

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

September 25th 2026

Headteacher's News

This week, we were pleased to welcome headteachers from local schools into Northgate as part of Envision, our local schools' partnership. Working collaboratively with other schools provides valuable opportunities to share expertise, challenge our thinking and continually strengthen the educational experiences we offer our children. Throughout the day, visiting headteachers spent time in classrooms, observing teaching and learning and gaining an insight into the work taking place across our school. Their feedback highlighted a number of strengths, including pupils' positive attitudes to learning, strong levels of engagement, and the positive development of foundational knowledge across the school. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from colleagues across our local school community. Visits such as these are not only an opportunity to celebrate our strengths but also to engage in professional dialogue, reflect on our practice and identify further ways to enhance teaching and learning at Northgate.

On Thursday 1st October, the Department for Education will carry out the Autumn School Census. An important figure collected is the number of children taking a school meal on that day. We would appreciate if you encourage your child to have a school meal on Census Day, even if they usually bring a packed lunch. The number of meals taken helps determine the funding we receive for free school meals across the next school year. Your support can make a real difference!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum

European Day of Languages

Yesterday we celebrated the **European Day of Languages** to recognise and celebrate the many different languages and cultures that make our school community special. It links to our school code of **Respect** for others by reminding us to value, listen to and learn from people whose languages, cultures and experiences may be different from our own. We discovered our rich linguistic community through children sharing greetings in different languages and parents generously giving up their time to talk about a different language in class. Children also had the opportunity to learn about famous people and the value of languages in their careers. On Thursday, there was a daily mile language trail and a hotly contested KS2 house French quiz - well done Normans! The children also very much enjoyed our language assembly by sharing the foreign language tongue twisters that they had learnt in class. I wonder if they could share it at home? Many thanks for supporting this at home as the children really have benefitted from us all sharing a love for languages. Thank you so much to the parents that gave their time this week to come into school to share and talk with the children about their own languages, which included Spanish, Italian, German and Bulgarian. Our thanks to Mrs Gitto and Mrs Edwards for organising this event.

Important Dates

Mon 28th Sept	Black History Month launch
Mon 28th Sept	Reception Autumn Walk
Tues 29th Sept	African drumming workshop
Thurs 1st Oct	School census day
Fri 2 nd Oct	Food donations start Harvest Festival
Mon 5 th Oct	Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents) followed by 9.20am phonics parent workshop
Wed 7th Oct	Visit Mr Muhammad Black History Month workshop & assembly
Thurs 8 th Oct	KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents) followed by parent workshop
Mon 12 th Oct	Spirit of the Wild - Yr 3
Tues 13 th Oct	Y2 walk to Waytemore castle
Wed 14 th Oct	Whole school individual photos
Fri 16th Oct	Show Racism the Red Card Day (wear Red day)
Mon 19 th Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents
Tues 20 th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Wed 21 st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents followed by times table workshop
Thurs 22 nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Thurs 22nd Oct	Cultural Heritage Day/World Afro Hair Day
Fri 23 rd Oct	Inset Day
26th –30th Oct	Half Term
Tues 8 th Dec	EYFS Christmas production 9.15am/2.30pm
Wed 9 th Dec	KS2 Pantomime 1:30pm South Mills
Fri 11 th Dec	KS1 Christmas production 9.10am/2.40pm
Wed 16 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 17 th Dec	KS2 2pm Carol Concert St Michaels
Friday 18 th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
21 st Dec—1 st Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4 th Jan	Inset day
Tues 5 th Jan	School term starts
15 th —19 th Feb	Half Term
Thurs 25 th Mar	2pm finish break up for Easter
30 th Mar—9 th April	Easter Holidays

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding

What is a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)? Each school must have appropriate senior members of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. Key aspects of the Designated Safeguarding Lead role include: referring any concerns to social care, ensuring all staff are aware of how to raise safeguarding concerns, ensuring all staff understand the symptoms of child abuse and neglect, monitoring children of concern, maintaining child protection records, raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly. At Northgate the DSLs are: **Mrs Tanner, Mrs Clynes, Mrs Layer, Mrs Wallace and Mrs Rogers.**

Enriching the Curriculum

As a school, we aim to make topic work particularly engaging by providing children with a wide range of visits and experiences. On Wednesday, Year 5 visited Duxford to enrich their learning on World War II and bring history to life. The children had a wonderful visit and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They were all very well behaved.

Niko shared his experience of the day:

"I saw some of my favorite planes a Spitfire and a Hurricane and I got to share facts with friends about WWII

Izzy shared her experience of the trip, "I found it really interesting as I hadn't learnt about it before. I got to speak to real veterans and ask them questions about what it was really like.



Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week are:



Ducklings: Aleksei

Puffins: Axel **Owls:** Darcey

'Star of the Week' focuses on being proud. The children were praised by their teachers for their achievements this week:

Robins: Emily

Starlings: Larna

Skylarks: Alisha

Nightingales: Henry

Kestrels: Whole class

Harriers: Gabriel

Wrens: Isabelle

Sparrows: Aasiyah

Swifts: Amara

Kingfishers: Juliet

Kites: Isobel

Hawks: Beren



Reminders and Updates

Black History Month – Get Involved!

Next week we are launching Black History Month. We're celebrating Black History Month during October and would love for parents to join us in enriching our students' learning. This is a special opportunity to honour the contributions and achievements of black and brown people worldwide. We invite parents to share stories, or activities in the classroom, related to Black History Month and culture, such as reading books, leading creative projects (like drumming or art), sharing recipes, or talking about inspiring historical figures. If you're interested, please contact your child's teacher, school office, or email Mrs Ahwe sparrows@northgate.herts.sch.uk to arrange a visit. Thank you.

School Councils and Committees

Our School Eco Council works hard to keep Northgate clean and green! The children help with litter picking and organise paper recycling, encouraging everyone to reduce waste and recycle. Their efforts raise awareness about caring for our planet and inspire positive change.

Puffins: Riley

Robins: Nova

Starlings: Freya

Skylarks: Tom

Nightingales: Eddie

Kestrels: Jess

Harriers: Lucy

Owls: Sylvia

Wrens: Marnie

Sparrows: Tbc

Swifts: Luna

Kingfishers: Arthur

Kites: Isobel

Hawks: Thea

Our School Council and WID (Wellbeing Inclusion and Diversity) Committees will be announced next week.

NORTHGATE PTA

Did you know that all Northgate parents and staff are PTA members on joining the school? Welcome to the Northgate PTA! We are currently made up of a handful of Trustees, a group of 14 consistent volunteers, a few members of staff and the parents of approximately 450 pupils (that's you!). We have historically raised a significant amount of money each academic year; the PTA funds many of the annual enrichment opportunities our children enjoy, as well as much bigger projects like playground equipment and the school music room.

Recruitment We have vacancies for Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to find out more about these positions please get in touch at ptanorthgate@gmail.com

PTA AGM Our AGM will take place on Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7:30pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome, whether you are thinking about becoming an active PTA member or just to come and observe and find out what we are all about!

Fireworks Night! The Northgate Fireworks are on! Friday 6th November - save the date! Tickets will be available next week, and a sign-up page for volunteers on the night. A huge thank you to Hammond & Smith for sponsoring this year's fireworks and helping us make the event happen.

Waitrose Green Token Charity Northgate PTA has been chosen as one of the Waitrose Green Token charities. Voting will start in store between 1st October to the end of Dec. Other charities chosen are the Night Shelter & Food Bank. The scheme is similar to Tesco in that 1st place receives £1500, 2nd place receives £1000 and 3rd £500. Funds received from the scheme will be put to good use and greatly benefit the children at Northgate School.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Children can bring donations to their classrooms From Fri 2nd October. We are supporting Bishop's Stortford Food bank. Millions in the UK are living in poverty, including over 4 million children. Bishop's Stortford Food Bank provides emergency food parcels, non-food essentials, to local people in urgent need. They help residents of Bishop's Stortford and nearby villages through life's toughest moments. Items required include: tinned fruit/vegetables, tinned meat/fish, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauces, pasta, tinned soup, baked beans/tinned spaghetti, sponge puddings, cereal, jam., biscuits, crisps, coffee, tea, fruit juice -long life, squash, UHT milk, sanitary items, toiletries, cleaning products, washing powder, and nappies. Northgate will also be supporting the local Hedgehog Charity as we have done for the last 10 years. Contributions of cat/dog food pouches or tins (excluding chicken & fish) to give to the charity would be much appreciated. Thank you