

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

October 16th 2025

Headteacher's News

Today, Northgate marked **Show Racism the Red Card Day**, with children and staff wearing red to show their support for tackling racism. Earlier this week, Mrs Ahwe led an assembly to help children understand the impact of racism and the importance of standing up against discrimination. This learning was reinforced through PSHE lessons, where children explored how we can treat others with fairness, kindness and respect. These important messages reflect our school value of Respect and our commitment to ensuring everyone feels valued and included in our school community.

We look forward to welcoming parents into school for our **reading with parent sessions** next week. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for you to enjoy a book with your child and support their developing reading skills. Reading regularly at home plays an important role in building confidence, developing vocabulary and fostering a lifelong love of books. By working in partnership, we can help every child make progress and enjoy their reading journey. Please enter through the main school entrance. On Wednesday, parents of children in **Years 3 and 4** are also invited to attend a Times Tables Workshop, which will take place immediately **before** the reading session, to explore ways to support times tables learning at home.

Next Thursday, we are encouraging children to come into school wearing clothes that **celebrate their own heritage and culture**.

For example, they could wear the colours of a national flag or a football kit from a particular country. Please do not feel you have to buy something special for this—if you only have one colour of a flag, that's fine! As part of this **non-uniform day** we are also encouraging children to wear their hair naturally; just be you! We are asking for a donation e.g. £1 on the day to fund special visitors who will be doing interactive workshops with the whole school, such as the drummer and storyteller who came. We would like to thank the PTA who have contributed to fund these workshops. The **Bishop's Stortford Food Bank** were grateful for everyone's kind donations and said it would make a real difference.

Please don't forget we have an **Inset day** next Friday.
Have a great weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum

Year 3 visit from Spirit of the Wild

As part of Year 3's topic on predators. On Monday we were delighted to welcome a visit from Spirit of the Wild. The children had a wonderful morning learning fascinating facts about a variety of birds, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. They got up close to spiders and snakes, carefully observed them, and even had the chance to hold some of the creatures. They discussed their appearances, colours, and the unique features that help them survive in the wild.



**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Important Dates

Mon 19th Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents
Tues 20th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Wed 21st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents (Times table workshop before (8.50))
Thurs 22nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Thurs 22nd Oct	Cultural Heritage Day/World Afro Hair Day
Fri 23rd Oct	Inset Day
26th –30th Oct	Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov	PTA AGM 7:30 pm
Friday 6th Nov	Northgate Fireworks
Tues 10th Nov	Parent Consultations
Thurs 12th Nov	Parent Consultations
Mon 30th Nov	Elfridges run by PTA
Wed 2nd Dec	Elfridges run by PTA
Thurs 3rd Dec	Elfridges run by PTA
Tues 8th Dec	EYFS Christmas production 9.15am/ 2.30pm
Wed 9th Dec	KS2 Pantomime 1:30pm South Mills (pick up from theatre)
Fri 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas production 9.10am/ 2.40pm
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 17th Dec	KS2 2pm Carol Concert St Michaels (pick up from Church)
Friday 18th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
21st Dec—1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4th Jan	Inset day
Tues 5th Jan	School term starts
Mon 25th Jan	Spring PTA Meeting
15th—19th Feb	Half Term
Thurs 25th Mar	2pm finish break up for Easter
30th Mar—9th April	Easter Holidays

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

If your child is unwell and not attending school, please leave a message with the school **each morning before 9.00am** either by emailing Absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk or by phone. We have a duty of care to ensure all children are accounted for as soon as possible each day.

The kitchen has also requested that parents remember to **cancel their child's lunch** if they are not coming in. Please do this before 8.00am to avoid charges and unnecessary food waste. Thank you.

Medicines: If your child requires medicine during the school day, an 'Administration of Medication' form must be completed. You will find the form on our school website. An adult must hand the medication in/collected to/from the school office. **Children must not bring medicines to school in their bags or pockets.** The medication must be in its original packaging, with leaflets, in date and, where relevant, have the pharmacy label attached. It is vital that parents **keep aware of expiry dates** and replace items such as inhalers and auto-injectors prior to expiry.

Enriching the Curriculum

As part of their history topic on castles, Year 2 enjoyed a walk to the **Waytemore Castle** ruins in town on Thursday. The children climbed to the top of the remaining structure to take in the view, and once back on the ground, they created detailed sketches of the castle. Their drawings showed a wonderful display of observation and creativity. Thank you to all the parents who helped!



Heritage and Cultural non-school uniform day

Next week, on the last day of this half term, Thursday 22nd Oct, we invite all children to come to school in non-uniform to celebrate their heritage and culture. Children are encouraged to wear suitable clothing that reflects their background—for example, colours of a national flag or a football kit from a particular country. As part of our celebrations, we will also be recognising World Afro Hair Day. On this day, children are encouraged to wear their hair naturally just be you! We kindly ask for a £1 donation to help fund special visitors. Thank you.



Reminders and Updates

Children arriving late in the morning

We kindly remind parents of the importance of ensuring that children arrive at school on time each day, ready to learn. Please be aware that any pupil arriving after 9:30am will receive an unauthorised mark for that morning, unless they are attending a medical appointment. Where a pupil accumulates 10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence, within a 10 school week period, we are legally required to inform the county council, who may issue a penalty notice to parents. For further information regarding attendance please refer to the parents section on our website under [ATTENDANCE](#). Thank you for your co operation and continued support in ensuring children make the most of their learning opportunities.

Amazon Wish Lists

Further to last weeks newsletter, please find below the links to Year 1 and PULSE Amazon wish lists. Thank you for your support; it is much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Louisa Layer, our Assistant Head.

[Year 1](#)

[PULSE](#)

Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to the Tesco store in Bishops Stortford for their kind and generous donation of stationary supplies for our school. Their donation of pens, pencils, scissors and note books is very much appreciated.

Happy Hedgehogs

Mrs Morgan would like to thank all the children, parents and staff their donations of Hedgehog food. The food was gratefully received by the Hedgehog charity. Evelyn from Year 4 shared her Hedgehog experience. I have visited a hedgehog hospital. I saw a hedgehog ambulance and experts and volunteers talking about how to look after them properly.



Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week are:



Ducklings: Daphne and Alexis

Puffins: Charlie **Owls:** Emily

Well done to:

Robins: Phoebe

Starlings: Edward

Skylarks: Betsy

Nightingales: Frank

Kestrels: Vaarin

Harriers: Lara

Wrens: Oliver

Sparrows: Bella

Swifts: Darcy

Kingfishers: George

Kites: Emily

Hawks: Thea



Year 6 Children Applying for Secondary School and Reception applications

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary schools is fast approaching. Parents will need to make an application online or on paper by the closing date of **Saturday 31st October 2026**. We recommend applying well before the deadline in case you encounter any problems. Apply online www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or, if you cannot access the internet, you can request a printed copy of the information and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043.

Primary School Admissions – Reception 2026

Primary school applications for Reception 2026 will open on Tuesday 3rd November 2026. This is for children who will be of school age by September 2027. Please note that the closing date for applications is Friday, 15th January 2027.

Northgate School Association

Fireworks Night Thank you to the 13 volunteers who have signed up to share the staffing of our Northgate PTA Fireworks night! 50 slots in total need filling to ensure the smooth and safe running of the event. Sign up here (feel free to share the time slot with a friend, 30 minutes each, just type both of your names in)
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-66303363-northgate?useFullSite=false>

The Parents Lottery

Sign up to the PTA Parents Lottery, there's a £25,000 jackpot up for grabs each week, from only £1 a ticket - a quick and easy way to support more enrichment opportunities for our kids!

<https://www.theparentslottery.org/school/northgate-association-northgate-primary-school1779864551>

Pre-loved Uniform Pop-Up!

We are prepping for a large sale in November! If you have any good uniform donations please drop them in the labelled box in the school office.