

September 8th 2023

## 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. We have had a great first week back, in the heat, with a whole school arts week with work based on the Lowry picture 'Britain at Play.'

The children have settled back exceptionally well and are looking so smart. Please see the next page for reminders of expectations on uniform.

We are all really looking forward to another exciting year ahead and the staff have lots of wonderful events and opportunities planned.

Welcome also to all our new staff and welcome back to Mrs Gitto. You will have opportunities to meet them at the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions over the next week.

I am at the main gate most mornings so please catch me or pop into the office if you would like to make an appointment. If it is a class issue, please make sure you have raised the issue with the teacher first. If you would like an appointment with your child's class teacher, please write a note to them, use the class email address or arrange it at the end of the day with their teacher. We do not allow adults around the back of the school in the mornings for safeguarding reasons. Adults who need to come into school must sign in at the office. If you are not happy with response from the class teacher, our middle leaders this year are Mrs McFarlane, Mr Sainsbury, Mrs Shepherd and Mr Brown. They would be very happy to meet you to discuss a problem.

Safeguarding in schools is paramount and all adults volunteering will need annual updates. The next session for volunteers will be on Tuesday 19th September. If you do help in school, I would be grateful if you could ensure that you attend this session. If you are interested in helping in class please contact the office or your class teacher. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing all students develop and make good progress this year.

## Parental Involvement

We value your support and involvement in the school and there are a number of ways for you to become involved:

### One-to-One Reading

We are looking for parents who would like to help with reading in KS1 one day a week or more from 9.00am to 9.20am (Mon-Thurs), or in the afternoons. Having an adult read with children, makes a huge difference to the children's learning. Reading will start on Monday 18th September.

If you would like to help this year, whether you have helped before or not, please complete an on-line form to let us know when you are available, you can find this on our website.

Safeguarding sessions will be held at 9.00am on Monday 18th September and will include a supporting reading training session.

### Other Support

If you are interested in committing time each week to volunteering in a class or in the library, helping children change books or with simple admin work, please let the office or your child's class teacher know.

## Middy Supervisory Assistant

We sometimes need cover in the dining room or playground on a casual basis. If you are interested in being on our books as a casual Middy Supervisory Assistant, please enquire at the office.

## Important Dates

Mon 11th Sept	2.45pm Y4 meet the teacher
<b>Mon 11th Sept</b>	<b>Year 5 Evacuee day</b>
Tues 12th Sept	9am Y5 meet the teacher
Wed 13th Sept	9am Y1 meet the teacher
<b>Tues 19th Sept</b>	<b>Safeguarding training for volunteers</b>
Tues 19th Sept	2.45pm Reception meet the teacher
Wed 20th Sept	11am & 2.45pm Nursery meet the teacher
<b>Mon 25th Sept</b>	<b>7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting online</b>
Wed 27th Sept	9am Y1 Phonics workshop for parents
Tues 3rd Oct	9am Reception Phonics workshop (parents)
Wed 4th Oct	2.45pm Y3/4 timetables workshop (parents)
Tues 10th Oct	9am KS1 Harvest assembly (parents in)
Tues 10th Oct	9.20am Supporting learning Y2 workshop parents
Wed 11th Oct	9am Reception Harvest assembly (parents in)
Wed 11th Oct	6.30pm -7.45pm Y5/6 Parent information evening
Mon 16th Oct	9.05am KS1 Reading with parents
Tues 17th Oct	9.05am LKS2 Reading with parents
Wed 18th Oct	9.05am UKS2 Reading with parents
Thurs 19th Oct	9.05am EYFS Reading with parents
Fri 20th Oct	RE Day
23rd—27th Oct	Half term
Mon 30th Oct	Inset Day
Fri 3rd Nov	PTA fireworks
<b>Mon 13th Nov</b>	<b>7.30pm PTA AGM</b>
<b>Fri 12th Jan</b>	<b>2pm PTA Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Mon 4th Mar</b>	<b>7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Fri 10th May</b>	<b>2pm PTA Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Mon 24th June</b>	<b>7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Contacting Class Teachers

If you would like to discuss any issues with your child's class teacher, the best way to do this is to call or email the office on [01279 652376](tel:01279652376) or at [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk). Alternatively you can contact them directly via class emails although please be aware it may take some time to respond.

Please don't forget to come along to our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, dates are listed above.

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding Leads

If you have a safeguarding issue, this year our designated safeguarding leads are [Mrs Tanner](#), [Mrs Clynes](#), [Mrs Layer](#) and [Mrs Wallace](#).

### Medicines

If your child needs any medicine, please be advised that it must be in its original packaging, with leaflets, 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 before dropping off. Forms can be found on the school website under Parent Information, Medical. Parents need to be aware of expiry dates and replace items such as inhalers and auto-injectors prior to expiry.

## Reminders and Updates

### Uniform Reminders

It was great to see all the children looking so smart at the start of term. Just to remind you **all items must be named**.

Skirts and trousers must be smart school wear. The Upper Key Stage 2 children 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 trainers, fashion shoes or boots.

Children are **not** allowed to wear earrings or other jewellery in school. Children who have not had their earrings removed after the summer need to have a letter explaining the situation addressed to Mrs Tanner. Smart watches must not be worn in school. Hair accessories must be in school colours, yellow or bottle green. No extreme Hairstyles allowed. Thank you for your support.

**During PE lessons** all children should wear bottle green shorts with and a white t-shirt (with school logo or unbranded white t-shirt) and a bottle green tracksuit. No extreme Hairstyles allowed.

### Second Hand Uniform

We have a lot of second hand uniform in very good condition. This will be on sale in the main reception area for the next couple of weeks and then on Fridays only. Please come and have a look.

Payment by cash only.

### Water bottles

Please could you make sure your children's water bottles measure no more than 15cm in height (with the top off) as taller bottles do not fit in the machine and this is causing regular flooding of the dining room floor. Thank you



### Newsletter

The newsletter is our main form of communication to parents and it is usually sent out after school on Friday afternoon. If you are not receiving emails or your email address changes, please let the office know ASAP. This weeks newsletter will only go to priority 1 contacts for Nursery and Reception.

### Secondary Transfer

Year 6 children will be sent a Secondary Transfer 2023 leaflet today by email. Please be aware that applications can be made on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) and applications MUST be made by 31st October 2023.

### School Lunches

Please continue to pre-order lunches on School Grid as usual. For children in Years 3 to 6, payment for lunches will continue to be made on School Gateway. The cost of lunch is still £3.20, please ensure that your child's account is in credit at all times, thank you. If you have any difficulty accessing School Grid ordering system or School Gateway payment system then please contact the office by email to [admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk).

### Parking

Please remember to show consideration to others when driving and parking near the school.

### Mobile Phones

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school. A year 6 child may have permission from their parent to walk home alone (please fill out a permission slip on our website stating this). In this instance the phone should be handed to their class teacher as they come into registration and will be given back to them at the end of the day.

## Pupil Premium Grant

If you are struggling financially and think you may need help, then please consider checking your eligibility for free school meals by visiting [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals). If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, and therefore entitled to a free school lunch as part of the Universal Free School Meal programme, registration will help schools to identify anyone on low income and will enable the school to claim funding towards additional staff time, support financially with school trips, extra computers, books, trips, etc. If you have any questions or would like help with an application, please email Mrs Padgett in the school office at [pupil.premium@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pupil.premium@northgate.herts.sch.uk).

## Northgate School Association

We hope you all had a wonderful summer. Welcome to all our new Northgate parents and carers!

### **PTA Events**

We'll be sending out our PTA Event Calendar for this academic year very shortly. We are hoping to have lots of new fundraiser events and of course some of the classics! In the meantime, please save Friday 3rd November 2023 in your diaries as we have our hugely popular Fireworks event taking place that evening! Tickets can be purchased very soon.

The PTA Team has continued to work very hard over the summer putting together event ideas, working on the PTA accounts, looking for partnerships, donations and fundraisers to support our children's school and of course working on the first ever PTA School Calendar. Thank you.

### **PTA Calendar**

A massive thank you to Kiran Malah for leading the team and Shevta Maini and Meryl Herniman. for all their amazing design work. It looks fantastic and a brilliant resource for all us parents and carers as it contains important school dates plus all the wonderful photographs from the competition we ran during 22/23 and the art work from all children across the school.

You can buy yours online from: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-nodxnzv> and it will be delivered to your child.

Thank you for all your support with our new fundraiser.

### **Pre Loved Uniform**

Our pre-loved uniform rail is in the office every Friday, 9am - 3:30pm. It's packed with PE kit, logo polo shirts, sweatshirts, jumpers, cardigans and lots of trousers, shorts, dresses, skirts, ties and bags. Most items are £1, so come and grab a bargain and support the PTA!

We are also in need of good condition PE Kit, white polos and yellow uniform (no rips or stains please!). All donations greatly received into the school office.

### **PTA Astra Recycling Bin**

Over the Summer, our new Astra Recycling bin arrived. You may have seen it by the front gate!

This textiles recycling bin will replace our Happy Bag collections. Astra Recycling take a whole host of textiles (including logo uniform), they either reuse as clothing or mulch down to use as insulation so next to nothing goes to waste.

You can donate: clothes, shoes, bed linen, soft toys, accessories (Such as belts, hats, gloves, scarves, handbags)

Please do not donate: duvets or cushions, carpet or curtains

The bin is ready to use, so please bring any textiles you no longer need as the PTA will receive cash per kilo donated.

Thank you to Katie Homer and Nicole Quail for leading this.

### **PTA Coffee Morning**

We're holding a PTA coffee morning on Friday 29th September at 9am in the School Staff room. Just an informal opportunity to meet some of the team and ask us questions, plus learn about the money we have raised to date and what that money is being used to purchase. Please do come along and chat to us!

### **PTA Meeting Dates**

Our proposed PTA meeting dates and our AGM can be found in the dates for your diary section in the Newsletter.

**Hope you all have a lovely weekend.**

**Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team**

### Speech & Drama Club

Congratulations to all of the Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 children who participated in their LAMDA Exams last term. Not only did all children pass but all did so with either merits or distinctions, the top grades possible, which is a fantastic achievement! For enquiries from September, classes are available for those in Year 1 and above and if you would like further details, please contact Jacqueline Dearnley via email at [jdearnley71@hotmail.com](mailto:jdearnley71@hotmail.com).