

January 9th 2026

### Headteacher's News

**Happy New Year!** I hope you had a magical Christmas and a positive start to the New Year. We look forward to seeing you throughout the term.

There are lots of **new dates** coming up, including maths games and work-sharing events, so please do take time to check the calendar. You may also have additional dates specific to your child's year group; these can be found in the termly year group letters on the school website and Google Classroom.

In the unlikely event that the school needs to close, for example due to severe weather or issues with school facilities, we will email parents as soon as a decision has been made.

Regular school **attendance** remains a high priority on both the national and county agenda, as it is vital to pupils' learning, wellbeing, and long-term outcomes. Our school's attendance policy, available on the school website, clearly outlines expectations and the circumstances under which absence may be authorised, including guidance about holidays taken during term time. Please note that holidays taken during term time are not normally authorised, and the school is required to share information about unauthorised absences with Hertfordshire County Council, who may issue fixed penalty notices. Children who arrive after 9.30am, unless they have a medical appointment, will be marked as unauthorised for that session.

Wishing you a great weekend, whatever the weather!

### Important Reminders

#### Applications for Reception 26/27

The closing date for on-time Reception 2026/2027 applications in Hertfordshire is Thursday **January 15, 2026**.

#### Ordering School Meals on SchoolGrid

Families are kindly asked to order school meals on SchoolGrid in advance rather than on the day. Meals can be ordered for the whole term.

This helps the kitchen plan food quantities and supports teachers during morning routines. Thank you for your support.

#### School Uniform Reminder

Children are required to wear bottle-green jumpers, with or without a logo. Sports kit hoodies should only be worn on PE days. Uniform can be purchased from AVM, Bishop's Stortford ([www.avmworkwear.co.uk](http://www.avmworkwear.co.uk)). Our pre-loved uniform shed is fully stocked, with all proceeds going to the PTA.

Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.

Children should wear smart black school shoes (no trainers or boots, no flashing lights). Extreme hairstyles and jewellery are not permitted. Hair accessories must be bottle-green. For religious exemptions, please contact Mrs Tanner in writing. Please note that smart watches are **not** allowed to be worn in school.

Children were reminded of this rule during assembly today.

#### No Dogs on School Grounds

Please remember that dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time, except for assistance dogs. This helps ensure the safety, health, and comfort of all students and staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Important Dates

Wed 21st Jan	Y1 local walk
Fri 23rd Jan	Young Voices Choir—O2
Mon 26th Jan	Y6 Victorian Day
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Y2 Old Northgate School walk
9th–13th Feb	Festival of Literature
Wb 9th Feb	House Netball tournament
Tues 10th Feb	Internet Safety Day
Fri 13th Feb	Independent Enquirer Elephant Day
<b>16th—20th Feb</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
3th & 5th Mar	Parent Consultations
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Week beg 10th Mar	Playing maths games and work sharing
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am
Thurs 12th Mar	Wed LSK2 —9am, Thurs KS1 —9am
Fri 20th Mar	Y6 Instrumental Concert
Wk beg 23rd Mar	Science week (visits from Fab Science, house quiz)
Wk beg 23rd Mar	House Cross Country
Tues 24th Mar	Y4 Local river walk
Wed 25th Mar	Rocksteady Concert pm
Fri 27th Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter
<b>30th Mar—10th April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Thurs 22nd May	End of term
25th–29th May	Half term
<b>Mon 1st June</b>	<b>Inset day</b>
Thurs 25th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Thurs 9th July	Move up day
Tues 21st July	Break up for summer holidays
<b>Wes 22nd July</b>	<b>Occasional day</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

### Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

**Ducklings:** The whole class for being wonderful in the first week back!

**Puffins:** Oliver **Owls:** Ottilie

Well done to our **Learners of the Week**. This week, certificates focused on our **Learning Powers**, with teachers praising children for: Showing fantastic perseverance to improve spelling, being brilliant at teamwork and being a supportive member of the class!

**Robins:** Miguel

**Wrens:** Chloe

**Starlings:** Henry

**Sparrows:** Hollie

**Skylarks:** Theo

**Swifts:** Kitty

**Nightingales:** Flynn

**Kingfishers:** Olivia

**Kestrels:** Henry

**Kites:** Safaa

**Harriers:** Jackson

**Hawks:** Sahishnu



#### Black History Poster Competition

Apologies, as we forgot to mention in a previous Newsletter that Hepzi from Nightingales (Y4) won books for her class! Well done Hepzi!

### Safeguarding

#### Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Did your child receive a new digital gadget for Christmas? The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has recently published a new guide for parents. We encourage families to read this helpful resource:

[What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives)