

February 28th 2025

Headteacher's News

Once again, we are celebrating World Book Day, which is Thursday, 6th March, with a fun and creative dress-up theme! We invite children to come to school dressed as an adjective. This encourages imagination and allows for easy, low-cost participation. There's no need to buy a new costume—children can use clothes or accessories they already have and think of an age-appropriate adjective to match. For example, a superhero costume could be brave, pyjamas could be sleepy, or a sparkly outfit could be shiny. We look forward to seeing all the creative ideas on the day! As in previous years, there will be a World Book Day Parade, (weather permitting) where you are invited to come and see the children walk around the playgrounds to show off their costumes. After the children have settled into their classrooms, parents are welcome to enter the school at **8:50 am** and wait on the **Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 playground. Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 2** children will parade around the **Key Stage 1 playground**, while **Years 3-6** will be on their **Key Stage 2 playground**. Children will follow the lines of the netball court, so we kindly ask parents to stand inside these lines to ensure clear walking space. If you have children in both key stages, please stand under the large covered gazebo between the two. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 6th March at 8.50am. This is an optional event.

On Tuesday 4th March Northgate are holding a Lunchtime Book Swap. This is an optional event, as part of our World Book Day celebrations. We want to encourage children to give a book into school in exchange for a different one. If your child would like to participate, please send into school a **donated book** with "Donated by (your child's name)" written inside the front cover. Class teachers will collect donated books. We hope this will inspire a love of reading and provide an exciting opportunity for children to discover new books!

Have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Science

A group of budding scientists at Northgate are taking part in a Big Bang Science competition at Herts and Essex High School in March. The brief is to come up with a new invention, experiment, research project or an investigation that they are passionate about. The group have designed and made an eco village, which is totally solar powered. Each child has made their own building complete with working solar panels. Well done children and we wish you all the best with the competition and your display stand on the day.



Today, Year 5 & 6 walked to the Bishop Stortford College for an interactive science workshop themed around rockets. The children really enjoyed this exciting activity. Josh and Jacob from Kestrels said "It was a really good experience, we learned how a rockets get off the ground and how they are powered. There was lots of gas, fire and explosions." Thank you to the College for our invitation.

Important Dates

4th & 6th Mar	Parent Consultations (Details below)
Tues 4th Mar	KS1 Trip to Stortford fields Story Teller
Tues 4th Mar	EYFS Pancake Race (£2.00 per child)
Tues 4th Mar	Northgate Book Swap.
Thurs 6th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
WK beg 10th Mar	Maths games/work sharing with parents
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS --9am
	Wed KS1 --9am, Thurs LKS2 --9am
Thurs 13th Mar	Year 6 Instrumental Concert
Fri 14th Mar	Well-being Event (for parents/carers)
W/C 17 th Mar	Neurodiversity week
Fri 21st Mar	Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time)
	Mother's Day Shop
W/C 24th Mar	Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted)
Wed 26th Mar	9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance
Thurs 27th Mar	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Fri 28th Mar	EYFS/KS1 & KS2 School Disco with Book Fair
Fri 28th Mar	Science week—Visit from Fab Science
WK beg 31st Mar	Y5 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 3rd April	Break the Rules Day
Fri 4th April	Term Ends 2pm
Fri 4th Apr	Easter holidays
7th- 21st April	Children back to school
Tues 22nd Aril	Year 4 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 1st May	Bank Holiday
Mon 5th May	Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 15th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Wed 21st May	End of term
Thurs 22nd May	Inset day
Fri 23rd May	Half term
26th—30th May	Father's Day Shop
W/C 9th June	PTA Summer Fayre
Sat 14th June	Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow)
Wed 2nd July	Sports Day (details to follow)
	Reserve Sports Day.
Fri 4th July	Break up for summer holidays
Fri 11th July	Occasional day
Tues 22nd July	Start of New School Year
Wes 23rd July	=*Red = New Item / Change to Item
Thurs 4th Sept	

Consultations

We look forward to seeing parents next Tuesday and Thursday for parent consultations, bookings can be made on Arbor. Please ring the office if you need help. A handful of appointments have been released for relevant parents of SEN children. Please only book a consultation with Mrs Wallace if your query cannot be answered by the class teacher.

Safeguarding:

At Northgate, we support students' mental well-being. Here are a few tips to help: **Encourage Conversations:** Let your child share their feelings. **Promote Routines:** Ensure regular sleep, meals, and play. **Recognise the Signs:** Watch for changes like withdrawal or mood swings. **Seek Support:** Contact Mrs Rogers or a trusted professional if needed.

Enriching the Curriculum

On Wednesday, some of our children enjoyed a sensory story session at the library. The children loved joining in with songs and stories with the library staff. They were fascinated by exploring different textures, sounds and smells!



This week, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Gitto started Y2's 'Club de Français' on Thursday lunchtime. Their first session started with learning the greetings 'Bonjour' and 'Salut'. They practised these greetings through a song and making their own lollipop stick puppets who could greet each other.

KS2 School Council Bake off

Once again, the School Council had the delightful yet challenging task of judging the KS2 School Council Bake Off. The level of effort and creativity that went into each bake was incredible, and we want to thank everyone who participated! The cakes were judged on their imagination, decoration, and taste. Congratulations to our winners, who were: **Year 3: Vaarin**, **Year 4: Orla**, **Y5: Rory** and **Y6: Evie B**. Later in the day, the cakes were sold to raise money for future school council events, and children from across the school had the opportunity to take some home to enjoy. We are pleased to announce that the bake sale raised £205.00, bringing the total amount raised between the two Bake Off events to an impressive **£417.00**. This is truly fantastic! Please see the next page for photos showcasing many of the wonderful bakes created.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Ollie and Freya

Puffins: Eva **Owls:** River

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: always showing kindness and thoughtfulness towards others, being a supportive talk partner, fabulous independent editing of their writing, for always being polite and kind to their friends and adults and using their inference and enquiry skills to develop reading and ability to answer a range of questions.

Well done to:

Robins: George

Starlings: Hayden

Skylarks: Tito

Nightingales: Jibreel

Kestrels: Emma

Harriers: Arabelle

Wrens: Oscar

Sparrows: Cinar

Swifts: Nico

Kingfishers: Lydia

Kites: Jackson

Hawks: Max

Northgate School Association

This half term is an incredibly exciting time for PTA events! We have lots to offer you and we look forward to seeing you there! So, what is coming up.....

7pm on Friday 14th March- we have our new **Wellbeing and De-stress evening** for parents/carers. There will be a guided stress awareness workshop, taster Barre class and a relaxation sound meditation. To sign up: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/northgate-pta-wellbeing-and-de-stress-evening>.

Week commencing 24th March- to celebrate all the lovely ladies in our lives, we are holding our popular **Mother's Day shop**. We have some lovely gifts all priced at £4. Sales will be held during the morning break. Please bring cash on the day for your Year Group. **Monday:** Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 3, 6. **Tuesday:** Years 2, 4, 5. **Wednesday:** All Years

Wednesday 26th March at pick up- The **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming to Northgate Primary School. An opportunity to spend your World Book Day vouchers whilst earning books for our school. Lots of fab deals available!

Friday 28th March- our **School Discos** are taking place. Digital Pocahontas will be on the decks, we have pizza (must order in advance), glitter tattoos plus sweets, glow items and the Book Fair. As usual there will be two separate events and tickets are available to buy now:

EYFS & KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2): 5pm - 6.15pm - parents / carers must attend. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-moxvprx>

KS2 (Y3-Y6): 6.45pm - 8pm - drop-off & pick-up. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-schoolassociation/t-norqxdn>

As always, we need volunteers to enable events like this to happen, so please sign up here: [PTA Disco: Disco - Friday 28th March 2025](#)

Friday 4th April- to finish the term we have our **Break the Rules day**. More details to follow soon! Lots to enjoy!

Hope you all have a relaxing weekend.
Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team

Important Reminders and Updates

Arbor

Please can parents and carers take a look on Arbor to ensure that your child's details are up-to-date. Every child should have at least two emergency contact numbers. If any details are missing, you can add the information yourself on Arbor. Any changes made will be sent automatically to the office for verification.

School Dinner Payments

Debts are creeping up again! It is important to ensure your child's account is in credit at all times, as debts can accumulate quickly.

Message from Reception

We would like to kindly remind all parents that **children should not be playing in the outdoor area after school**. The Reception children put in a lot of effort each afternoon to tidy their space, ensuring it is ready for the following day's activities.

Unfortunately, at the moment, staff are finding that area messy when they arrive in the morning.

To help us maintain the area, teachers will remind the children that they are not to play on any equipment before or after school. **We kindly ask that parents also reinforce this message with their children, particularly to ensure that siblings are not playing with the equipment, in the sandpit, or using the football goals, climbing frame, or mud kitchen.**

By following these guidelines, you will be greatly helping the Reception classes, and it will prevent staff from needing to tidy up the area again each morning. Thank you very much for your cooperation and support.

