

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

September 4th 2020

Headteacher's News

Welcome back to a new school year and a warm welcome to all our new families. I hope that you had an enjoyable summer. It has been fantastic to see everyone back in school and our building buzzing with energy again.

We welcome our new teachers— Mrs McIntosh in Reception, Miss Williams in Class 6 and Miss Kavanagh in Class 7. Sadly Mrs Pratt is still not well and will not be with us for the next few weeks. We wish her a speedy recovery. I am delighted that Mrs Anderson and Mrs Matthews are returning to Northgate to cover her class for the next few weeks. We also welcome Mrs MacLeod and Mrs Aziz who will be carrying out some of the catch up work that we will be undertaking. We are also delighted to welcome Ms Lillywhite to our TA group. We hope all our new staff will be very happy at Northgate.

Today we have been establishing new routines and learning expectations, for example with regular handwashing. There will be a focus on mental health work over the coming weeks in each class. If you are finding your child is particularly struggling with the challenges of returning to school, please let the class teacher know by emailing the office, and they will work together with Mrs Leeks, our Pastoral Lead to look at what support can be given.

We appreciate parents concerns with how the children will catch up with any learning they have missed out on from the last school year. As all the children have had a break from learning at school, your child should be in the same position as their peers, rather than have fallen behind. Once the children are settled back into school, their teachers will gain a good understanding of what their needs are and be able to support them. The teachers will be working hard on reactivating learning and identifying and filling learning gaps in the coming weeks before they continue with the current year's curriculum.

We would like to apologise for the delay coming into the main gate this morning. Unfortunately the bolt on the side gate became stuck and so our plans for separating the entry points didn't work as it should have today.

We appreciate that some of the other changes to the school day, including staggered timings, not taking items into the office, etc. are not always the most convenient, but we hope that by making these changes we are helping make the school as safe as possible so learning can continue.

Please help the whole school community by remembering to socially distance on and around the school site. Fingers crossed for a successful half term in school for everyone.

Have a lovely weekend.

Important Dates - 2020/21

Mon 7th Sept	Coffee with Reception parents (at allocated times)
Weds 9th Sept	Nursery parent sessions
Fri 11th Sept	Meet the Teacher PowerPoints released
Weds 30th Sept	Harvest Celebration/donations to Food Bank
Thurs 15th Oct	Parent information videos released
Weds 21st Oct	Happy School Bag Collection
Fri 23rd Oct	Black History Day
26th - 30th Oct	October Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov	INSET DAY
3rd - 6th Nov	Wellbeing Week
Tues 10th Nov	Parent Consultations
Weds 11th Nov	Parent Consultations
Weds 16th Dec	School virtual Christmas videos released
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
31st May-4th Jun	May Half Term
Mon 7th June	INSET DAY

Safeguarding

Scooters in School

Please remind your children, including pre-schoolers, that they are not permitted to scoot or cycle on school premises. This is particularly important while we are trying to alleviate delays to the entry into school each morning. Thank you for your co-operation.

Drop Off/Collection

Please ensure that once your child has been dropped at the gate in the morning that you move quickly away from the gate area in order to maintain social distancing space for other parents and children.

At the end of the school day, please ensure younger siblings are kept with you at all times. Playing on the apparatus is not allowed.

Medicines

If your child needs any medicine, please be advised that it must be in its original packaging, in date and, where relevant, have the pharmacy label attached. Children must not bring medicines to school in their bags or pockets, they need to be brought in by an adult and handed in/collected to/from the school office. An 'Administration of Medication' form must be completed and handed in at the school office by the parent/carer. Forms can be found on the school website or can be obtained from the school office. Please be aware of expiry dates and replace items such as inhalers and auto-injectors as needed.

School Lunches

For the time being we will not be serving hot food at lunchtime. If you would like to order a school packed lunch for your child, this can be done on School Grid in the usual way. The choices will be a chicken, ham or cheese roll which will come with a small salad bag, a piece of fruit and a pudding.

For children in Years 3 to 6, payment for lunches will continue to be made on School Gateway. If you are not in credit for your lunches for this half term, please can you make payment this week. Please note, the cost of a lunch is £2.60 per day. Please call the office or email admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk if you have difficulty accessing the School Grid ordering system or School Gateway payment system.

Children who have forgotten their home packed lunch will have a school packed lunch on that day as items cannot be dropped off at the school office. If your child does bring their own packed lunch, please ensure they can open all the packaging themselves and ensure that all items are nut free.

Contacting Class Teachers

If you would like to discuss any issues with your child's class teacher, the best way to arrange this is to call or email the office on 01279 652376 or admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively you can contact them directly via eschools although please be aware it may take some time to respond.

Northgate School Association

Welcome back! And a very warm welcome to our new families from the Northgate Association - your PTA.

Hopefully all new parents will have read a little about the PTA in the new joiner packs. Please follow our newsletter updates, our Facebook page and groups and keep an eye on noticeboards to hear what we are up to and how to get involved. If you have any questions you can contact me via ptanorthgate@gmail.com.

Second Hand Uniform

Over lockdown and the summer, while we haven't been able to run our second hand uniform shop, we have been running a Facebook selling group instead. Many of you have been benefiting from it while supporting the PTA so a big thank you for doing so. If you have any preloved uniform items that still have life left or if you are in need of uniform items, please join the group. Collection is arranged between members and all we ask is for a donation of £1 an item directly into the Northgate Association bank account. The details are all on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3389688501064503>

250 Club

The 250 Club has been our main source of fundraising, and will continue to be, while our usual events are not possible. New parents should have received a membership form with full details in the new joiner packs. We still have numbers available for new members. This monthly draw awards one member with a cash prize of up to £1,000! The draw is shown on our 'Northgate PTA Noticeboard' Facebook group and the winner is announced in the newsletter. The membership form is attached to this newsletter if you'd like to take part.

Best wishes
Louisa Piercy (PTA Chair)

Reminders and Updates

Parking

As you may be aware, there are gas works taking place in Cricketfield Lane which are causing considerable disruption to the road and parking bays outside our school. Please do not use the staff car park for dropping off or picking up your children or walk through the staff car park. Thank you.

Forgotten Items

In order to reduce the amount of people coming into the reception area, the school office will only be taking in essential forgotten items such as medicine, glasses, etc. Birthday sweets are not being given out in school.

School Website Forms

Forms for reporting absence, change of contact details and photo permissions can be completed online. Please visit the home page of the website [school website](#).

School Uniform

Nursery

Gold polo shirts with logo.
Gold sweatshirt / cardigan with logo.
Grey trousers or skirt with grey or white socks or grey tights.
Grey pinafore.
Gold checked or striped dress (spring to autumn half term weather permitting).
Black shoes (not boots). **No fashion footwear please.**
A suitable coat is essential all year round.
Green shorts for PE.
White T-shirt for PE.

Reception

Gold polo shirts with logo.
Gold sweatshirt / cardigan with logo.
Grey trousers or skirts with grey tights.
Grey pinafore.
Gold checked or striped dress (spring to autumn half term weather permitting).
Black shoes (not boots). **No fashion footwear please.**
A suitable coat is essential all year round.
Green shorts for PE.
White T-shirt for PE.
Bottle Green Tracksuit and Trainers for outdoor PE.

Key Stage 1 and 2

White polo shirt (Years 1 - 4).
White shirt/blouse with school tie (Years 5 - 6).
Green and gold striped school tie.
Green sweatshirt / cardigan with logo.
Grey trousers or skirts with grey or white socks or grey tights. **No fashion trousers or shorts please.**
Green checked or striped dress (spring to autumn half term weather permitting).
A suitable coat is essential all year round.
School hat (optional).
Black shoes (not boots). **Shoes need to be comfortable, with sensible heels to avoid accidents. No fashion footwear or trainers please.** Loitering

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons no jewellery is permitted in school, including stud earrings. Newly pierced ears must be covered in school and a letter supplied via the office, giving the date of piercing and the date they will be removed.