

February 10th 2023

Headteacher's News

This week has been National Safer Internet Day and it took the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. In school, Miss Hartley, our computer lead, led assemblies on the subject and teachers discussed it in the classroom. Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to focus on online safety with your child. The UK safer internet centre have created a range of pages to help you start a conversation with your child, whatever that may be about and no matter how much time you have.

They suggest the following practical tips for starting a conversation about life online;

- Be positive and open-minded about the internet
- Talk early and often
- Create a safe space for conversations
- Keep it relevant
- Be proactive

The link will take you to the website to gain further information.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers/practical-tips-for-starting-a-conversation-about-life-online>

Miss Hartley will run a session on the computing curriculum in KS1 and KS2 for 20 minutes on Tuesday 28th February.

Thank you for your continued support this term, and in particular for those parents who have volunteered.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break.

Enriching the curriculum

The **reception** classes enjoyed a local walk and visit to our local town library on Thursday and Friday. The lovely librarians read us a story before we went on an Hairy Maclary hunt around the children's books.



Year 1 had a wonderful Royal Tea Party on Monday afternoon to complete their topic "Bright Lights, Big City".

During this topic the children have been learning all about London. The Princess of Wales graced us with her presence and the children asked her

lots of questions. This was followed by a wonderful Tea Party. Thank you to all parents for sending a wonderful spread of food! They all had a lovely time.

Math Challenge

On Monday, 8 children from **Year 5** competed in a maths challenge against other schools from Hertfordshire. It was a virtual tournament, so we were part of a big Zoom call. There were four challenging rounds that included general maths, memory, estimation and problem solving. We only had 90 seconds to answer each question! Everyone did really well and we worked as an amazing team.



13th-17th Feb

Tues 21st Feb

Wed 22nd Feb

Wed 22nd Feb

Thurs 23rd Feb

Fri 24th Feb

Tues 28th Feb

Tues 28th Feb

Weds 1st March

Weds 1st March

Thurs 2nd March

Thurs 2nd March

Fri 3rd March

Mon 6th March

Tues 7th March

Thurs 9th March

Fri 10th March

w/c 13th March

Thurs 23rd March

Mon 27th March

Tues 28th March

Weds 29th March

Weds 29th March

Weds 29th March

Thurs 30th March

Fri 31st March

Mon 17th April

May 2023

Mon 1st May

Mon 8th May

Fri 12th May

9th-12th May

Fri 19th May

29th-2nd June

Mon 5th June

Sat 10th June

w/c 12th June

Mon 26th June

12th -16th June

12th -23th June

Tues 13th June

w/c 17th July

Thurs 20th July

Friday 21st July

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Important Dates

Half term

Year 6 Victorian Day

9am Volunteer reading training.

Well Bean gardening club starts again at lunch

Year 6 Spring Music Concert

Year 5 Wonder Dome visit to school the computing curriculum in KS1 and KS2 9am

Parent consultations 3.30 –6.30pm

Parent consultation 3.30—6pm

Class 3 parent consultation 3.30pm—6.30pm

Class 2,3 7,8 parent consultations

3.30pm—6.00pm

World Book Day

Happy Bag collection

7.30PM PTA committee meeting (online)

Year 1 phonics meeting 9am

Year 5 Spring Music Concert

PTA School Disco (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)

PTA Mother's Day Shop

Year 3/4 production

Year 3 visit to Colchester Castle

9.00am LSK2 Challenge with parents/work sharing

9.00am KS1 Challenge with parents/work sharing

Northgate's Got Talent

House cross country final

9.00am UKS2 Challenge with parents/work sharing

Term Ends 2.00pm

Children return to school

Y2 SATs Week

Bank Holiday

The Kings Coronation Bank Holiday

2pm PTA committee meeting (in person)

Y6 SATs Week

PTA Film Night (EYFS/KS1 and KS2)

Half term

INSET DAY

PTA Summer Fayre

PTA Father's Day Shop

7.30pm PTA committee meeting (online)

Y1 Phonics Week - (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)

Y4 Times Tables Tests

Happy Bag collection

PTA Ice Cream Sales

End of Term at 2.00pm

Occasional day

Safeguarding

Parent Volunteers for Reading

Mrs Tanner is holding **volunteer safeguarding training** on Tuesday 21st February at 2.50pm for any parents that are interested in volunteering at school. From Wednesday 1st March Mrs Layer will be available on Wednesday mornings at 9.00am for any further safeguarding training that is required. Mrs Layer is also holding **volunteer reading training** on Wednesday 22nd February at 9.00am. This will give parents an idea of how the school helps the children with their reading (a PowerPoint will be available via email afterwards. Please contact the office if you would like this.



On Wednesday, Year 4 had a trip to the festival of literature. They met Wendy Shearer, a published author who describes herself as a professional London storyteller, writer and imagination weaver. Her latest book is Caribbean Folktales.

"On Wednesday we walked to the Bishop Stortford College to see the author called Wendy. The story that we listened to was about a lady who had never laughed before. But a clever spider wore a ridiculous outfit with a monkey tail, crocodile jacket and a bird feathers to make her laugh. We all had a great time!" By Isla Class 8

Sport hall Athletics

Well done to the sixteen children from Year 4 that took part in the Sports Hall Athletics at Birchwood on Thursday 2nd February. Northgate came fourth out of fourteen Schools! Brilliant work team.

Break the Rules Day



All the children enjoyed breaking the school rules today with coloured hair, nail varnish, their preferred footwear and jewellery! Thank you for your support and money raised for the school.

Reminders and Updates

School Crossing Patrol person.

Cricketfield lane has been assigned a school crossing patrol person. Which is wonderful news for our school and the local community. His name is Tony and he has many years experience in this role elsewhere. Tony will be starting after half term and will be at the crossing point on Cricketfield Lane before school 8.20am –8.55am and after school 3.00pm—3.35pm. Welcome Tony!

Air up drinks

Children are allowed pure water but no air-up drinks in school. Even though we are aware that the drink is water, the scented pods are causing problems amongst the children trading the pods in the playground at break and lunch and swapping capsules during class. We appreciate your full support.

Parent Consultations

Tues 28th Feb: All classes apart from class 3: 3.30 –6.30pm.

Weds 1st March: All classes apart from 2,3,7,8: 3.30—6pm

Thurs 2nd March: Class 2,3,7,8 parent consultation 3.30pm-6.00pm

Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Betsy & Sienna Rae

R1: Nate R2: Harvey

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on "Computing". Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: fantastic contributions to a debate on copy write law and fair trade, recalling online safety and supporting their friends on the laptops, independently exploring and teaching themselves and others skills on the software, excelling at problem solving in inkscape and creating amazing artwork, excellent teamwork and presentation skills in PowerPoint, confidence in programming a computer toy to move around a private map, excellent emails which included capital letters, full stops and exclamation marks!

Class 1 Nico	Class 7: Elijah
Class 2: Florence G	Class 8: James
Class 3: Shay	Class 9: Toby
Class 4: Aarav	Class 10: Susie
Class 5: Cora	Class 11: Santa
Class 6: Ellie	Class 12: Quincy

Message from Chair of Governors,

I am please to be able to announce the unopposed election of three parent Governors to the four posts that where vacant. Ros Fraser and Paul Norton have stood for re-election having already served four years as governors. Following our previous request for more parent governors, Stuart Mclean has also stepped forward and as unopposed will also join the governing body after half term. We still have one more vacancy on the governing body so if you or community members have an interest in promoting the quality of education and supporting the school contact the office for further details.

Kind regards, Laurence Foote

Northgate School Association

PTA Disco

We're excited to announce that the PTA Discos are back this year and will be taking place on Friday 10th March.

EYFS and KS1- 5pm to 6:15pm

KS2- 6:45pm to 8pm

Tickets can be purchased via the following links:

EYFS & KS1 <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-rpqrnpn>

KS2 - <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-ealxeik>

As always, we need volunteers for our events, so please sign up using the following link;

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-disco>

If we can't get enough signed up volunteers by early March, then sadly the event would have to be cancelled. Please help us!

Pre-loved Uniform Shop

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is continuing to accept fancy dress items in preparation for World Book Day. Sales will be held at the end of February. Please bring your donations into the School Office.

Photography competition

Thank you for all your Frosty Fun photos
January's Winner is Eliza Herniman, Class 4 Congratulations Eliza!

Eliza's photo will be the prime picture on our January 2023 calendar page. You can view it and our other favourite January entries on our Facebook Northgate PTA Noticeboard.

As Valentine's Day and Pancake Day approaches, we can't wait to see your Love and Pancakes entries. Deadline is 1st March 2023.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term break.

Geri Wren and Jo Parrott

Your PTA Co-Chairs