

November 8th 2024

Headteacher's News

Welcome back, and I hope you had a great half-term.

We look forward to seeing you next week at parent consultations, which will help you gain an understanding of how your child has settled into their new class and about their current progress. Please ring the school office if you have not been able to book an appointment (please note there is only one appointment for each child). Teachers will have maths and English books for parents to have a look at. Please enter through the main door and wait for the bell to ring for your appointment (EYFS/ KS1 in the hall, Year 3/4 in the ICT suite and Y5/6 in Kestrels (Class 9))

The new school value, 'Honesty' was introduced in assemblies this week. Children reflected on different reasons why people at times are not truthful, and were reminded that adults understand that 'marvellous mistakes' happen. The theme will be developed further over the coming weeks. Our new learning power, 'Self managing monkey', was also introduced and aspects of developing independence and using initiative were discussed. It is hoped that the children will really appreciate the importance of this core skill and learn not to rely on others.

It was great to welcome back Mrs Rogers this week.

I look forward to seeing you at the fireworks this evening. Please be aware that the event is sold out so there will be no tickets available on the gates.

Hope you have a great weekend!

Enriching the Curriculum

Today was pirate day in Year 2. Children enjoyed making pirate biscuits. They considered ingredients which would have survived long journeys and then used their food technology skills to weigh, measure and mix their recipes. They looked at the changing states of the ingredients as they melted and cooked. Many thanks to the parents who helped in both classes.



In their dance session, the Pirates also acted out a voyage on the high seas! They carefully thought about how to use their bodies to music to show different actions such as: climbing the rigging, swabbing the decks and walking the plank. They enjoyed combining their movements to create a dance voyage sequence.



Important Dates

12th/13th Nov
Thurs 14th Nov
Thurs 14th Nov

18th—22nd Nov
Mon 18th Nov
Mon 9th Dec
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

Mon 6th Jan
Tues 7th Jan
17th-21st Feb
7th- 21st April
Thurs 22nd May
Fri 23rd May
26th—30th May
Fri 24th Jan

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Parent consultations
Nursery firefighter visitor
Parent consultations:
Sparrows (Class 4) Mrs Stephens only
Skylarks (Class 5)
Wellbeing Week
Cancer charity bake sale for Y3,4,5 & 6
After school PTA Christmas Tuck Shop
7.30pm Northgate PTA AGM
9.15am, 2.30pm **Reception** Christmas production
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 **Nursery** Christmas carol concert
Christmas jumper day
Nursery Christmas activity day
KS2 Christmas lunch
Volunteer coffee morning 9am
9.00am Nursery Christmas carol concert
KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Break the rules day
2pm End of term
Inset day
Start of spring term
Half term
Easter holidays
End of term
Inset day
Half term
Young Voices Choir at the O2

Christmas event pick up arrangements

Please note that there are a couple of events in December where the KS2 children will need to be picked up from different places. They are as follows:

The pantomime on Tuesday 17th December—collection from South Mills (timings TBC by the theatre approx. 3.35pm)

The Church Service on Thursday 19th December—collection from St Michael's church (at 3pm.)

Safeguarding: Visibility on dark nights

During the winter, when the dark evenings are with us so early, it is vitally important for the children to understand that they need to **Be Bright to Be Seen**.

Particularly if your child is older and walking alone, please think about what your child is wearing, as school uniform and coats may be dark. High-visibility reflective strips can be easily added onto clothing, school bags or bike helmets. Additionally, they could carry a torch.

Enriching the Curriculum

This week, Aditi from our Hawks class, prepared and delivered a fantastic presentation to the Puffins and Owls classes about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Rose from our Harriers class assisted Aditi as she taught the children about the festival. They all discussed the story behind the celebration, the lights, decorations and the food that is eaten, which includes Aloo Paratha, Samosas and rounded sweets called Rosogolla. The children also watched a clip of a Diwali dance. Both classes were really engaged and enjoyed learning about this celebration.



The Reception children were also budding scientists this week, making bubbling potions using vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. This was in relation to the Autumn/Halloween theme they have been looking at. The children found this practical exercise very exciting! In Science, Year 5 enjoyed investigating irreversible changes. They created a mixture of bicarbonate of soda and vinegar in a bottle and put a balloon on top. The chemical reaction made the balloon inflate!



Sport : Football

Good luck to the Silver 1 team, who are playing Hillmead tonight!

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Meredith and Lucia

Puffins: Elliot **Owls:** Bella

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on 'Science'. **Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for a range of scientific skills including:** great exploration during experiments, writing wonderful conclusions about their investigations, thinking carefully about using scientific vocabulary, writing well thought-out observations, asking some great questions, recording results accurately and presenting data beautifully in a table, having super knowledge on the senses, brilliant knowledge of different materials and showing great enthusiasm.

Well done to:

Robins: Luca

Starlings: Oliver

Skylarks: Ella

Nightingales: Charlie

Kestrels: Nla

Harriers: Evie

Wrens: Stanley

Sparrows: Martha

Swifts: Isabella

Kingfishers: Lara

Kites: Max

Hawks: Lauren

School Vacancies

We are looking to hire casual Midday Supervisory Assistants, who could be called in at short notice to cover staff shortages. If you are interested and wish to fill out an application form, please email Mrs Jeffcoate on secretary.pa@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Reminders and updates



Christmas dinner is live on School Gird from today. Please login and book your child's meal as soon as possible. The cut off date for orders is **Tuesday 10th December!**

Message from Laurence Foote the Chair of Governors

Your school needs you!

Could you be a school governor at Northgate?

A school governor offers strategic guidance to schools. They sit at board-level, but are not operational, which means rather than being the ones who make the decisions themselves, they ask questions and provide challenges to the senior leadership team regarding existing processes in order to drive school improvement.

School governors usually attend around six full governing body meetings per year, plus three committee meetings, some in the school day and some in the early evenings. Although becoming a school governor requires drive and commitment, it is a very rewarding position that can provide you with the chance to support young people's futures.

Being a school governor can offer you skills and experience in, attending meetings, working as a team, finance, project Management and strategic planning etc.

We welcome parents from any background but specific skills such as a financial background etc would be advantageous.

Please email me on laurence.foote@northgate.herts.sch.uk for more information.

Northgate School Association

PTA Fireworks Night

We hope you have a wonderful time at tonight's Fireworks Night event. A lot of hard work has gone into this event, so we hope you enjoy it! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help us- we truly appreciate it. And thank you to everyone who bought tickets! We are sold out!

Thank you again to our sponsor Russell Property for their support with our event.

General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting for the Northgate PTA will be taking place at 7.30pm on Monday 18th November 2024. This meeting will take place at the school.

At this meeting, all current trustees and elected committee members step down from their posts and a vote takes place for re-election.

For more information about the roles available and if you would like to be considered for a role, please contact us at ptanorthgate@gmail.com.

250 Club Winner

Congratulations to our October 2024 250 Club winner, ball number 117, Katherine Munford. Please contact us on the email above to arrange payment. Thank you for your continued support.

Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team