

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

January 30th 2026

Headteacher's News

We value the strong, positive relationships we have with our parents and carers and believe that open, respectful communication between home and school is essential in supporting our children. We would like to remind parents and carers that class WhatsApp groups should be used appropriately and not be a forum for discussing concerns about other people's children or members of staff.

If you have a concern or worry, please contact the school directly. In the first instance, this should be by emailing or speaking to your child's class teacher. If the matter remains unresolved, you are welcome to make an appointment with the team leader or a member of the senior leadership team.

We fully appreciate that your children are the most important part of your lives, and we understand how distressing it can be when your child is experiencing a difficulty. However, we expect all communication with members of staff to be courteous and polite at all times. This helps us work together positively in the best interests of the children. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Have a wonderful weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

As part of their current topic, on Monday Year 6 pupils were transported back to Victorian times. Dressed in bonnets, flat caps, waistcoats and pinafores, they experienced life as Victorian schoolchildren. The hall became a strict Victorian classroom, where pupils practised handwriting on slates, recited times tables and followed firm rules, experiencing true Victorian discipline. Pupils enjoyed a range of activities that brought history to life, comparing school life then and now. Thank you to families for the wonderful costumes and to staff for creating such a rich experience.

If you have any unwanted costumes that you are happy to donate, please send them to the school office.

Amber from Harriers said, "We spent the morning pretending it was 1897, the Diamond Jubilee year of Queen Victoria's reign. The teacher was very strict and we weren't allowed to talk. Girls practised handwriting while boys were taught science. In the afternoon, we made steel-nibbed pens, played Victorian games and explored household items."



**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Important Dates

9th– 13th Feb
 Wb 9th Feb
 Tues 10th Feb
 Wes 11th Feb
 Fri 13th Feb
16th—20th Feb
 Tue 24th Feb
 3th & 5th Mar
 Mon 9th Mar
 Thurs 5th Mar
 Week beg 10th Mar

 Thurs 12th Mar
W/C 16th Mar
 Fri 20th Mar
 Wk beg 23rd Mar
 Wk beg 23rd Mar
 Tues 24th Mar
 Wed 25th Mar
 Fri 27th Ma
30th Mar—10th April
Fri 17th April
 Tues 19th May
 Thurs 22nd May
 25th—29th May
Mon 1st June
 rThurs 25th June
 Thurs 9th July
 Tues 21st July
 Wes 22nd July

 *Red = New Item / Change to Item



Young Voices 2026

The Year 5/6 choir had an amazing experience at Young Voices at the O2 last Friday. After spending the afternoon rehearsing, learning dances and being entertained by performers on stage, thousands of children sang together to all different types of music, including disco and funk. The atmosphere was brilliant, with lasers lighting up the venue. Well done choir—your participation and behaviour was a credit to the school! Sydney from Harriers said, "I am so happy I took part. It was so much fun, and the teachers had fun and really got into the spirit of the occasion!"

Safeguarding:

Looking after our children's mental health, recognising the signs that they might be struggling and knowing how to talk to them is really important. Please see below a link to the NHS Better Health -every mind matters website, where there are some really interesting ways that you can support your young person. <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/#ways-to-support-a-child-or-young-person>

Enriching the Curriculum

After having to postpone their planned local walk early in the week, due to bad weather, **Year 2** finally ventured out on Thursday morning. This trip related wonderfully to their geography topic on the local area and their history focus on Victorian schools.

George from Sparrows said, "For our topic we are looking at Victorian buildings. We had a map to help us get to the old Northgate school which is Victorian. We looked out for road signs and buildings along the way. The old Northgate building is super old and has one doorway for boys and one for girls".



19th century illustration of Northgate school



Year 3 have been busy designing and creating their own volcanoes as part of their science learning. After carefully making their mixtures using bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, washing-up liquid and red food dye to create a fun visual representation of an eruption, the children took their volcanoes into the playground, where they watched with excitement as the mixtures overflowed and erupted. This hands-on activity helped them to deepen their understanding of volcanic eruptions while having lots of fun learning together. In English, they will shortly be writing their own newspaper reports using eyewitness accounts of the eruption.



Reminders and Updates

Important PE Kit Reminder

Please ensure children wear non-branded clothing for PE (apart from the school logo): a plain white T-shirt, green shorts or joggers (seasonal), and a green hoodie. Non-branded kit helps keep PE inclusive for all children and avoids unnecessary comparisons. Teachers will be monitoring PE kit and supporting pupils to meet these expectations.

School Dinner accounts

Please take a look at your child's dinner money account on School Grid. Many accounts have balances owing. Please pay any outstanding charges as soon as possible and top the account up so that it is in credit. If you are having any financial difficulties, please contact Mrs Pagett, our Finance Officer.

After-School Playground Use

Please remember that children and younger siblings must not use playground equipment after school, as it is not supervised. As not all children have an adult with them, it raises safety and safeguarding concerns. The EYFS outdoor areas are tidied and set up for the next school day, so we kindly ask that spaces such as mud kitchens and EYFS play areas are not used or disturbed. Thank you for your support.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Tadas and Rosie

Puffins: Thomas **Owls:** Amber

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: showing wonderful imagination, always being positive, challenging themselves and following the school code!

Well done to:

Robins: Masha

Wrens: Aasiyah

Starlings: Emilie

Sparrows: Luna

Skylarks: Eleanor

Swifts: Eddie

Nightingales: Mia

Kingfishers: Emily

Kestrels: Nicolas

Kites: Lucy

Harriers: Harry

Hawks: Cora

Northgate needs your help with PULSE

(Play, Understand, Learn, Self-manage, Explore)

Community Volunteer Morning – Saturday 21 March

Time: 9.00am–12.00pm

Can you spare a couple of hours to help prepare and improve our outdoor space? Tasks will include **moving gravel and tyres, painting, and general tidying**. All skill levels are welcome.

Older children are welcome to join in too — we'll find a job for everyone — although parents remain responsible for their own children. We already have a few volunteers, but would love as much support as possible, including from relatives who may be able to help.

Your support will help us develop an enriched outdoor play programme that strengthens children's development, wellbeing, and engagement with their environment.

At the heart of this work is our commitment to giving **every child every chance, every day**. By working together, we can bring this exciting vision to life. Thank you for your continued support. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/7uarKpeKkR6QvXtx9>

Community News

Piano & Keyboard Workshop – Friday 27th February

The Bishop's Stortford Music Centre (CM23 5BD) are hosting a workshop for children aged **5–11** who play the piano or keyboard.

It will be a fun, relaxed workshop led by experienced teachers, ending with a short informal concert for parents and carers. **Time:** 4.30–5.30pm **Cost:** £5 per child (adults free). This will be a great chance for children to build confidence and enjoy making music with others.

Northgate School Association

The PTA are planning lots of exciting upcoming events to raise funds for much-needed school resources — **watch this space!**

Save the date: Friday 17th April – EYFS/KS1/KS2 Disco Times

TBC

Calling business owners!

If you own or work with a local company and would like to **sponsor a PTA event**, we'd love to hear from you. PTA funds go directly towards supporting the children and school. Please contact ptanorthgate@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support, and have a lovely weekend.

The PTA Team