

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

June 23rd 2023

Headteacher News

This has been a very musical week in school. Year 2 joined with 3 other local schools at the theatre at South Mills to sing songs based on the theme 'Space.' It was an amazing opportunity to perform on a stage as part of a large choir and the children all sang beautifully. Year 5 performed in the evening at the theatre with another school, based around the theme 'One planet.' Year 5 impressed the audience with their singing and their poems that they had written. Their enthusiasm for singing really shone through. Thanks to all the staff involved who prepared the children for such a wonderful performances. We hope everyone enjoyed it!

The music experiences continued this week in assemblies where the KS2 children had the opportunity to listen to Joe Lee, an extremely talented cellist, and the Stortford Woodwind group.

Sadly Miss Gotlitski and Mrs Davies will be leaving us at the end of term, to take up new positions. Miss Kavanagh will be changing roles to the PE teacher next term, before she moves up North at the end of the year. We will miss them all. Information about new classes will be released shortly. Have a good weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

The Reception children had a fantastic visit to Audley End House and Gardens on Tuesday. First they travelled there on a pink double decker before exploring the house and gardens. They met the horses in the old stables and explored the walled gardens. They got to play in the wooden castle and park and crossed lots of different bridges. They explored the house and played with some toys from long ago. What a busy fun day!



Today 'Portals To The

Past' came in to run an Egyptian interactive workshop with Year 5. The children had great fun, absorbing and being introduced to the fascinating world of the ancient Egyptians. They participated in activities throughout the day as they learnt about Egyptian artefacts, their way of life and what happens following the death of a mighty Pharaoh, including tomb building, the mummification process, burial ceremonies and, the crowning of the new Pharaoh. The children tried basic



Important Dates

Mon 26th June
26th & 27th June
Tues 27th June
Wed 28th June

Thurs 29th June
Fri 30th June
Thurs 6th July
Fri 7th July
Fri 7th July
Fri 7th July
Mon 10th July

Tues 11th July

Thurs 13th July

Thurs 13th July

Fri 14th July
w/c 17th July
Mon 17th July
Tuesday 18th July
Wed 19th July
Thurs 20th July

Monday 4th September

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

7.30pm PTA committee meeting (online)
Art Solutions in to work with Years 3,4,5,6
Year 1 visit from the Travelling Museum
Nursery Sports Day: AM 10.30am—11.30am
PM 2.00pm—3.00pm

Year 2 trip to Colchester Zoo
Sports day (Reception—Year 6)
Y 5/6 Performance rehearsal at Theatre 9.00am
9.00am dress rehearsal at South Mill Y5/6 only
1.30pm Y 5/6 afternoon performance to parents
6.30pm Y 5/6 evening Performance to parents
9am Year 5 & 6 Maths games and parent work sharing
9am Year 1 & 2 Maths games and parent work sharing
9am Year 3 & 4 Maths games and parent work sharing
Move over day/secondary transition day.
Reserve sports day (in case of weather problems)
PTA Ice cream sales
Art day
Take over day
9.00am Year 6 Leavers Assembly
End of Term at 2:00pm
Children return to school

Attendance



As part of their monitoring role, Governors set a school attendance target of **96%**, which used to be met precovid. At present the whole school figure is 94.7%, with Reception - 92%, Y1- 94.6%, Y2- 94.7%, Y3- 96.3%, Y4-95.5%, Y5-95.5%, Y6-94.4%. A key concern is the lost learning. Children who's attendance is at 90% will have lost over 3 weeks learning so far this year, so in the younger years will have missed teaching for over 15 phonic sounds, which are the building blocks for reading. It is vital parents and school work together to ensure children attend school as much as possible.

Safeguarding

Artificial intelligence is probably the hot topic in technology circle right now, with questions being raised worldwide about how AI might conceivably affect the very future of human race. In the short term, however, definitely as far as its impact on young people is concerned, the clearest risk is almost certainly the AI-powered 'virtual friends' which are springing up all over the internet.

There's Replika and Kuki, for instance, while Snapchat has recently got in on the act with My AI while search engines like Bing and Google have developed their own versions. Are these machine intelligences suitable online companions for young people? What are their limitations and weak spots? The #WakeUpWednesday guide profiles the emergence of AI 'virtual friends'.

Please click the link below to register for a free online safety guide from the national college looking at 'virtual friends' AI powered companions that are proving popular with young people and highlights what trusted adults need to be aware of.

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ai-virtual-friends>

**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Enriching the curriculum

Today Year 4 went on a trip to Stansted Mountfitchet Castle, which is believed to have been an early Iron Age fort and Roman, Saxon and Viking settlement. To broaden their experiences, the children went on the train to Stansted Mountfitchet. Authentic Materials were used in the reconstruction of Mountfitchet Castle. Whilst there, the children had lots of fun and experienced life in a Norman village around 1066.



Sporting News

Well done to our Compete netball team who played this week game against Hillmead. Isabella from Class 12 said "The game against Hillmead was probably our toughest yet but everyone played really well, especially towards the end where we won with a whopping 21-11"



On Wednesday afternoon Anthony Frazer from TBSHS, a specialist in debating, visited Year 5 ahead of another visit next Wednesday when the debating club from Boys High will lead a debate based on the Year 5s current topic,

Egypt. He explained to both classes what debating was and shared tips on how to conduct a good debate such as: speaking confidently and make eye contact, using persuasive language, evidence and facts to prove your argument is best, challenging the other person's ideas, without being rude to them and finishing with a strong conclusion. We look forward to hearing how Year 5 get on next week!

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Nursery: Sebby and Sara

R1: Milla

R2: Alyssa

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on "French".

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for showing a constant good attitude during French Lessons and always getting involved in the songs, for making a great start in French and showing motivation, great effort and hard work in French, amazing focus, motivated and having excellent understanding of the language, working so hard with their sentences and improving their writing skills, for their participation in our French lessons.

Class 1: Tate

Class 7: Lulu

Class 2: George

Class 8: Ben

Class 3: Henry

Class 9: Stanley

Class 4: Teddy

Class 10: Elizabeth

Class 5: Aurora

Class 11: The whole class! Bon!

Class 6: Dennis

Class 12: Euan



Thank you to **Woodwind of Stortford** who played in our music assembly yesterday. Their music was just brilliant and all the children enjoyed the performance.

Reminders and Updates

Parent Volunteers

Mrs Morris our Business Manager would like a few parent helpers to move some raised beds from the back of the school to the front so they can be planted by the Well-Bean Gardening Club. We would like the children to grow herbs and vegetables and ideally for them to be used by the kitchen for the school dinners. If you would like to help please let us know by emailing admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Newspapers for Monday for Art Solutions.

We are in need of newspapers, large margarine tubs or ice cream tubs for our Art Solutions project that starts on Monday. Please can we have donations this afternoon or Monday morning at the latest. Please bring anything you can donate to the office and thank you.

A polite request from Little Ladybirds regarding their outside area

Please could all parents avoid letting their children play in the Little Ladybirds cupboards, mud kitchen and digging in the tyres and plant pots. Although they appreciate that their outdoor area is a drop off point for Northgate children, it is very disheartening for staff who have set up the night before for their children and find they have to do it again once the area is clear of parents and children. Also please avoid children climbing, walking and standing in the tyres, as Little Ladybirds are trying to prepare them for planting. Thank you for your support.

Northgate School Association

Sports Day

Next Friday is Sports Day (fingers crossed for good weather!) and from 3.15pm after the winning team has been announced, it is the PTA Sports Day After Party.

We have music provided by Digital Pocahontas, food from Chish'n'Fips and Cocos Crepes, a PTA bar selling a variety of soft and alcoholic drinks, inflatables and a colour run for children and adults! What a way to finish the day!

Please book your tickets for the inflatables and colour run here:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association

Tickets will be available on the day, but it would help the event team to know numbers in advance.

We look forward to seeing you at Sports Day and for the party afterwards!

PTA Calendar

Just a reminder about our forthcoming PTA Calendar for 2023/2024 which will include all the important school dates and display the wonderful photos of our competition winners. Every child was given the opportunity to draw a picture for the calendar, so do look out for your child's picture! Details on how to purchase this calendar will follow shortly.

Last chance to enter for the theme 'SUMMER FUN'. Three winners will be selected and their photos will be the main image on the June, July and August calendar pages. Please send your entries to calendar@northgatepta.com. Thank you!

Your PTA Co-Chairs: Geri Wren & Jo Parrott