around them to understand compass directions. In History they were praised for: well thought out and interesting contributions to each history lesson, for writing a wonderful letter imagining themselves as a soldier during WW1 and for fantastic knowledge of WW1 and even teaching the teacher some interesting facts that they didn't know!

Class 1: Wren Class 7: Ellie

Class 2: Xavier Class 8: Sebastian

Class 3: Alice Class 9: Fletcher

Class 4: Henry Class 10: Elisa

Class 5: Matty Class 11: Jack

Class 6: Agnes Class 12: Jude

Helpers and donations wanted for our KS1 Book-vent Calendars!

At Northgate we are always looking for new ways to inspire and engage the children with their reading. In Key stage One, we will be promoting a love of reading during the Advent period with our Book-vent Calendars! Each class will pick out a new wrapped book every day during December. The teacher will then unwrap and reveal the book, building the suspense and excitement of what it could be as they reveal it a little at a time! We will then share and enjoy the book together for our class story.

If anyone is willing to give up a little time to help wrap the books, please email Mrs Shepherd at class3@northgate.herts.sch.uk. We will hold a wrapping session on Friday 2nd of December at 9am.

If anyone has any especially high-quality, inspiring and engaging picture books or non-fiction books they would like to donate, please leave them in the box in the office. These do not need to be Christmas themed. Only one donation per family please. We would also welcome donations of Christmas wrapping paper. Please hand in any donations of books and wrapping paper by Thursday 1st December.

Many thanks,
Mrs Shepherd



Northgate School Association

PTA AGM

Just a reminder that our PTA AGM is taking place virtually on Monday 28th November at 7.30pm. Should you wish to attend, please let us know ptanorthgate@gmail.com

PTA Christmas Film Night

Tickets are still available for our Christmas Film Night on Friday 2nd December 2022 from 3.15pm. Please order here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/northgate-pta-christmas-film-night-2022/2022-12-02/15:15/t-qjpmame>

As always, we can't run these events without you, so please do sign up here to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-northgate9>

Pre-loved Christmas Clothes

We will be holding further pre loved Christmas Clothes sales on Friday 2nd December and Friday 9th December. If you have any unwanted Christmas jumpers, t-shirts, dresses, hair accessories, hats, ties, glasses and stockings, please do take them into the School Office.

Thank you!

Your Northgate PTA Co-Chairs

Geri Wren and Jo Parrott