

9th May 2025

Headteacher's News

We hope year 1 parents found the phonics screening information session useful. If you were not able to attend, the PowerPoint is available on google classrooms.

We are delighted that our sensory walkway, funded through the generous support of parent fundraising, has now been completed! This exciting new addition is designed to engage students' senses through a variety of textures, colours, and interactive elements. It provides a fun and educational experience, supporting the development of motor skills, enhancing focus, and offering a calming moment throughout the school day.



Good luck Year 6 next week, for their national assessments, SATs. The children have worked very hard in preparation for them. Children in other year groups will also be undertaking assessments over the next two weeks so please ensure they are punctual into school and appointments are not in school time wherever possible. If you are aware your child will be having time off, please let the class teacher know as soon as possible.

The PTA are busy organising their next significant fundraising event, the Summer Fayre, which is on the Saturday 14th June. This fantastic community event is only successful with plenty of volunteers. If you can spare an hour to help, either with the preparations, setting up, on the day or tidying up, please let a member of the PTA know. More details on the next page.

Hope you have a fantastic weekend!

Enriching the curriculum

Year 4 travelled back in time on Wednesday to experience life in a Viking village. Dressed in fantastic costumes, the children fully immersed themselves in traditional Viking crafts such as clay moulding, fabric weaving, ink making, jewellery design, and decorating manuscript. They visited the village's wise woman, who treated illnesses using herbs, spices, and bones. The day followed a dramatic storyline, culminating in a fierce battle between the Vikings and the Saxons. In the afternoon, the children became archaeologists, uncovering the remains of the Viking village from earlier in the day. Thank you to all the parents that came to help and a huge thank you to Mr Dunn and Mrs Venning for organising such an enriching experience!



Important Dates

12th –16th May	Y6 SATS
Thurs 15th May	2.40pm Y3 Instrumental Concert
Tues 20th May	Y1 Garg Animal Man
Wed 21st May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 22nd May	End of half term
Fri 23rd May	Inset day
26th—30th May	Half term
2nd –6th June	Y6 School Journey
Wed 11th June	Class photos
2nd-13th June	Y4 multiplication assessments
Wb 9th June	Year 1 phonics screening week
W/C 9th June	Father's Day Shop
Mon 9th June	Reception trip to Willows Farm
Thurs 12th June	Non-uniform day in return for a bottle for our Tombola'
Fri 13th June	Y3 Celtic Harmony Trip
Fri 13th June	Y5 Egypt experience
Sat 14th June	PTA Summer Fayre
Wed 18th June	Y1 Trip to Audley End
Fri 20th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Wed 25th June	5.30pm—6.30pm EYFS Welcome Evening for children starting in Sept
Wed 2nd July	Y5 /6 rehearsal at theatre
Thurs 3rd July	Y5/6 performance at South Mill Art.
Fri 4th July	Sports Day (details to follow)
Thurs 10th July	School Transition Day (Nursery closed all day)
Fri 11th July	Reserve Sports Day.
14th—17th July	Challenge week. Sessions with parents
Mon 14th July	2.50pm—Nursery & Reception
Tues 15th July	9am – Year 3/4
Wed 16th July	9am—Year 5/6
Thurs 17th July	9am—Year 1/2
Mon 21st July	9.15am Yr 6 Leavers' assembly am
Tues 22nd July	Northgate's Got Talent
Tues 22nd July	Break the rules day
Tues 22nd July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
Wed 23rd July	Occasional day
2nd & 3rd Sept	Inset days
Thurs 4th Sept	Start of New School Year

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding:

Families First is the term used in Hertfordshire for services that work together to support families who need extra help. They will work with you and your family to create a package of support. The service is available to all Hertfordshire families with children under 18

Issues they can help with are: Parenting, mental and physical health problems, drug or alcohol dependency, domestic abuse, school related concerns – such as your child is not attending school, debt problems and risk of becoming homeless.

To learn more click: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/families-first/families-first.aspx>

Enriching the Curriculum

On Tuesday, parents of children from Owls and Puffins came in to help the children plant vegetables from seed and flowers that they had kindly donated. The following day, the children in EYFS had the opportunity to explore the wildlife in our school pond. Children took part in pond dipping, and were thrilled to discover a variety of fascinating creatures, including newts and pond skaters.



VE day service.

Yesterday, our Year 5 pupils took part in a commemorative service at the war memorial in town to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The children shared how special the experience felt, as the bells from St Michael's Church rang out. During the service, tributes and prayers were read and hymns were sung. Isabella from Kestrels and Sydney from Kites recited *The Poem for the Fallen* and the National Anthem was sung by everyone at the end.



Year 6 French fashion show

On Thursday, the Year 6 pupils took to the runway for a fashion show with a French twist! The event was a creative and fun way for the children to showcase their newly acquired French language skills to an enthusiastic audience from Years 3, 4, and 5. Mrs Edwards shared that the children had worked exceptionally hard over the past few weeks, learning clothing-related vocabulary and constructing full sentences in French to describe what they were wearing and when they would wear it. Bravo les enfants!



Reminders and Updates

Lateness

Please ensure you leave enough time in the morning to get your child to school in time for registration at 8.50am. Lateness is very disrupting for the teacher and class, but if you do have a valid reason for being late please call the school office in advance and we will inform the teacher. Children who arrive after 9.30am are marked as an unauthorised absence for that session unless there is evidence of an appointment.

Temperatures

On hot days please ensure that a high SPF sun cream is applied to your child before school and please remember sun hats and water bottles. Children must also have a raincoat for days that maybe wet.

Uniform

Skirts, dresses and trousers must be smart school wear. Children in Year 5 and 6 are expected to wear a shirt and tie. Ties are optional in Lower Key Stage 2. Smart black shoes should be worn, without flashing lights (or with the lights turned off). Children are **not** allowed to wear sandals, trainers or boots. No extreme hairstyles, such as tramlines are allowed at school. Children are **not** allowed to wear earrings or other jewellery or smart watches in school. Hair accessories must be in bottle green. **During PE lessons all children** should wear bottle green shorts/green tracksuit bottoms with their white t-shirts.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Amber and Sahil

Puffins: Ollie **Owls:** Aiden

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: great story telling in their myth writing, working so hard to develop their understanding of math's, having brilliant communication and language skills, practicing their reading at home, asking such thoughtful questions in lesson, being a reflective learner in English, working so hard and finding ways to improve their work.

Well done to:

Robins: Ralph
Starlings: Violet
Skylarks: Heidi
Nightingales: Iris
Kestrels: Cora
Harriers: Harry

Wrens: Emilie
Sparrows: Jolam
Swifts: Aaron
Kingfishers: Millie
Kites: Erin
Hawks: Sammy

Sporting Achievement

Tennis competition

Last week four children from year 3 took part in a tennis competition at the BSTC. Mrs Braniff accompanied the group. The weather was very hot but the children coped really well. There were eight other schools taking part and each child competed until the bell rang, then they swapped players. The children tried really hard in every round and showed real team spirit with encouragement from the side lines and they came 7th overall.

Football

Congratulations to Louie in Skylarks who has been signed as a U9s academy player for West Ham United for the 2025/2026 season.

Northgate School Association

Summer Fayre

With our PTA Summer Fayre on Saturday 14th June 2025 (from 12pm to 3pm) fast approaching, we still need lots of lovely volunteers to help us make it the best Summer Fayre ever! Please if you can, sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-56183930-northgate>

The PTA team is fantastic, but we can't run events like this without your support. It would be such a shame not to run all the exciting things we have planned for the Fayre if we can't get enough volunteers.

Please see attached our Northgate Summer Fayre poster- we look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your continued support!

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