

# Northgate Primary School

## Newsletter

September 29th 2023

### Headteacher's News

As a school who believes in the importance of working in partnership with parents to ensure the best for the children, we like to run workshops to support parents in their understanding of what we do and how to support your children at home. I hope parents who came to our Y1 parent information sessions this week, found it useful and it helped you gain an understanding of phonics. The PowerPoint from the session will be available on Google Classrooms. If you would like to give feedback from the session, please email us at [interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk)

We look forward to welcoming parents next week to our phonics session for Reception parents and the Year 3/4 times table workshop (see important dates.)

On the news this week, there were articles about the significant decline in school attendance since Covid. This has impacted our school, and last year we failed to reach the governors' whole school attendance target of 96%. Regular school attendance is essential for all of our pupils to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better chances in life.

### Attendance this term

Yr	%	Our target	96%
R	95.3	Whole school	94.8
1	92.3		
2	94.6		
3	94.4		
4	95.8		
5	95.0		
6	96.0		

0 days off	100%	Fantastic
5 days off a year	97%	Good
10 days off a year	95%	Slight concern
20 days off a year	90%	Concerned
30 days off a year	85%	Very concerned

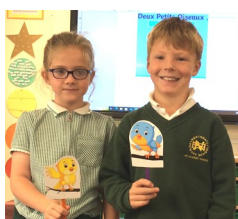
If you are struggling to get your child into school and would like support, please contact our pastoral lead, Mrs Leeks. There is also support on the BBC website. Click here: [How to help your child have good attendance - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-61888888). Have a good weekend.

### Enriching the Curriculum



Our Reception children and parents had a fantastic time being nature detectives on our first local walk. We practised crossing the road safely and looked for signs of nature in the park. We all collected 5 small objects that could fit into our hand and had fun singing some circle songs.

In French this week Mrs Edwards. They learned the song, 'Deux Petits Oiseaux' (two little birds) in French. Year 6 looked at French phonemes with a tongue twister, "Cinq, cheins, chassent, six, chats" (five dogs are chasing six cats).



### Important Dates

Mon 2nd Oct	5.30pm meeting for Y6 parents re Kingswood.
Tues 3rd Oct	9am Reception Phonics workshop (parents)
Wed 4th Oct	2.45pm Y3/4 times tables workshop (parents)
Fri 6th Oct	9am -10am Stepping Stone coffee morning
Tues 10th Oct	9am KS1 Harvest assembly (parents in)
Tues 10th Oct	9.20am Supporting Learning Y2 workshop with parents
Wed 11th Oct	9am Reception Harvest assembly (parents in)
Wed 11th Oct	9.15am Year 2 walk to Waytemore Castle Mound
Wed 11th Oct	2.45pm KS2 Harvest assembly (no parents)
Wed 11th Oct	6.30pm -7.45pm Y5/6 Parent information evening
Wed 11th Oct	Y5 Trip Imperial War Museum Duxford
Fri 13th Oct	Y3 visit from Spirit of the Wild
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
W/B 30th October	Well being week
Fri 3rd Nov	5pm PTA fireworks
Fri 7th-8th Nov	Parent consolations
Mon 13th Nov	7.30pm PTA AGM
Fri 24th Nov	Year 5 Stortford fields trip
Mon 11th Dec	KS2 Christmas Lunch
Tues 12th Dec	1.30pm KS2 Pantomime at South Mills
Tues 12th Dec	Reception and KS1 Christmas Lunch
Wed 13th Dec	9.15am and 2.30 am KS1 Christmas production
Mon 18th Dec	Volunteer coffee 9am
Mon 18th Dec	1.45pm KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Tues 19th Dec	Break the rules day
Tues 19th Dec	2pm End of term
Fri 12th Jan	2pm PTA Committee Meeting
Wed 31st Jan	Young Voices Choir—O2
Mon 4th Mar	7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting
Fri 10th May	2pm PTA Committee Meeting
Mon 24th June	7.30pm PTA Committee Meeting
3rd-7th June	Year 6 School Journey Kingswood

=\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

### Safeguarding—Road Safety

Please can we ask everyone who uses a car at drop off and pick up to be mindful, keep to a slow speed and be aware of everyone around them. Last week, a parent spoke of their concern, as a driver did not appear to be looking and that worried them immensely.

We obviously talk about road safety at school, but it is still vital that this is built on outside of school, reinforcing the learning and setting a good example. It is a topic that even the youngest children can learn something about because they will be using the roads (including pavements), whether they are walking, cycling, scooting or travelling as a passenger in a vehicle.

Let us all stay safe together.

On Tuesday Ruth Horne came into school to talk to **Year 5** about her life during the 6 years of WWII, as well as being evacuated as a young child to the countryside. Ruth has just turned 90 and explained to the classes how life was for her and her sister during that time. Ruth really engaged well with the children and they were fascinated to hear her accounts. Lots of questions were asked and the class were so interested to hear her answers. Below are favorite facts from a few children.



*'Doodle Bugs were planes without drivers but when they landed, they exploded!' Martha N Class:*

*'My favourite facts that she told us were that you would only get 2ozs of sweets as part of the rations and about doodle bugs.' Arabelle Class*

*'My Favourite fact was the time when she opened her front door and the snow was half way up the frame!'*



**Year 1** have been reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. The children have been relaying this every day and acting out scenes using lots of different adjectives to describe parts of the story.



In Assembly Mrs Clynes talked about the Jewish celebration 'Yom Kippur' which is a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins. Mrs Smith has reflected this in her dolls house display about Autumn.

## Readings Skills

Please have a look at the inside, front cover of your child's reading record. Here you should find a list of the reading skills and their definitions. These are all the skills we teach throughout each term. Speak to your child to find out which skills they have learnt this week. When hearing your child read, try and focus on one of these skills when you ask them questions about the text. If you need any further support, please contact Mrs Layer on [louisa.layer@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:louisa.layer@northgate.herts.sch.uk)

## School Council

Last week we printed a list of children who are on the Eco council although the heading said School Council in error. Please see the list of the children who are our school councilors this year. Well done to you all!

Reception: Sebastian W and Sophie

Class 1 Freya and Frank	Class 2 Zora and Alyssa
Class 3 Isabella and William	Class 4 Robin and Ava
Class 5 Henry and Alice	Class 6 Benedict and Faith
Class 7 Bill and Myla	Class 8 Harry and Metuli
Class 9 George and Martha	Class 10 Archie and Maya
Class 11 Stanley and Olivia	Class 12 Jack J and Elizabeth

## Reminders and Updates

Each Friday after school, starting next week, the second hand school uniform rail will be under the gazebo. There will be an honesty box for you to pay for any items that you wish to take home, but obviously you will need the exact change. Items with a logo are £2.00 each and anything without a logo is £1.00. Unnamed lost property will also be in the Gazebo for you to look through and claim back.

Another new initiative is that our left over free EYFS/KS1 school snacks will be available by the side gate for families to take home.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Nursery: Aasiyah and Pippa

R1: Stanley R2: Hollie

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on 'Writing'

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: writing an amazing descriptions about Endurance stuck in the ice; others wrote excellent expanded noun phrases. Some wrote prepositional sentence starters and trying hard in their bear hunt writing. Finally, using such ambitious adjectives, fantastic figurative language in their narrative about Ernest Shackleton.

Well done to:

Class 1: Freya

Class 2: Erin

Class 3: Charlotte

Class 4: Agnes

Class 5: Noah

Class 6: Teddy

Class 7: Anastasia

Class 8: Methuli

Class 9: Vito

Class 10: Arabelle

Class 11: Charlotte

Class 12: Monty Brocks



## Football Northgate vs Manor Fields

*'It was great to be back for another season. We played Manor Fields on Tuesday. The score was 3-3. We had some amazing shots and tackles but we just couldn't score the chances in front of the goal'. Luca Class 12.*

*'It was an extremely tight match with outstanding saves, shots, tackles and runs with Northgate coming back from 2-0 down to the final result 3-3. Well done Manor Fields and Northgate. We all had fun.' Jack Class 12.*

## Northgate School Association

### Astra Recycling

Our first collection has been an amazing success with over 200kg or clothes and textiles collected! 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. Please continue to support this initiative and bring any clothes/textiles you no longer need as the PTA will receive cash per kilo donated. Thanks for your support!

### Go Henry Partnership

Our PTA has recently partnered with the GoHenry PTA Members' Programme!

Every parent that signs up using our unique referral link will get six months' free membership and £5 free pocket money.

£15 will be donated to the PTA when a parent signs up using the following link: <https://gohenry-uk.sjv.io/c/4840050/1601466/8511> Sign up today!

### Halloween Costume Sale

WANTED: Fancy dress costumes!

If you have any fancy dress costumes, accessories etc you'd like to donate to the Halloween Costume Sale, please bring them into the School Office. Sales are taking place on 13th and 20th October. Thank you.

### PTA Fireworks Night

And just a reminder again about our Fireworks Night Event on Friday 3rd November. We are ALMOST sold out- a massive thank you!

Remaining tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-vvjldom>

As the event gets nearer, we still need volunteers please! If you are able to help for 30 mins, an hour or even more, we need you! We have games and stalls planned for the evening but we need help to run them. Please sign up here (it's fun- we promise!): <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-northgate11>

**Hope you all have a lovely weekend: Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team**