

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

September 4th 2026

Headteacher's News

A very warm welcome back to the Autumn term, and an especially warm welcome to all the new families joining our school community. I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It has been wonderful to see the children back in school. They have settled into their new classes extremely well, showing enthusiasm for their learning and making a fantastic start to the new school year.

Everyone is also looking very smart in their uniforms!

Welcome to all our new teachers, Mrs Hall and Miss Williams. We also welcome Mr Scott to the staff team, who will be working in Year 6. 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, use the 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, Mrs Hall, Mrs Shepherd, or Mr Brown. They will be happy to support you further. For safeguarding reasons, adults are not allowed to 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.

We have lots to look forward to over the coming year, with our staff preparing a wide range of exciting learning opportunities, activities and experiences. We are looking forward to another happy, successful and memorable year together.

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 and regular support.

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 7th 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 – [Volunteer Agreement Form](#)

Safeguarding in schools is paramount and all adults volunteering regularly will need annual updates and DBS checks. If you do want help in school, we would be grateful if you could ensure that you attend a safeguarding session and speak the school office about relevant checks. 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.

The next session for volunteers will be on Wednesday 16th September at 9.00am and will include a supporting reading training session.

Many thanks.

Important Dates

Tues 8th Sept	Y3 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Wed 9th Sept	Y2 3.00pm Meet the Teacher
Thur 10th Sept	Y6 3.00pm Meet the Teacher
Fri 11th Sept	Y4 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Mon 14th Sept	Rec. 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Wed 16th Sept	Y5 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Wed 16th Sept	Y1 3.00pm Meet the Teacher
Mon 5th Oct	Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
	9.20am phonics parent workshop
Thurs 8th Oct	KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
	followed by parent workshop
Wed 14th Oct	Whole school individual photos
Mon 19th Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents
Tues 20th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Wed 21st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents
Thurs 22nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Fri 23rd Oct	Inset Day
26th-30th Oct	Half Term
Tues 8th Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am/2.30pm
Wed 9th Dec	KS2 Pantomime 1:30pm South Mills
Fri 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas production: 9.10am/2.40pm
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 17th Dec	KS2 13:45pm Carol Concert St Michaels
Friday 18th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
21st Dec—1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4th Jan	Inset day
Tues 5th Jan	School term starts
15th—19th Feb	Half Term
25th Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter
30th Mar—9th April	Easter Holidays

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
 Miss Williams - starlings@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Ahwe/Mrs Hall - sparrows@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Jones/Mrs Rolfe - 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
 Miss Hartley - kestrels@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Ferdinand/Mrs Edwards - 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.

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. Uniform can be purchased from AVM workwear & schoolwear, <https://avmworkwear.co.uk>

Children are **not allowed** to wear earrings or other jewellery in school. Soft clear plastic retainers/spacers may be worn. For children who have not had their earrings removed after the summer, please send an email to admin giving the date they are removed, with the subject; Earrings- For the attention Mrs Tanner. Smart watches must not be worn in school. Hair accessories must be bottle green. No extreme hairstyles eg tramlines. Thank you.

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 Friday; Year 1 Tuesday and Wednesday ; Year 2—Monday and Friday ; Year 3 Monday and Friday ; Year 4 Monday and Wednesday (Nightingales normal uniform on Wednesday as swimming) ; Year 5 Tuesday and Thursday and 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.

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, please consider checking your eligibility for free school meals by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals From Sept 26 all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals. Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2 children already receive free school meals but this could you some extra support for your child. 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 would like to remind you that, the only snacks permitted at playtime are **fruit or vegetables (This can include dried fruit but it must not be coated in anything such as yogurt etc)**. This helps 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 24th 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 21st 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.