

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

October 23rd 2020

Headteacher's News

I would like to thank parents for their support this half term as we have adjusted to our ever changing situation. With all the challenges encountered in school, I would also like to thank all the staff for their commitment to supporting the children with their well-being and their learning as they returned to full time education.

Herts County Council have asked Headteachers to remind parents and carers to keep playing their part and follow Government and Public Health guidance over the half-term break. If your child is self-isolating in the period covering half-term and beyond, it's important they understand that self-isolation rules continue during the holidays.

I am sure everyone is ready for the rest during half term. With an INSET day on the 2nd November, we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 3rd November for our well-being week. Thank you to our PTA for supporting this event.

This half term has ended with an interesting day focused on Black History. Work from each class was shared with the school through our assembly on Google Classrooms. Please see below for more information.

Happy half term!

Important Dates - 2020/21

26th - 30th Oct	October Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov	INSET DAY
Tues 3rd Nov	Children Return to School
Tues 3rd Nov	Yr 2 Pirate Day
3rd - 6th Nov	Wellbeing Week
Fri 6th Nov	Parent information videos released
9th- 12th Nov	Parent Consultations
16th-27th Nov	Yr 2 Phonics Screening
Tues 17th Nov	PTA AGM
Fri 11th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
Weds 16th Dec	School virtual Christmas videos released
Thurs 17th Dec	Winning House Non-Uniform Day
Fri 18th Dec	PTA - Break the Rules Day
Fri 18th Dec	End of Term at 2.00pm
Mon 4th Jan	Children Return to School
15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
Fri 26th March	End of Term at 2.00pm
Mon 12th Apr	Children Return to School
Mon 3rd May	May Bank Holiday
10th-13th May	KS2 SATs week
May 2021	KS1 SATs
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
Mon 7th June	INSET DAY
7th-11th June	Yr 1 Phonics Screening and Yr 2 Retakes
7th-18th June	Yr 4 Multiplication Tests
Weds 21st July	End of Term at 2.00pm
Thurs 22nd July	OCCASIONAL DAY

Enriching the Curriculum - Black History Day

Reception

This week we have been focusing on individuality and inclusivity.



We have focused our learning on the book 'All Are Welcome' by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman. A link of the story can be found [here](#). The story follows a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcome, no matter their race, religion or background.

Year 1

In Year one we talked about segregation and about this meaning separation. We looked at Ruby Bridges and talked about how she must have felt attending a school where she was discriminated against every day. We talked about how we would feel if we were in her position and about how fantastic our differences are.



Year 2 have been looking at Rosa Parks as their significant individual for Black History Day. They learnt and discussed the impact that Rosa Parks had on the nationwide effort to end racial segregation of public facilities in the 1900s. Year 2 enjoyed writing a factfile on Rosa Parks and finding out about her life.



Play Leaders

A group of Year 5 pupils had a fantastic opportunity this week to take part in Play Leader training with Claire Peet from Birchwood School. The children had

lots of opportunities to think about what makes a good leader and why the role is so important at school. They then had time to lead each other with different games, thinking about how they would lead these games with other children in school. It was a great afternoon where the children learnt lots of new skills.



Safeguarding

With the clocks changing this weekend, the staff car park will start to become extremely dark at the end of the day and it is impossible to see small children running across it. Therefore, for health and safety reasons, please do not park in or walk through the staff car park to pick up for night owls. as we do not wish to have any accidents. Please use the laybys at the front of the school which are well lit.

Enriching the Curriculum - Black History Day



Year 3

In Year 3 we learnt about Harriet Tubman's mission to lead as many slaves as possible to freedom. We used our knowledge of biographies to write a fact file.

Year 4

In Year 4 we discussed the significance of Elizabeth Heyrick and her passion for people being treated equally. We learnt how she campaigned for the abolition of slavery and explored people's beliefs around slavery.



Year 5

During Black History day, Year 5 linked PSHE and History, focusing on discrimination and segregation. They focused their learning on the life of Martin Luther King and how he had an important role to play with the Civil Rights Movement. We looked at some of his famous quotes and thought about the significance of them.



Year 6

In class we watched a video on what the civil rights movement was and recorded our understanding. We then looked at Ella Baker and her role as 'the mother of the civil rights movement'. The children found this very interesting and had a detailed discussion with thoughtful insights. We then linked this to today's issues and the Black lives matter movement. We discussed the meaning and role of white privilege in society and the importance in educating people of these issues.



Covid-19 Update

If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any point during half-term, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. During half-term please contact admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk. Please don't call the normal absence line as this won't be covered during half-term.

For children self-isolating in the period covering half-term and beyond it's important to ensure that self-isolation rules continue to be adhered to during the holidays.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test. If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit [website](#).

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery	AM: Charlie C	R1: Rosie
	PM: Charlotte	R2: Mario

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on History.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for showing a good understanding of the history of the civil rights movement and making thoughtful insights during their work on Ella Baker.

Well done to:

Class 1: Matthew	Class 7: Eshaal
Class 2: Felix	Class 8: Kiki
Class 3: Evlyn	Class 9: Annie and Saffron
Class 4: Sebastian	Class 10: Olivia
Class 5: Elyse	Class 11: Isla A and Charlotte
Class 6: Jack and Millie	Class 12: Will

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations form an important part of the school/home partnership in supporting your child. It also gives parents a chance to understand their child's strengths and areas of development.

Unavoidably at this time, we will be unable to hold the consultation meetings in school and parents will be able to book a slot to speak to the teacher by telephone in order to avoid any unnecessary delays which are sometimes experienced with online meetings.

Slots will shortly be available to book on School Gateway and will take place during the week of 9th November.

All classes will have appointments available between 4pm and 7pm on Tuesday 10th November. Further sessions will also be run during the school day depending on the teacher's availability.

The schedule for telephone appointments will therefore be:

Whole School - Tuesday 10th November 4pm to 7pm, then additionally on:-

Nursery - Wednesday 11th November 9.00am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Reception 1 & 2 - Tuesday 10th November 1.00pm-4.00pm

Year 1/Class 1 - Monday 9th November PM sessions

Year 1/Class 2 - Thursday 12th November PM sessions

Year 2/Class 3 - Wednesday 11th November PM sessions

Year 2/Class 4 - Thursday 12th November PM sessions

Year 3/Class 5 - Monday 9th November PM sessions

Year 3/Class 6 - Thursday 12th November PM sessions

Year 4/Class 7 - Thursday 12th November PM sessions

Year 4/Class 8 - Thursday 12th November PM sessions

Year 5/Class 9 - Monday 9th November PM sessions

Year 5/Class 10 - Tuesday 10th November PM sessions

Year 6/Class 11 - Tuesday 10th November 4pm to 7pm

Year 6/Class 12 - Tuesday 10th November PM sessions.

*PM sessions - 12.45pm to 2.45pm and 3.30pm to 4.00pm.

Reminders and Updates

School Office Closure

Please note that the school office will be closed during half term. Urgent information should be sent to the admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk email account, which will be checked once a day. Messages will be responded to when we return to school after half term. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Spare Clothes

Please could we ask you to return any spare clothes that have been sent home with your child via the classroom. We would also be grateful to receive any spare tights, socks and underwear in good condition for primary age children, and/or trousers/skirts for children under age 5 that you are able to donate. Thank you.

Outdoor Shoes

School Council have discussed the children bringing outdoor shoes into school and it has been agreed that after half term, the children will need to bring a pair of suitable outdoor shoes to be worn on the field during play and lunchtime and for the daily mile. These should be brought to school in a plastic carrier bag. Thank you.

Year 2 Pirate Day

Please remember that the first day back in school after half term is the Year 2 Pirate Day. Please remember to send your child into school in their costumes.

Photo Permission Forms

If you have not yet completed the photo permission form for your child(ren) please could you fill out the form on the school website or use the link in the email sent out earlier this week. Thank you.

School Uniform - Fosters Schoolwear

Please be advised that Fosters Schoolwear will be closed from the 2nd to 4th November for their annual stocktake. During this period they will be unable to answer any telephone calls or process any orders. Normal business operation will commence again on Thursday 5th November.

Forgotten Items

Unfortunately, in order to limit the movement of staff around the school, and to maintain the safety of class bubbles, only essential forgotten items such as medicine or glasses can be dropped off at the school office. Water is available to children in class if they have forgotten their water bottles and school lunches are available to those without a packed lunch. Thank you for your co-operation.

Northgate School Association

Thank you to all who donated clothing for the Happy School Bags collection. You raised £335!!! Thank you.

A reminder that our AGM will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 17th November. Please email PTANorthgate@gmail.com to receive the log in details if you'd like to join.

A date for your diaries!.... We will be holding another 'Break The Rules' day on the last day of term. Rules allowed to be broken will be circulated nearer the time.

Wishing you all a lovely half term break. Your PTA

Wellbeing Week

We are looking forward to welcoming Mindful Minis into school during well-being week to run workshops with elements linked to Meditation, Breathing, Yoga, Reflection and Energy. The children will need to wear their PE kit to school on the day they have their session as there may be practical elements involved. Sessions for each class are shown here:

Classes R1, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 on Tues 3rd November
Classes R2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 12 on Thurs 5th November.

School Photographs

School photographs will be available to view by Wednesday 28th October. Please use the details given on the card sent home with your child.

Secondary School Transfer 2021

Parents of Year 6 pupils need to make their secondary school application online or on paper by 31st October 2020. The Admissions Team have recommend that parents apply as soon as possible, so that if there are any queries, they can be dealt with by the Admissions Team ahead of the deadline.



T'was the week before half term and all through the land
The teachers were tired of washing their hands
Of cleaning the desks, and the drawers and the pens
Of reminding their class not to cuddle their friends
Of handgel and soap, of bleach and of wipes
Of passwords and google and all things that swipe
Of trying to stand at the length of a lion
From friends whose shoulders they wanted to cry on



T'was the week before half term and all through the land
The parents were trying to make up great plans
That don't involve meeting, or greeting, or places
That in these strange times don't resemble safe spaces
They look to the teachers, and all they have done
To make school inviting, inspiring and fun
To see past the problems, the issues and rules
To bring back the joy and excitement of school



Thank you being the safe place, the learning
For standing there strong with the children returning
For finding solutions that don't feel so strange
With no funds or magicians to help you arrange
For stories and spellings and phonics and play
For taking the fear of this moment away

Esther Nzenza October 2020