

January 12th 2023

## Headteacher's News

We are now able to share with you the recent Ofsted report. We are pleased with the overall outcome of good with outstanding aspects, particularly the recognition of school's exceptional work in developing children's behaviour and supporting their personal development. As you will see, the report highlights many strengths and positives of which we are extremely proud, including:

- Pupils have a **thirst for learning**.
- They work hard and **achieve well**, particularly in reading and mathematics.
- Pupils have **extremely positive attitudes** to school life. There is a **strong culture of respect** throughout the school.
- **Leaders have high expectations** and are **tenacious** in their **drive for school improvement**.

Other highlights that were mentioned to leaders by the inspectors but were not in the report are in the attached letter.

Every inspection results in areas that are identified for improvement and at Northgate we received one, which is to continue to work on areas identified in our current school development plan (history and art).

The change in grading from the 2008 inspection does not reflect a decline in standards but the rises in expectations of Ofsted inspections since 2008, where the main focus was on attainment in English and maths and now is the whole curriculum.

I would like to finish by saying how incredibly proud we are of all our children and staff and that, as a team, we will continue to be resolute with commitment to the highest quality of education, care and opportunity for every child at Northgate.

Have a lovely weekend.

## Christmas Reading Challenge

Well done to all the children who entered the Christmas reading challenge. All children who returned their form were entered into the prize draw. The winners were George H R1, Thomas S C2, Thomas H C16 and Penelope C11. All the winners won a book token. Thank you to Mrs Laver for organising this. Please keep encouraging your child to read to at home with regular support makes a huge difference to progress.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### WID'S Wonderful Wednesdays.

WID Committee is the Wellbeing, Inclusion & Diversity Committee who on Wednesday lunchtimes will be providing support, games, friendship and fun to KS1 & KS2 children. At present we have a small amount of equipment so any donations of board games, cards, chess, toys and colouring books would be greatly appreciated. Watch this space for photos and updates.

In EAD (Expressive Arts and Design) our **Nursery** children used their artistic skills to create farm animals with tissue paper. The children are developing their fine motor skills working on their topic this term 'Farm Animals' and having a wonderful time in the process. Fantastic work children.



Our **Reception** classes have been investigating the up coming Lunar New Year on Saturday 10th February. 2024 is the year of the dragon. The children have made Chinese dragons in traditional colours of red, yellow and green. The Children loved this topic and made some fabulous dragons!



## Important Dates

Fri 26th Jan	Y5 Visit from Wonder Dome
Mon 29th Jan	9.00am Dog's Trust- whole school assembly/ workshops
Tues 30th Jan	Dog's Trust workshops
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Y2 walk to Northgate Old School
Wed 31st Jan	Young Voices Choir—O2
Mon 5th Feb	Y6 Victorian Day
Tues 6th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Tues 6th Feb	Y4 Trip to Southend Sea Life Centre
12th— 16th Feb	Festival of Literature
Wb 12th Feb	House netball tournament
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>19th - 23rd Feb</b>
<b>Fri 1st Mar</b>	<b>Stepping Stones coffee morning</b>
Mon 4th Mar	7.30pm PTA committee meeting
5th & 6th Mar	Parent consultations
Thurs 7th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Thurs 7th Mar	2.40pm Y6 spring music concert
Mon 11th Mar	9am Y5 & 6 maths games/work sharing with parents
Tues 12th Mar	9am Nursery & Reception maths games/ work sharing with parents
Wed 13th March	9am Y1 & 2 maths games/work sharing with parents
Thurs 14th March	9am Y3 & 4 maths games/work sharing with parents
Thurs 21st March	Y3 & 4 production
Wk beg 25th Mar	House cross country final
Wk beg 25th Mar	Science week and house science quiz
Fri 22nd Mar	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
<b>Thurs 28th Mar</b>	<b>2 pm Last day of term.</b>
29th Mar—15th April	Easter break
Thurs 25th April	2.30pm Y5 Music concert
Thurs 9th May	2.30pm Y4 Music concert
Fri 10th May	2pm PTA committee meeting
13th—16th May	Y6 SATS
Mon 20th May	Y6 Trip to Crucial Crew.
<b>Thurs 23rd May</b>	2.30pm Y3 Music concert
27th—31st May	Half Term
Mon 3rd June	Inset Day
Mon 3rd June	Y4 National multiplication assessments
3rd—7th June	Y6 School Journey, Kingswood
Mon 10th June	Y1 National phonics, screening.
Fri 14th June	Y5 Egyptian workshop
Fri 21st June	Y2 Trip to Paradise Wildlife Park

=\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Safeguarding

As a parent, we want our children to feel happy about themselves and have good self-esteem (also called self-image).

Words and actions affect a child's self-esteem more than anything else and feeling good about themselves can come easier to some children more than others.

If your child's self-esteem is low, there are ways you can help boost it. Please click the following link to see some tips on the Kid'sHealth website: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/boost-self-esteem.html>

### Enriching the Curriculum

**Year 1** came back to school and found lots of toys in distress in their classrooms; some had been trapped by an 'evil window', held hostage by a very 'badly behaved basket' or even tangled up in our netting. Fortunately, we also found that Traction Man had come to save them. We have since read the story of 'Traction Man' and have had great fun re-enacting his adventures- particularly his one in the sink with a 'poisonous dishcloth'.



Linked with their Tremors project **Class 5 & 6** are studying Pompeii. They are writing their own stories in English, made models of the earth's core and in science looking at rocks. The children are really enjoying the topic and are looking forward to learning more about the earth and what's below us!



**Year 5** have been making circuits with a working motor in preparation of building a moon buggy powered by an electrical motor for their Stargazers topic in DT.



### Reminders and Updates

#### Playtime equipment

Please note we are restructuring our lunchtime equipment provision and we will no longer require children to bring balls from home as these will now be provided at school.

#### Colouring Shed for KS1/2

To keep the children entertained the writing shed outside Year 1 will be made available to the children at lunchtime. We intend for it to be full of puzzle books, colouring book, pens and pencils etc. We are looking for donations. If can donate any equipment such as colouring books, paper, coloured pencils etc... we would be very grateful.

#### Outstanding Balances

Please check that there are no outstanding balances on your child's School Gateway account. This applies to all areas such as dinner money accounts, trip payments, sport/clubs fees. Thank you.

#### Stepping Stones Group

Our next coffee morning has been rescheduled from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 9.00am. ADD-vance are still attending remotely. They are a group of professionals who also happen to be parents of children affected by ADHD and/or Autism. Any parent who would like to find out more about their services are very welcome to attend.

### Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

**Nursery:** Noah and Ava

**R1:** Amara **R2:** Alisha

This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on "positive attitude"

Well done for: working so hard to improve writing and sharing ideas sensibly during whole class learning, always putting in 100% effort in, working hard and beginning a positive influence to the rest of the class, always smiling, always giving their whole with every piece of work, starting term with a positive attitude and excellent enthusiasm, a can do attitude in every aspect of school life, trying their very best and working hard even when the work is tricky!

- Class 1: Edith
- Class 2: Alyssa
- Class 3: Jonas
- Class 4: Nellie
- Class 5: Lucy
- Class 6: Lydia
- Class 7: Sophia
- Class 8: Alexis
- Class 9: Teddy
- Class 10: Ruby
- Class 11: Tahsin
- Class 12: Lottie



### Northgate School Association

#### Tesco Blue Coin

Northgate Primary School will be one of the blue coin charities in local Tesco stores from mid January until mid March 2024. Please grab some blue tokens and vote for us each and every time you are in Tesco. The school will receive between £500 and £1500 depending on how many votes we get. We applied for funding for 'Northgate Lunchtime Resources' as we would love to buy additional sensory, gardening, sports, music and quiet time resources to improve the students lunchtime experiences.

Tokens can be collected from any till, self service checkout or a staff member. We are up for votes in the following Tesco stores:

**Tesco Superstore, Bishops Stortford, Tesco Express, South Street, Bishops Stortford, Tesco Express, Havers Lane, Bishops Stortford, Tesco Express, Elsenham, Tesco Express, Stansted.**

#### Easyfundraising

A reminder about Easyfundraising whilst you are still sale shopping! You can help raise funds for our school without having to donate anything yourself. Over 7,500 brands and sites will donate to us every time you use easyfundraising to shop with -at no extra cost to yourself. Anything bought online such as clothes, groceries, takeaways, insurance, school supplies etc! It's easy, completely FREE and will make a BIG difference to our school. Please sign up to help us raise more. [Here](#)

**Have a lovely weekend.**

**Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team**