

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

27th June 2025

Headteacher's News

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Dunn at the end of the summer term, who is retiring after an extensive, outstanding teaching career. A truly dedicated educator, he has been a constant source of kindness and positivity, always going above and beyond to provide support and encouragement for children to thrive. Mr Dunn has also been committed beyond the classroom through offering countless students the chance to build confidence, teamwork, and a sense of belonging through sporting events. His retirement is a great loss to us, but we are immensely grateful for all the years of service, compassion, and commitment. We wish him every success, happiness, and fulfilment in his next chapter.

We are also sad to be saying goodbye to Miss Powala, who is leaving us to go travelling and explore new adventures around the world. Miss Powala has been a valued member of our school community, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to everything she does. Best of luck and safe travels!

We also say a heartfelt goodbye to Mrs Hayes, who has been a wonderful support in our Nursery and Reception classes. Her caring nature and gentle presence will be greatly missed by both children and staff.

We are delighted to be welcoming back Miss Adams from maternity leave and to officially welcome Mrs Rolfe and Miss Day to our teaching staff—both of whom are currently working within the school. We're excited to have them as part of the team and look forward to all they will bring to our school community.

Children's new classes will be announced on Tuesday. You will receive your children's reports through Arbor on Thursday.

Next week is a very busy, exciting week—please make sure you are aware of all details (including different drop off times on Wednesday for year 5 and 6)

Hope you have a great weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Today, Year 5 took part in an exciting Egyptian workshop! The children looked fantastic in their costumes and enjoyed a highly educational day, learning all about ancient Egyptian history and geography.

A huge thank you to Mrs Cotterell and Mrs Gitto for organising such a fantastic event, and to our special guest, Mrs Harper, an Egyptologist who gave an engaging talk to the children. The classes also had fun playing traditional board games from the era and writing their names in hieroglyphics.



Important Dates

Mon 30th June	Reception trip to Willows Farm
Wed 2nd July	9am—10.30am Nursery Sports Day
Wed 2nd July	Y5/6 performances at South Mill Art.
Fri 4th July	Sports Day After Party & Colour Run
Thurs 10th July	School Transition Day (Nursery closed all day)
	Reserve Sports Day.
Fri 11th July	Challenge week. Sessions with parents
14th—17th July	2.50pm—Nursery & Reception
Mon 14th July	9am—Year 3/4
Tues 15th July	9am—Year 5/6
Wed 16th July	9am—Year 1/2
Thurs 17th July	9.30am Y2 Music festival with parents
Thurs 17th July	8.50am Eduthing Online Safety Talk
Wed 16th July	9.15am Yr 6 Leavers' assembly am
Mon 21st 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
Fri 24th Oct	Inset Day
27th—31st Oct	Half term
22nd Dec—2nd Jan	Christmas Break
Fri 13th Feb	Inset Day
16th—20th Feb	Half term
30th Mar—10th Apr	Easter Break

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Year 5/6 Production: Drop-Off & Pick-Up Details

Performance Day: Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Showtimes: 1:30pm and 6:30pm

Children should be dropped off at the **theatre at 9:00am**, in **full costume** with a **packed lunch**. If you have younger siblings to take to school, please do so first.

After the **afternoon performance**, pick-up is at **2:50pm** from the following locations:

Kites and Hawks – back of the auditorium by the stairs
Kestrels and Harriers— side exit of the auditorium by the foyer

If someone other than a parent is collecting your child, or if your child has permission to walk home alone, please **email their class teacher in advance**.

Please note: **teachers will not return to school and cannot escort children to Night Owls or clubs**.

For the **evening performance**, return to the theatre at **5:50pm**, in **full costume** and **no bags**. The show begins at **6:30pm**, with **pick-up at 7:45pm** from the same locations. All children must be collected by an adult—please inform the class teacher if this is not a parent or guardian.

Safeguarding:

CBeebies have a new dedicated Parenting Page, offering support, advice, and ideas to help navigate everyday challenges of raising young children—0-6 years. For more information click: [CBeebies Parenting Tips & Advice](#)
BBC Bitesize offers advice with supporting older children. For more information click: [BBC Parents' Toolkit](#)

Enriching the Curriculum

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to Stansted Mountfitchet this morning, travelling by train and stepping back in time as they explored the reconstructed medieval village, discovered how people lived hundreds of years ago, and took part in hands-on activities that brought history to life.



Sport

Eleven girls from Year 6 took part in a Tag Rugby competition hosted by Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club, designed to promote girls' rugby in our local community. Martha and Orla from Hawks, along with Evie and Isla from Harriers, said: "We were split into two teams and played six matches. Team One came second and Team Two came fourth. We really enjoyed the event, plus we got to meet Emma Hardy from the Saracens Women's Team, We managed to get her autograph, and even got a goodie bag!"



Reminders and Updates

Sport Day Reminder - Next Friday 4th July. Please remember children Y1—Y6 should wear a coloured top that reflects their house colour. Romans —Green, Saxons — Red, Vikings—Blue, Normans—Yellow. There are a few in second hand uniform for sale. Please see the letter with timings for the different year groups.

Headlice Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers to regularly check their child's hair for headlice and nits. Headlice are a common issue in schools and can spread quickly if not treated promptly. If you do find headlice, please begin treatment as soon as possible and continue to check the whole family. Children do not need to be kept off school once treatment has started. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school headlice-free.

Vancols—Class Photos

The cut-off date to order class photos with free delivery back to the school is **Monday 29th June at midnight.**

The BBC 500 Words competition is the UK's most successful short story contest for children aged 5–11. It encourages young writers to craft original stories of up to 500 words, helping to build creativity, confidence, and literacy skills.

Winning stories are read by celebrities and broadcast on BBC radio—a truly exciting opportunity! To learn more or get involved, visit the official site: [BBC 500 Words Competition](http://BBC500Words.com).



Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Rory and Elsie

Puffins: Albert

Owls: Ralph

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Children were praised for: a fantastic effort and focus in music, positive attitude to learning, fantastic improvement in her writing. And always playing well with friends! A great team player!

Well done to:

Robins: Wyatt

Starlings: Bella

Skylarks: Robbie & Florence

Nightingales: Lucas

Kestrels: Marquis

Harriers: Elijah

Wrens: Charlotte

Sparrows: Bayley

Swifts: Arthur

Kingfishers: Mario

Kites: Max

Hawks: Ruby

Summer Reading Challenge

We were incredibly lucky to have had a visit from two local librarians this week who talked to the children



about this year's Summer Reading Challenge, **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors.**

This challenge invites children of all ages to explore the magical connection between storytelling and nature while helping to prevent the typical summer dip in reading levels.

Children who join Story Garden can discover new books, take part in free activities at their local library, and learn about the link between reading and the great outdoors. The challenge begins at all Hertfordshire Libraries on Saturday 5 July and runs until Saturday 6 September.

Children are encouraged to read six library books and collect exclusive stickers along the way. Those who complete the challenge will receive a medal and certificate. For more details, visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SummerReadingChallenge.

Northgate School Association

Sports Day After Party

Our popular Sports Day After Party is taking place on Friday 4th July from 3.30pm to 7.30pm after the School Sports Day. There will be inflatables, food, drink and our wonderful colour run! Tickets can be purchased from www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association.

Ice Creams

Assuming that the weather continues to be wonderfully warm, we will be holding our ice cream event on Thursday 17th July at pick up. Lots of yummy ice creams and lollies!

Summer Fayre

Thank you again for all your support with the Summer Fayre. We made it to the Bishop's Stortford Independent- a full page! Please take a look! Thank you.

Hope you all have a relaxing weekend!
Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team