

January 31st 2025

Headteacher's News

It is very important that we educate children from a young age about healthy food choices and this is why children are only allowed **healthy snacks** at school. To clarify, this information can be found on the website: **All Foundation and KS1 children are provided with a free daily portion of fruit by the Government.** If you think that your child needs an additional snack or they are in KS2, raw vegetables, fruit or cheese are acceptable. These need to be prepared and put into a reusable, named container that can be opened by the child and taken home each night for washing.

Confectionery, crisps and chocolate snacks are not allowed and please do not send in any food containing nuts, such as almond bars. Suggested appropriate snacks include; fruit and vegetables, low-fat dairy, rice cakes, breadsticks, low-sugar granola or a hard boiled egg. I appreciate that as parents making healthy food choices is becoming increasingly challenging. However, the importance of health remains a critical issue that we must address together. Thank you for your generous donations at the KS2 Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's church. I am delighted to tell you that we raised a total £159.18 for the Isabel Hospice and the equivalent for St Michael's Church to support the upkeep of their building. Christmas jumper day raised £297.91 for the Isabel Hospice. Have a wonderful weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Chinese New Year started on Wednesday, marking the year of the snake. At school, Ducklings marked the celebration by tasting Chinese cuisine such as noodles, prawn crackers and rice. They also performed their own dragon dance accompanied by music played by members of the class.



A big thank you to Marquis in Kestrels and his family for creating a Chinese dragon for the class to enjoy! Mrs Luk, who works at Northgate, spoke to the children in Kestrels, Owls and Puffins during the week. She described the traditional celebrations that last 15 days, beginning with cleaning and decorating homes, shopping for new clothes, and preparing food for a special family reunion dinner on New Year's Eve. She explained that children receive lucky red envelopes containing money, and families stay up late to enjoy firecrackers and fireworks.

Next week, our greeting of the week will be "Kung Hei Fat Choi" which means "Congratulations and best wishes for a prosperous New Year!"

Music

Lynna and Ben, two of our private music tutors, conducted a music assembly for **Years 4, 5, and 6** on Thursday to introduce them to piano, flute, and cello. Lynna demonstrated the flute and piano while Ben showcased the cello. Two children tried the cello and they really enjoyed the experience. The tutors shared how music has enriched their lives and encouraged students to explore lessons. We have other reputable tutors available for piano, woodwind and drums. We please see our website for contact details.

Important Dates

Mon 3rd Feb	Y6 Victorian Day
Tues 4th Feb	Y4 Trip to the Sea life centre
Mon 10th Feb	Y5 Visit from Wonderdome.
Tues 11th Feb	Internet Safety Day
Wed 12th Feb	Y6 local walk
Thurs 13th Feb	EYFS/KS1 School Council Bake off
10th—14th Feb	Literature Festival at the BSC
17th-21st Feb	Half term
Thurs 27th Feb	KS2 School Council Bake off
4th & 6th Mar	Parent Consultations (Details to follow)
Tues 4th Mar	Rec/Y1 Trip to Stortford fields Story Teller
Thurs 6th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
WK beg 10th Mar	Maths games/work sharing with parents
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am
	Wed KS1 —9am, Thurs LKS2 —9am
	Year 6 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 13th Mar	Well-being Event (for parents/carers)
Fri 14th Mar	Neurodiversity week
W/C 17 th Mar	Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time)
Fri 21st Mar	Mother's Day Shop
	Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted)
W/C 24th Mar	9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance
Wed 26th Mar	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Thurs 27th Mar	KS2 School Disco with Book Fair
Fri 28th Mar	Science week—Visit from Fab Science
Fri 28th Mar	Y5 Instrumental Concert
WK beg 31st Mar	Break the Rules Day
Thurs 3rd April	Term Ends 2pm
Fri 4th April	Easter holidays
Fri 4th Apr	Children back to school
7th- 21st April	Year 4 Instrumental Concert
Tues 22nd Aril	Bank Holiday
Thurs 1st May	Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Mon 5th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Thurs 15th May	End of term
Thurs 21st May	Inset day
Thurs 22nd May	Half term
Fri 23rd May	Father's Day Shop
26th—30th May	PTA Summer Fayre
W/C 9th June	Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow)
Sat 14th June	Sports Day (details to follow)
Wed 2nd July	Reserve Sports Day.
	Break up for summer holidays
Fri 4th July	Occasional day
Fri 11th July	Start of New School Year
Tues 22nd July	
Wes 23rd July	
Thurs 4th Sept	

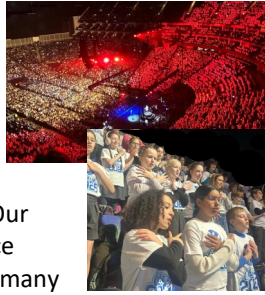
=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding:

Looking after our children's mental health, recognising the signs that they might be struggling and knowing how to talk to them is really important. Please see below a link to the NHS Better Health -every mind matters website, where there are some really interesting ways that you can support your young person. <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/#ways-to-support-a-child-or-young-person>

Enriching the Curriculum

Children from **Year 6** had the amazing opportunity to take part in the Young Voices Choir at the O2 in London last Friday. The concert is designed to unify children from across the region, boost their confidence and provide lifelong memories for them and their families. Our pupils worked very hard practising dance routines and learning songs in choir for many weeks. Mrs Cheung, Mrs Tanner and Ms Wren were very proud of our children's behaviour and brilliant performances! Thank you to Mrs Cheung for organising this memorable event.



Local walks

On Monday, **Year 2** showed great resilience as they braved the rain for a walk to Old Northgate School. Using maps, they carefully navigated their route, observing human and physical features, road signs, and key landmarks along the way. This related wonderfully to their geography topic on the local area and their history focus on Victorian schools. Despite the damp weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Year 1 had much better weather on Wednesday as they explored local geography and historical landmarks, including The George Hotel, the oldest inn in the town, dating back to the 14th century. As part of their journey, they also studied letterboxes, which tied in perfectly with their topic on kings and queens. A big thank you to all the parent helpers who support Northgate during trips and sporting events.



Year 3 conducted an erupting volcano experiment today for their 'Tremors' topic, linking their geography lessons on volcanoes and geology to their historical study of Mount Vesuvius. The activity brought learning to life in such a dynamic way. The children used bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, and red food dye to create a fun visual representation of an eruption, which demonstrated the science behind chemical reactions. What a super cross-curricular learning experience!



Reminders and Updates

School Dinner accounts

Please take a look at your child's dinner money account on School Grid. Many accounts have balances owing. Please pay any outstanding charges as soon as possible and top the account up so that it is in credit. If you are having any financial difficulties, please contact Mrs Pagett, our Finance Officer.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

The week beginning 17th March is Neurodiversity Celebration Week (NCW). The NCW website are offering several free panel discussion events for anyone interested. They include :

Neurodiversity and Nutrition - Food for thought and Parents

Carers - Supporting children through times of transition

Navigating Neurodiversity: Parental perspectives, professional insights, and policy changes in 2025.

There are many other events being run throughout that week. Please see <https://www.neurodiversityweek.com/events> for more information and to sign up.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Bethany and William

Puffins: Edward **Owls:** Harriet

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: working independently in maths, explaining missing angles, working incredibly hard in reading and writing, applying their knowledge of times tables and coming into school with courage!

Well done to:

Robins: Sirius

Starlings: Max W

Skylarks: Matilda

Nightingales: Lucy

Kestrels: Charlie

Harriers: Sebastian

Wrens: Ada

Sparrows: Edith

Swifts: Israel

Kingfishers: Rafael

Kites: Ailbhe

Hawks: George



WID Committee

The WID (Wellbeing Inclusion and Diversity) committee at Northgate are introducing two exciting initiatives to enhance playtime and support for pupils:

Wonderful Wednesdays: Organised by Years 3, 4 and 5, this initiative is tailored for KS1 children. Activities include crafts in the gazebo and outdoor games, encouraging fun and creativity. KS1 pupils are warmly invited to join in and enjoy the activities.

Friendly Fridays: Led by Year 6 pupils, this club is held in the Bluebell Room and focuses on supporting KS2 children. It will provide assistance with reading, maths, and even homework, offering a helpful and friendly space for extra learning. Both initiatives will start next week, and the WID committee hope that it will prove beneficial for the Northgate community.

Currently we are **not accepting** any **second hand uniform donations**, as we have no room to store it. Thank you.

Northgate School Association

Forthcoming PTA Spring Term Event Dates

Friday 14th March: Well-being Event (for parents/carers)

W/C 24th March: Mother's Day Shop

Wednesday 26th March: Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted)

Friday 28th March: EYFS/KS1 School Disco with Book Fair & KS2 School Disco with Book Fair

Friday 4th April: Break the Rules Day

W/C 9th June: Father's Day Shop

Saturday 14th June: PTA Summer Fayre

Lots to enjoy plus lots of opportunities to support our children's school by raising money to provide much needed resources.

Northgate PTA Lottery

The Northgate PTA Lottery is an opportunity to WIN up to £1,000 every month while making a real difference for Northgate Primary School! With school funding tighter than ever, your support through this lottery helps provide vital resources and unforgettable experiences for our children. Don't miss out – secure your ticket now:

bit.ly/northgateptalottery

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Gerri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team