

October 24th 2024

Headteacher's News

Our school's **attendance figures** are currently just slightly below the national attendance figure (96.7%), which is unusual and worrying. Attendance at school is very important for children and can have a detrimental effect on their achievement levels. As a school, we want to work together with parents to improve this figure for the benefit of the children and their future. If you are having problems and feel you need support, please email the class teacher or secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk.

Our new attendance policy, which is in line with new DfE guidelines, will be shared the week after half term.

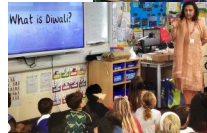
To celebrate the end of Black History Month, we were so lucky to have superstar **Fleur East** come to school to speak to the children. She started with a wonderful poem called "Roots" which she had written about her hair. In the poem, her hair was used as a symbol to describe her identity. Fleur was asked questions by pupils about her life, where she explained the importance of believing in yourself, learning as much as you can and embracing who we are and where we come from. Our half term finished today with **Cultural Heritage day** (see the next page) where the children looked fantastic! Thanks goes to Mrs Awhe for organising all the Black History Month events. We have all found this an enriching experience.

Wishing you all a fantastic half-term! It is INSET day tomorrow.



Enriching the Curriculum-Black History Month

On Monday, 'The Investigator' Andrew Muhammd, a leading black history and cultural specialist, ran interactive workshops for Year 4, 5 and 6. In his energetic presentations, he discussed the history and achievements of our culturally diverse society, starting with the civilizations of Ancient Egypt, and including Sundiata Keita of the Malian Empire, whose life story was the inspiration for The Lion King. They also looked at Mansa Musa the richest man whoever lived, who just dripped with gold! The children enjoyed a quiz based on national dress and world foods. Mr Muhammad said he was very impressed with our children and their high knowledge of ancient history. He thought that they were great ambassadors for Northgate. We greatly appreciate the parents who visited classes this week. Teni's father, who is of Nigerian heritage, wore his Hula cap and read a story to Sparrows class called, "Femi the Fox and a Pot of Jollof". Kyan's mum came in to speak to the children about Diwali, the Hindu festival, and Ivy's dad visited Year 6 to read his new book, "Little Brit and the Jungle Kings", which is a story with a moral about building a world bound by respect. Children across the school produced some wonderful art work and writing based on a range of inspirational people.



Important Dates

Wed 6th Nov

Fri 8th Nov

12th/13th Nov

Thurs 14th Nov

18th—22nd Nov

Mon 18th Nov

Mon 18th Nov

Tues 10th Dec

Thurs 12th Dec

Fri 13th Dec

Mon 16th Dec

Tues 17th Dec

Tues 17th Dec

Tues 17th Dec

Tues 17th Dec

Wed 18th Dec

Wed 18th Dec

Wed 18th Dec

Wed 18th Dec

Thurs 19th Dec

Thurs 19th Dec

Fri 20th Dec

Fri 20th Dec

Fri 24th Jan

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Y2 Pirate Day

5.00pm-8.00pm PTA Fireworks

Parent consultations (info to follow)

Parent consultations:

Sparrows (Class 4) Mrs Stephens only

Skylarks (Class 5)

Wellbeing Week

Cancer charity bake sale for Y3,4,5 & 6

7.30pm Northgate PTA AGM

9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production EYFS

9.15am road safety with Ducklings class

9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production KS1

9.00am Reception Christmas activity

morning

KS1 visiting Pantomime.

KS2 Pantomime at South Mill Arts

EYFS/KS1 Christmas lunch

2.45pm Christmas carol concert

Christmas jumper day

Nursery Christmas activity day

KS2 Christmas lunch

Volunteer coffee morning 9am

Nursery Christmas carol concert

KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick

up from church)

Break the rules day

2pm End of term

Young Voices Choir at the O2

Attendance this Term

Yr	%
R	98.3
1	97.2
2	95.3
3	97.3
4	97.3
5	96.4
6	95.4

Whole school	96.6%
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0 days off	100%	Perfection
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

Safeguarding:E-safety

It is good to talk to children about E-safety from an early age, including explaining that people on the internet can be strangers and do not always tell the truth about who they are. At school, we teach children to keep safe online, including not sharing personal information such as their full name, name of school etc. We also discuss not sharing photos of ourselves online. Children are encouraged to talk to a parent or someone they trust if something makes them worried, scared uncomfortable. If you have concerns, you can report online abuse at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Enriching the Curriculum

The Reception children went on a local walk to the cricket field on Tuesday. They explored signs of autumn and matched leaves to a colour chart. They sang circle songs "Here we go round the Cricket Field" before having hot chocolate and biscuit as our special snack.



Today was Cultural Heritage Day/World Afro Hair Day. Children and staff came to school in non-school uniform with a slight difference! As an end to our Black History Month celebrations, children were encouraged to celebrate their heritage by wearing either their national costume, a football kit representing their country or dressing up in the colours of their country's flag. We celebrated who we are, our heritage and our natural hair. The children also enjoyed a BHM Quiz!



Sport

Good luck to the children competing at the Birchwood School Games Basketball Event this afternoon and our Silver 2 football team playing Magna Carta at home.

Reminders and updates

To complete our Black History Month learning and celebrations, we will be asking the children to create an optional homework during half term. For the chance to win some Black History Month books for your child's class, courtesy of the PTA, please create a Black History Month poster. The posters could be about a significant figure that the children have studied in class, general knowledge of Black History Month etc... We will then save all entries and use these in our school next year for when we continue to raise the profile of Black History Month. Please see the flyer attached.



Poppy Appeal 2024

As usual, poppies, pin badges, slap bands, keyrings, stickers and zip decorations will be sold in school during the first week back. All money raised goes to the Royal British Legion. Please ensure that your child has some money with them if they want to make a purchase. Suggested donations start at £1.00.

New Winter Menu

The new winter lunch menu is now available to look at on School Grid.

Please remember that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can receive universal infant free school meals. Take a look! Orders can be booked in advance.

Thank you from Herts Hogline

Mrs Morgan wanted to say a huge thank you from the Herts Hogline charity to all the families that donated cat food for the hedgehogs as part of Harvest Festival. They are very grateful indeed!

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Emily and Henry

Puffins: Lina **Owls:** Rosa

This week our 'Learner of the Week' was "Teachers' Choice". Pupils received certificates for being a great student, always trying hard, having a positive mindset, beautiful writing, punctuating speech correctly, always challenging themselves, having an amazing attitude to learning and creating beautiful black history art work.

Well done to:

Robins: Sebastian

Wrens: James

Starlings: Eddie

Sparrows: Teni

Skylarks: Maya

Swifts: Charlie

Nightingales: Safaa

Kingfishers: Freddie

Kestrels: Mia

Kites: Alex

Harriers: Lulu

Hawks: Ellie

Vacancy at School

We are looking for an SEN TA to work in KS1 three mornings per week, 8.40am—12.10pm. We are always happy to hear from anyone who feels this maybe a career path they would like to explore.

If you are interested and wish to fill out an application form, please email Mrs Jeffcoate on secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk

You can read the job description and job specification on Teach In Herts.

Individual School Photos

Vancols Photographers have confirmed that the school photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card. Just Scan the QR code on and follow the instructions.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711. You will need the pupil's admission number, this can be requested from the school office.

Northgate School Association

Christmas Cards and Gifts

Hopefully, each child has brought home a Christmas order form where they can create fabulous artwork over the half term holiday which can then be converted into Christmas cards and gifts. Please return it to your class teacher by Friday 8th November 2024. The date may seem early, but we want to ensure you get your products by the end of November!!

Fireworks Night Event

We are now less than three weeks away from our Fireworks Night and we still urgently need volunteers. 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 if we can't get volunteers, we won't be able to run them.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-50510704-northgate>

Thank you for your continued support.

Hope you all have a lovely half term.

Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team