

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

January 15th 2021

## Headteacher's News

In this first full week of remote learning, the pupils have impressed us with their positive attitude, engagement and how they have supported each other as we all learn in new ways. We are all delighted how the use of Google Classrooms is keeping our school connected.

Many thanks for all your help and support with your child's learning this week, in these most challenging of times. I am mindful of your own commitments so we are delighted that the majority of children have been attending the live lessons. We understand that it may not be possible to attend live lessons on a particular day. If your child is absent for any reason, please email the class to report the absence and please ensure they have submitted the relevant work. Teachers and support staff are being asked to chase up unauthorised absence promptly.

Please help get your child into a regular working routine, including breaks away from screens and exercise. We don't want the children at their screen all day, so will be adding more movement breaks into the timetable. Drinking water is also important for their health, including for the health of their eyes.

Please do take an interest in the work they are doing, and praise them for excellent effort and good work.

If you have any connection or computer issues, please email the class straight away and please be patient as the teachers equally may have internet issues.

Finally, we would like to get some feedback about the online learning experience. Over the next couple of weeks we will be sending out a questionnaire to gain your thoughts on our current provision.

We are trying to keep our school connected as much as possible so Mrs Jones led a school council meeting today through Google Classrooms. Class representatives will feed back to their classes next week.

Thank you for your continued support and have a good weekend,

## Important Dates - 2020/21

15th-19th Feb	February Half Term
<b>Mon 22nd Feb</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Tues 23rd Feb</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
Fri 26th March	End of Term at <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Mon 12th Apr</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
<b>Mon 3rd May</b>	<b>May Bank Holiday</b>
10th-13th May	KS2 Internal SATs week
May 2021	KS1 Internal SATs
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
<b>Mon 7th June</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
<b>Tues 8th June</b>	<b>Children Return to School</b>
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 <b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Thurs 22nd July</b>	<b>OCCASIONAL DAY</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Safeguarding

### Google Classrooms

Please note that children must be logged into their pupil accounts to access the live lessons. For safeguarding reasons, teachers are unable to allow accounts outside of the '@northgate.herts.sch.uk' domain into the lessons as they can't be monitored.

In order to correctly access the link for live lessons, Google Classrooms must be linked to your child's school account. In some cases Google Classrooms will connect to a pre-existing Google Account which has been set up on your PC/laptop. For an easy way to check this, look for a coloured circle on the top right hand of the screen which contains a letter and which should relate to your child's school account. Click on the letter to view the linked account and update where necessary.

### Aspects Family Support

[Aspects](#) have been continuing to work remotely and remain in contact with families already referred to their service. They are also offering telephone and email advice, support and information sharing. Please do contact them if needed, using one of the following numbers: - Family Lives on 0808 800 2222/Herts Family Centre Service on 0300 123 7572 or Young Minds parents helpline on 0808 802 5544. Alternatively email [admin@aspects.org.uk](mailto:admin@aspects.org.uk) for more information. They also have several resources booklets available on a range of topics. [Booklets and Top Tips](#)

Additionally, if in extreme circumstances you are aware of a family who do not have support from friends or family members to collect medicines/repeat prescriptions or need help getting food or accessing the food bank, please do contact Aspects for help.

## Home-School Gallery

This week Izzy (CI8) and Teddy (CI3) made a fantastic boat which they have put outside for everyone to see.

They have written lovely, positive messages on the boat to cheer people up as they pass by.



**EVERY CHILD  
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

## Northgate School Clubs

**Stortford Cheerleaders** have a 6 week online programme open to key stage 2 children on Tuesdays at 4pm and all key stage 2 Northgate students are welcome to join in to keep active at home.

Any students that wish to join them can email the club at [stortfordcheerleaders@hotmail.com](mailto:stortfordcheerleaders@hotmail.com) for more information.

**ComputerXplorers** will be running on a Monday at 3.30pm from the 18th January. This half term they will be working with Stop-Animation with Zu3D.

*"Join us for a fun-packed online club where we will be using the latest Stop-Animation technology to create your own animated film. In this club you will learn how animation works, create your own characters and story and then bring your ideas to life using the brilliant Zu3D software. Who knows, maybe you will be the animators of the future!!"*

Details on how to register for this exciting club can be found attached to this email.

## Home Learning - Reading

Our Learner of the Week awards focused on reading this week so we have found a few websites for your children to access reading while they are working at home again.

BBC Bitesize have their own book club offering a range of books for primary age children

### Bitesize Book Club Lessons

**Amazon's Top 100 Free Children's eBooks** are frequently updated with new titles. From young children to teens, there's something for every young reader. You'll need a Kindle or the Kindle App on your iPad or phone to download and read these titles.

BooksTrust are offering lots of lovely interactive books to read online.

**Stories for kids online and fun games to play | BookTrust**

## Reminders and Updates

### School Office

The school office staff will be working on a rota until further notice. You can contact them during school hours by emailing [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk) for general queries, or [secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk) for messages relating to key workers or to contact a member of the senior leadership team. **During this time, please limit telephone calls into the school office.**

## Updated Complaints Procedures

Hertfordshire County Council have produced a new Complaints Policy and Procedures for all maintained schools within the County which we have adopted.

The new policy can be found on the school website. Any comments regarding this policy should be sent to [interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk).

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery - Every child learning in school or remotely, for adjusting to new routines, expectations and even mixed morning and afternoon children. They have all learnt to turn their sound button on and off when instructed. Mrs Bull is very proud of them.

R1: Millie

R2: William

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

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for reading with great expression and using the text to support their answers.

Well done to:

Class 1: Marcus

Class 2: Daisy

Class 3: Aditi

Class 4: James C

Class 5: Jackson

Class 6: Holly

Class 7: Santa

Class 8: Tommy

Class 9: Luke

Class 10: Violet

Class 11: William and Carolina

Class 12: Fatoumata and Jared

## School Council



We had our first online school council meeting today, which was extremely well attended.

We discussed what classes have enjoyed about home learning this time around.

The most popular were the 'show and tell sessions' and also seeing their class regularly throughout the day.

We have also set some questions for our school council to discuss with their classes next week.

We will hold a meeting every week.

## Key Worker Classes - Covid-19 Vigilance

If your child is coming into a school key worker class during the period of school closure, please remember to follow these important guidelines to protect our staff and pupils.

**Please do not send children into school if any of the following apply:**

- they have any one of the symptoms of Covid-19, a temperature of over 37.8°C, a persistent cough and/or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste.
- they, or any members of your household or support bubble, are awaiting test results or have tested positive for Covid-19.

For the national lockdown to be effective, it's important that we keep the numbers attending school as low as possible whilst allowing those who really need to be in school to have access to place.

A letter from Hertfordshire CC regarding critical worker places is attached to this email for your information.