

March 14th 2025

Headteacher's News

At school, we've been focusing on helping the children develop **resilience**. Resilience is such an important life skill, and we want to show the children that even as adults, we sometimes need to push ourselves to do things that feel difficult or uncomfortable. With that in mind, over the Easter break, I will be taking on a big challenge: a **charity skydive!** It's definitely outside of my comfort zone, but that's exactly why I'm doing it – to demonstrate that we can face our fears and push through difficult moments. I've even managed to persuade my son Ben to join me for moral support!

I am doing this in memory of some very special members of our school community who are sadly no longer with us, **Mrs. Newman**, who taught with us for many years, **Hayley**, who ran the Little Ladybirds, and **Mrs. Baldock**, a teaching assistant who worked with us. I have chosen to raise funds for **The Isabel Hospice** because it provided incredible care and support during the final stages of people's lives, as well as ongoing support for their families. The hospice's work has touched so many lives, offering comfort and dignity at the most difficult times.

If you would like to support me, any donation – no matter how small – would be hugely appreciated and will help the hospice continue their vital work for other families. please click:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/jane-tanner-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

The PTA look forward to seeing you at their well-being event tonight, and book fair and the disco next week. Have a good weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Parents across all year groups joined their children to play maths games this week and had the chance to explore their books together. Activities were focused on key concepts such as number recognition through hands-on play, problem-solving tasks to reinforce understanding, and developing complex number concepts and strategies. These activities also promote teamwork and help refine mathematical thinking. Thank you for attending - the children always treasure these occasions with their parents. We hope it has given you some ideas of games you could play to reinforce maths at home.



Important Dates

W/C 17th Mar
Fri 21st Mar

W/C 24th Mar
Wed 26th Mar
Thurs 27th Mar
Fri 28th Mar
Fri 28th Mar
WK beg 31st Mar

Thurs 3rd April
Fri 4th April
Fri 4th Apr
7th- 21st April
Tues 22nd Aril
Thurs 1st May

Mon 5th May
Thurs 15th May
Wed 21st May
Thurs 22nd May

Fri 23rd May
26th—30th May
W/C 9th June

Friday 13th June

Sat 14th June
Wed 2nd July

Fri 4th July
Tues 22nd July

Wes 23rd July
Thurs 4th Sept

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Neurodiversity week
Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time)

Mother's Day Shop
Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted)
9.05am & **2.00pm** Y3/4 performance
Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
EYFS/KS1 & KS2 School Disco with Book Fair

Science week—Visit from Fab Science
Y5 Instrumental Concert
Break the Rules Day
Term Ends 2pm

Easter holidays
Children back to school
Year 4 Instrumental Concert

Bank Holiday
Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Y6 visit to Crucial Crew

End of half term

Inset day

Half term
Father's Day Shop
Y3 Celtic Harmony Trip

PTA Summer Fayre
Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art.

Sports Day (details to follow)
Break up for summer holidays

Occasional day

Start of New School Year

Entries for the Royal Academy Art Competition

Northgate have entered the Young Artists' Summer Show 25. Each class has worked collaboratively on their entries to give everyone the chance to enjoy art. The chosen themes were: **Reception**-Elephants on parade on the Lunar New Year, **Y1**-Seasons, **Y2**-Portraits, **Y3**-Pompeii, **Y4**- Our year in nature, **Y5**- Inspired by Tula Pink/Vincent Van Gogh, **Y6**- Inspired by Jen Stark/Personal aspirations. We are very impressed with the beautifully creative work that has been produced. Good luck!



Safeguarding:

It is important that you **do not** let your children use the play equipment outside Little Ladybirds and the EYFS/KS1 playgrounds. Thank you.

Enriching the Curriculum

Science: Many congratulations to the Y5 children that took part in a Big Bang Science competition at Herts and Essex High School this week. They won an award for their display, which showcased their amazing solar powered eco village. The group had a wonderful time presenting their innovative ideas and impressed the judges.



The ducklings have all hatched and have been happily swimming, much to the delight of the children in EYFS and KS1. Watching them explore their new environment and grow so quickly has been a real highlight for everyone. The children have absolutely loved it!

Music: On Thursday, Year 6 impressed parents and carers with their music concert, showcasing an abundance of musical talent. The year group performed brilliantly, with individuals highlighting their unique skills. The entire show was well-rounded and enjoyed by everyone involved. Well done children!

Sport: Yesterday, Year 5 and 6 had friendly football matches against Bishops Stortford College, with two boys' teams and two girls' teams from Northgate. Thomas, Daniel, Lulu, and Evie shared that all the matches were challenging in different ways, but they really enjoyed the progress their teams made. Some children played in their very first football match. There were plenty of shots at goal and some brilliant saves. The Year 6 boys' team won 5-1 against a particularly strong team. Everyone was warmly welcomed by the college and enjoyed sausage rolls after their games.



Reminders and Updates

Don't forget we are having pyjama day to raise money for **Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March**. Please donate whatever you feel is appropriate; we suggest £1 per child. All money raised will be donated to Comic Relief. Children can wear pyjamas or loungewear. Please ensure that they are wearing appropriate footwear as they will still be going outside for break/lunch. If they have PE, they will need to wear trainers as normal. If children have a red nose, they are welcome to wear these too. The purpose of the day is to raise money, awareness and to help develop children's empathy skills, as well as being a fun and memorable day. If your child does not feel comfortable wearing their pyjamas to school, they can of course wear their school uniform. Thank you in advance for your support.

Vacancies: We are still advertising on Teach In Herts for a part-time SEN Learning Support Practitioner. Would you or someone you know be interested? Please take a look. https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view,learning-support-practitioner-for-a-sen-pupil_102452.htm

Lost property will be cleared at the end of term. Please come and look through the white boxes in reception for any missing items your children might have lost.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Meredith and Elsa

Puffins: Ethan **Owls:** Ava

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers and our school code.

Well done to:

Robins: Nisha

Wrens: Sienna

Starlings: Duru

Sparrows: Olivia

Skylarks: Olivia

Swifts: Manuel

Nightingales: Mason

Kingfishers: Eliza

Kestrels: Dawud

Kites: Avrora

Harriers: Millie

Hawks: Sidney

Help your child be successful at maths:

Help children remember number facts, such as number bonds and times tables, playing games using cards or dice can reinforce these skills. Discuss how maths is used in everyday life, at work, and at home. Encourage persistence when facing challenges, praise your child's efforts, and celebrate their progress, especially when they grasp something new. Everyone can learn maths and having a positive mindset will support future success!

Northgate School Association

Mother's Day Shop

Our popular Mother's Day shop is taking place week commencing 24th March. We have some lovely gifts all priced at £4. Sales will be held during the morning break. Please bring cash on the day for your Year Group.

Monday: Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 3, 6

Tuesday: Years 2, 4, 5

Wednesday: All Years

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is on Wednesday 26th March. An opportunity to spend your World Book Day vouchers whilst earning books for our school. Lots of fab deals available!

School Disco

Our School Discos are taking place on Friday 28th March. Digital Pocahontas will be on the decks, we have pizza (must order in advance), glitter tattoos plus sweets, glow items and the Book Fair.

As usual there will be two separate events and tickets are available to buy now:

EYFS & KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2): 5pm - 6.15pm - parents / carers must attend. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-moxvprx>

KS2 (Y3-Y6): 6.45pm - 8pm - drop-off & pick-up. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-norqxdn>

As always, we need volunteers to enable events like this to happen, so please sign up here: [PTA Disco: Disco - Friday 28th March 2025](#)

Well-being and De-stress Event: We hope you enjoy our Well-being and De-stress event tonight for parents/carers! A fantastic new event added to our calendar. Thank you to Sarah Clissold and the team for all their wonderful planning.

Hope you all have a relaxing weekend.

Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team