

March 21st 2025

## Headteacher's News

I would like to thank all the families who have sponsored me this week for my charity parachute jump for which I am raising money for our local hospices. Also, thank you for your generous donations for Comic Relief today.

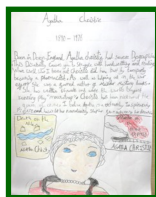
This week was Neurodiversity Week and we kicked off with an assembly celebrating our unique strengths and differences. We discussed that the way our brains are wired can make some things challenging for some while others find them easy. It is vital that all children recognise that everyone has their own strengths and talents, even if we think and learn differently. We want children to understand that people can utilise their differences, build on their strengths to develop success. This is why, throughout the week, classes shared stories of inspiring neurodiverse famous people with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and Tourette's syndrome, like Daniel Radcliffe (Dyspraxia), and Justin Bieber (ADHD) who have overcome challenges, often crediting their unique thinking for their success. We highlighted the importance of kindness and acceptance, stressing that it is wrong to tease those who are different and by showing understanding and encouragement, we can positively impact others.

I found the Richard Dimpleby Lecture this week on iPlayer a really interesting watch, where Sir Gareth Southgate shared his views on building belief and resilience, something we value greatly as a school.

We look forward to seeing parents at the Year 3/4 show next week. Tickets have been sent out.  
Hope you have a great weekend.

## Enriching the curriculum

In connection with Neurodiversity week, the children in Puffins were challenged to draw a picture with the hand they do not usually use to experience what it feels like to have additional challenges in their life. This really helped them to understand the feelings of others. Year 5 were set homework to choose a famous person who is neurodiverse, research them and create a poster about them. There was some brilliant work. See posters from Sydney and Alex in Kites.



**Music:** Rocky Steady came into school yesterday to run a workshop during music assembly. The children learnt about all the instruments used to form a rock band. They were involved the whole time with this interactive musical experience, some even formed a band at the end of the session and showed off their new talents. After Easter, Rock Steady will be providing lessons on Wednesday during the school day. For more information please contact them on <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>



## Important Dates

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  
Fri 13th June  
**Fri 13th June**  
Sat 14th June  
Wed 2nd July  
Fri 4th July  
Fri 11th July  
Tues 22nd July  
**Wes 23rd July**  
Thurs 4th Sept  
=\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

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  
**Y5 Egyptian experience**  
PTA Summer Fayre  
Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art.  
Sports Day (details to follow)  
Reserve Sports Day.  
Break up for summer holidays  
**Occasional day**  
Start of New School Year

## Red Nose Day

Today children and staff wore their pyjamas to school in return for a donation to Comic Relief. We all had such fun dressed for bed all day and helped some worthy causes in the process. Thank you for your support.



## Safeguarding:

Please be thoughtful and mindful when parking during school drop-off and pick-up times. The safety of our children and the local community is our top priority. With spring here, why not consider parking at the rugby club and walking the rest of the way? We kindly ask parents to take responsibility and ensure that access remains clear for those who need it. Thank you.

## Enriching the Curriculum

This week, Year 2 had a wonderful time pond dipping. The children were thrilled to discover the wide range of creatures living in our school pond. In amongst the pond weed, the children skimmed their nets and found plenty of pond snails, dragon fly nymphs and loads of newts which they really enjoyed studying! A big thank you to Mr. Foote for his support during this activity.



Spring has finally arrived, and this week nursery parents joined their children in class for Easter crafting. There were several craft stations, each offering different activities, and the groups moved around the room creating various projects. Everyone had a great time together.



**Sport:** Yesterday, a team of Year 5 girls participated in a netball competition at Birchwood. Miss Beales said that they worked really well together and won overall in their category—which got them into the finals, where they faced a Year 6 team. Sophia and Eira explained, “Our team put up an amazing fight, but were unfortunately defeated by a couple of goals in the final”. What a fantastic achievement girls, well done!



## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



**Ducklings:** Henry and Lucia

**Puffins:** Neriah **Owls:** Inci

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers and our school code. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: great resilience and independence in planning an investigation, showing a positive attitude to their work, taking pride in their success in maths and reflecting on their handwriting.

Well done to:

**Robins:** William

**Starlings:** Thomas

**Skylarks:** Toby

**Nightingales:** Rosie

**Kestrels:** Otis

**Harriers:** William

**Wrens:** Thaleia

**Sparrows:** Max

**Swifts:** Lilly

**Kingfishers:** Charlie

**Kites:** Sienna

**Hawks:** Cian

## Are you interested in training to teach?

Start your teaching journey! Meet the team from Bishop Stortford Initial Teacher Training (BSITT) at an information evening on **Thursday 3rd April 2025 6–8pm at Leventhorpe School** Cambridge Rd, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BY. For more information or to register your interest in the event, please visit: <https://www.bssetcitt.co.uk/>



## Northgate School Association

A busy forthcoming week for PTA events!

### Mother's Day Shop

Our popular Mother's Day shop, to celebrate all the wonderful women in our lives, is taking place from Monday. 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 coming to Northgate Primary School on Wednesday. An opportunity to spend your World Book Day vouchers whilst earning books for our school. Lots of fab deals available! The Book Fair will also be at the School Disco (see below) on Friday too.

### School Disco

Our School Discos are taking place next Friday. 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: We hope you have lots of fun!

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

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-moxvprx](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>

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

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

## Reminders and Updates

### Hats and Coats:

As the weather can be unpredictable at the moment, we encourage children to bring both sunhats and raincoats to school each day. This ensures they're prepared for any conditions. Please note, **sunglasses are not allowed**. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Donations for science week:

We are seeking donations of toy boats that float and bouncy balls for science experiments during the last week of term. If you have any, please drop them off at the office next week. Thank you!

### Olivia:

The Year 3/4 production of *Olivia* is next Thursday, 27th March, with performances at 9:05am and 2:00pm. Due to capacity limits, we are only able to issue one ticket per performance per family. We're excited to see you on the big day!

Refreshments will be available before each performance.

Parents are welcome to visit the office after drop-off at 8.40am for the morning show, or at 1.40pm for the afternoon show, to enjoy tea, coffee, squash, and a biscuit for £1.00.