

Northgate Primary School Newsletter

18th July 2025

Headteacher's News

It has been great to see so many parents this week sharing the excitement of Challenge Week, and for sharing the Y2 Music festival songs.

Smartphones

Please see the attached letter from the Bishop's Stortford Headteachers supporting primary children not using smartphones. While we appreciate technology can enhance learning, creativity, and problem-solving skills, excessive use can lead to decreased attention span, impact mental health, and impair emotional regulation. At Northgate, only Year 5 and 6 children, who have permission to walk to school independently, are allowed to bring phones into school—these are handed into the class teacher. We encourage this **not** to be **smartphones**. Our policy will be reviewed in the coming year.

Online safety

We hope you found the presentation from Eduthing around online safety useful. If you missed it, please find the link in our safeguarding section.

Challenge week

Thank you for Mrs Layer for organising Challenge Week, where the children have enjoyed an incredible range of experiences — from outdoor swimming (KS1) and rock climbing (KS2), to VR headsets, coding software, maths 'Escape Rooms', team-building activities, art challenges and so much more! Thanks to our PTA for their generous support to make some of these activities possible.

Thank you to the PTA

Thank you for your continued support this year organising so many wonderful events. Fundraising makes a real difference to the school and the pupils. In particular, a massive thanks to Geri Wren, who is stepping down as chair. Please read the message from her on the final page.

Thank you to the Governors

We are grateful to all the Governors for their support, commitment and work behind the scenes. This year we welcomed three new governors Sally Fenton, Sarah Wilson and Emma Doris.

Thank you to the staff

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fabulous staff who have worked tirelessly this year to ensure the best education for all the children and to provide so much more beyond the curriculum. Their great efforts are very much appreciated.

Thank you to parents and carers

I would, once again, like to thank all parents for your ongoing support and we wish all the families that are leaving us all the best. Good luck to Year 6 leavers as they prepare for their next educational journey. **Tuesday 22nd July** is 'Break the rules day' and please note school finishes for this year at **2pm**. Have a healthy and enjoyable holiday and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Thursday 4th September**. Happy holidays!

Important Dates

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
Wed 10th Sept	Y2 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Thurs 11th Sept	Y3 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Friday 12th Sept	Y4 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Tues 16th Sept	R 2.50pm Meet the Teacher
Wed 17th Sept	Y5 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Wed 17th Sept	Y1 2.50am Meet the Teacher
Thurs 18th Sept	Y6 9.00am Meet the Teacher
Fri 24th Oct	Inset Day
27th –31st Oct	Half Term
19th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
22nd Dec—2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
5th Jan	Inset Day
16th—20th Feb	Half Term
27th Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter
30th Mar—10th April	Easter Holidays

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Enriching the Curriculum

Wow, what a week! The children embraced Challenge Week with a huge variety of exciting activities. From a climbing wall for KS2 to a giant paddling pool for KS1. Pupils enjoyed water and sports challenges, cracked codes with police radios, explored ancient worlds with VR headsets, and much more! Thinking creatively throughout!

Thanks to volunteers and visitors, including the Adventurer Scout Troop and Millie's mum, a polo coach who shared her career journey and taught the children some polo skills. Huge thanks to Mrs Layer and everyone who made this week possible. Your efforts have inspired our pupils to think about their futures.



Fireworks Cancelled

Sadly, we currently have no volunteers to organise our fireworks event this November. This is very disheartening, as it is one of our major school community events and an important fundraiser for the school. Without someone to take the lead, we will not be able to go ahead with the event. If you are interested in helping to organise this fantastic evening, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Your support would make a huge difference.

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern over the holiday period, please contact **Children's Services** directly on **0300 123 4043**. If you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm or in danger, please call **999** and ask for the **police**.

Please find the link to the **online safety presentation** below

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGtQkM04q4/JWSuBZChJPxGQP61JeWRzw/view?utm_content=DAGtQkM04q4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlid=hab70761b0f

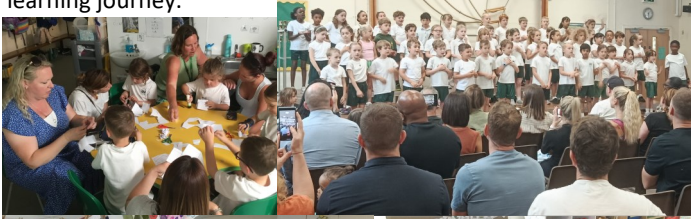
**EVERY CHILD
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

Enriching the Curriculum

Sessions with Parents and Year 2 Music Festival

The children relished the opportunity to share their work and musical talents with their parents this week. Having families present not only boosts their confidence but also celebrates their hard work throughout the year.

We would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers for their continued support—it truly makes a difference in the children's learning journey.



French

On Thursday, Madam Edwards ran some French challenges for KS2. Year 3 set up an ice cream parlour in the dining room as part of their topic this term. Year 4 have been studying *En Classe* and created a stationery shop in the classroom, where the children took turns role-playing as customers purchasing goods. Year 5 focused on *Chez Moi* and made models of their dream house. Finally, Year 6 took on the challenge of building the Eiffel Tower from various materials and produced a memory book to keep forever. Thank you to Madam Edwards for this fun interactive learning opportunity.



Winning House 2024/25



Congratulations to the Romans, who have earned the most house points this year! As a reward, they were all invited to enjoy waffles in the hall at lunchtime. Daniel and Evie, both House Captains, and Rose, Vice Captain, proudly lifted the cup in celebration. Unfortunately, Elijah, the other Vice Captain, couldn't join them. Well-done to all Houses for trying so hard throughout the year.

Reminders and Updates

Dinner money

Please ensure that all debts are cleared immediately. Any credits will be forwarded on to next year.

School uniform

Children must return to school in wearing correct uniform. Jumpers and PE joggers must be bottle green. Children should be wearing black shoes, **no trainers or boots**. Year 5 and 6 need to wear ties, these can be purchased from AVM in Bishop's Stortford, our uniform supplier. We do have a limited supply in the office also.

Earrings

It is our policy that earrings must not be worn in school. If your child is having their ears pierced over the summer, we suggest they have them pierced early in the holidays. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Pupil Premium

If you claim any benefits, you may be entitled to Free School Meals and other funding to help cover the cost of trips, and additional interventions your child may require. To find out please apply directly and confidentially via the following link: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>.

Important: Library Books

Thank you to everybody that has returned library books. We have **38** books still missing. Please have a good look over the summer holidays for any that might be hiding at home and return them to school in September. We are asking for a £5.00 donation towards any unreturned or missing books.

Lost Property

Please come and claim any lost property from the white bins in the office reception area. Items left over at the end of term will be either sold on as preloved or recycled.

Painting the dining room

We're looking for helping hands to paint the school dining room this summer. If you're available and willing to lend a hand, please contact Ms Morris, our School Business Manager on email sbm@northgate.herts.sch.uk — we'd be incredibly grateful for your time and effort.

Attendance

Hertfordshire County continue to crack down on poor attendance expecting schools to fine for unauthorised absence, including holidays. Children who show a consistent and regular patterns on nonattendance will not necessarily have short periods of sickness authorised.

Attendance this Term

Yr	%	Our target	
R	96.2	Whole school	96%
1	95.6	0 days off	100% Fantastic
2	94.2	5 days off a year	97% Good
3	96.2	10 days off a year	95% Slight concern
4	96.3	20 days off a year	90% Concerned
5	96.7	30 days off a year	85% Very concerned
6	96.5		

Northgate School Association

The time has come to say goodbye! This all feels incredibly emotional. After 7 years on the PTA committee and 4 years as Chair, it's time to hand the PTA reins over. What an amazing (and exhausting!) time as Chair! It has been a privilege to be a part of a team that cares so much for our children and school. We have raised thousands and thousands of pounds over the last few years which has made a significant difference to our children's experience and enabled our school to purchase very much needed resources.

Just in this last year, we have enabled the school to purchase:

- £10,000 towards the KS2 Trim Trail play project
- PE mats
- Music system for hall
- Books
- Classroom resources
- Play equipment
- Enhancement weeks
- Pantomimes



We are still looking for parents/carers to take on the roles of Chair and Secretary or even a small part of those roles. Without them, events such as the forthcoming Fireworks Night will have to be cancelled. I know it's a lot of work, but it's so worth it. And it really is a pleasure to help our children's school.

A massive thank you to the amazing PTA team who have supported me day and night to deliver our events! There is so much that goes on behind the scenes of the PTA that no one sees, but it is essential to the running of the team. You are all fantastic and it has been a total pleasure! I will miss you loads.

Thank you to the staff members who have also supported me and listened when I'm stressing about events. And to our wonderful community of parents/carers who have volunteered, thanked me on the school run or bought a ticket to one of our events, thank you. You have made such a difference.

Wishing the PTA best wishes for the future and I look forward to attending events as a Northgate Teaching Assistant!

Thank you again. Don't forget Break the Rules Day on Tuesday.

Over and out!

Geri xx