

October 18th 2024

### Headteacher's News

Thank you to everyone who attended the reading sessions this week. Mrs Layer introduced the sessions with ideas on different ways to get children reading, such as: subtitles on during a silent programme, child friendly newspapers and magazines, websites and favourite book series. We hope you enjoyed sharing a book together with your child. Reading regularly at home is essential for your child's development, not only in building reading fluency, but also in expanding their vocabulary. A rich vocabulary is the foundation for effective communication and understanding across all subjects. By reading a wide variety of books, your child is exposed to new words, ideas, and concepts, which enhances both their academic success and confidence. Please encourage daily reading and discussions about the words they encounter. Please remember to sign their reading record. Your involvement is key in helping them grow as confident, articulate learners.

Please see our website for further information on how to encourage reading and recommended books for your child's age: <https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/reading/317922>.

We are a Little Wandle School, so please also see their website for resources and videos to support early reading at home. <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> 'A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success.' OECD

The Bishop's Stortford Food Bank were grateful for everyone's kind donations and said it would make a real difference.

Next Thursday, we are encouraging children to come into school wearing clothes that celebrate their own heritage and culture. For example, they could wear the colours of a national flag or a football kit from a particular country. Please do not feel you have to buy something special for this—if you only have one colour of a flag, that is fine! As part of this non-uniform day we are also encouraging children to wear their hair naturally; just be you! We are asking for a donation e.g. £1 on the day to fund special visitors who will be doing interactive workshops with the whole school, such as the drummer and storyteller who came in this week. Have a great weekend.

### Enriching the Curriculum

This week, as part of Black History Month, a drummer/storyteller (Mr Adebiyi) came to perform for the children. The Ducklings class made a musical story about sharing and making harmony with music. Mr Adebiyi read different stories to the EYFS and KS1 classes. These included a Ghanaian story that encourages children to embrace their true self and reach their potential. Another was a tale, from Nigeria, was about having patience. The final story, written by Mr Adebiyi himself, was a fable is about a boy that meets a lion and finds that he has enormous courage. Mr Adebiyi explained that courage is not the absence of fear but the way of getting over it. In KS2, he told a story about a baboon and the children had the opportunity to dance like animals while Mr Adebiyi played the African drums. Thanks to Mr Adebiyi.



### Important Dates

Mon 21st Oct  
Tues 22nd Oct  
Thurs 24th Oct

**Fri 25th Oct**  
**28th Oct—1st Nov**  
Fri 8th Nov  
12th/13th Nov  
Thurs 14th Nov

18th Nov  
**Mon 18th Nov**  
Tues 10th Dec  
Fri 13th Dec  
**Mon 16th 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

'The Investigator' BH and cultural workshop  
PTA Halloween Tuck Shop  
Cultural heritage day/World Afro Hair Day (non-school uniform) and BHM Quiz.

**Inset Day**  
**Half term**  
5.00pm-8.00pm PTA Fireworks  
Parent consultations (info to follow)  
Parent consultations:  
Sparrows (Class 4) Mrs Stephens only  
Skylarks (Class 5)  
Wellbeing Week

**7.30pm Northgate PTA AGM**  
9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production EYFS  
9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production KS1  
**9.00am Reception Christmas activity morning**

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

### Reading Books in Class

After half term, in KS2, the children will be reading in whole class reading:

**Year 3** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - *Roald Dahl*

**Year 4** Everest: The Remarkable Story of Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay - *Alexander Stewart*

**Year 5** The Nowhere Emporium - *Ross MacKenzie*

**Year 6** Skysong - *Abi Elphinstone*

As a school, we provide and share these books in class. However, if you would like to purchase your child their own copy in order for them to read at home and bring along in reading lessons, there are lots of second-hand book websites in which many of these titles can be bought such as: <https://usedbooksearch.co.uk/> <https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb> <https://www.abebooks.co.uk/> <https://www.amazon.co.uk> (This is of course optional)

Borrow Box is a free app and website in which you can download audio and electronic copies of books. We are always reviewing and updating our classroom book corners. Please see our Amazon Wishlist for new books to purchase: [https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/amazon\\_wish\\_lists/666476](https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/amazon_wish_lists/666476). Many thanks

### Safeguarding

Please do not use the playground equipment after school.

## Enriching the Curriculum

On Wednesday, Year 5 went to Duxford Imperial War Museum as part of their WW2 learning.

"We had a session with some RAF veterans. They taught us about the war and the planes used. Alan told us about how a Lancaster bomber took the roof off his house when it crashed near where he lived. He was from Lincoln and hosted 3 evacuees in 1940. He was happy as an only child to suddenly have 3 brothers!" Bill, Henry and Otis from Kestrels Class.

"We really liked going inside the different planes like the Concorde. We saw a Lancaster bomber which we had been learning about in class. There was a real life minefield which was interesting!" Jackson, Henry, Joshua J from Kites Class.



## Sport

### Football

On Tuesday, the Northgate Silver 1 team played Howe Green. Hugo from Kestrals said, "We played well as a team but were defeated by the other side 5-0. Their defence was very good, but we did have a few attempts at scoring. Our goalie, George, stopped quite a few shots at goal from them"

### Tri Golf

A few children from year 3/4 represented Northgate at the Birchwood Tri Golf Festival on Thursday. George and Elliot from Swifts said, "There were ten children from Northgate who competed with other local schools. We completed lots of activities and were advised which clubs to use for each shot. We worked well as a team, had lots of fun and came forth overall!"

## Reminders and updates

Please remember that there is an **INSET Day** next Friday, followed by **half term**.

### Year 6 Children applying for Secondary school

Please be aware that the deadline for applications to secondary schools **Thursday 31st October 2024**.

### Parent Consultations, 12th, 13th (and 14th November)

Parents will be able to **book consultations on Monday 4th November at 7pm**. You will receive an email reminder on the day. Appointments for parents of most classes will be on Tuesday 12th November and Wednesday 13th November. The appointments on Thursday 14th November are for Mrs Stephens in **Sparrows (Class 4) and Skylarks' (Class 5)** teachers. (This is due to our dual teachers and their work schedules). Please note there is only one session per child.

### Uniform

Please remember that after half term, children should be wearing winter uniform, i.e. no summer dresses. Please remember good quality second-hand uniform is available from our preloved rail. PE joggers and sports hoodies should be bottle green and t-shirts white. No branded items please. Only the school logo should be visible on clothing.

Jewellery and earrings are not allowed in school. If a child has their ears pierced and has to wear studs for a couple of weeks parents must provide a letter explaining when they will be removed.

### Bake Sale

Three children from Hawks did a brilliant job baking cakes to sell to Year 3 and 4 this morning, raising £113.78 for the Red Cross.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

**Ducklings:** Ezra and Bethany

**Puffins:** Archie      **Owls:** Clay



This week our 'Learner of the Week' focused on 'Teamwork Tiger'

Well done to:

**Robins:** Leah

**Starlings:** George

**Skylarks:** Ettie

**Nightingales:** Nicolas

**Kestrels:** Joshua

**Harriers:** TBC next week

**Wrens:** Henry

**Sparrows:** Kyan

**Swifts:** Florence

**Kingfishers:** Orla

**Kites:** Eliza

**Hawks:** Ivy

## SEND SUPPORT

Navigating the world of SEND may feel like a daunting prospect, particularly for those just beginning their journey. The [Hertfordshire Local Offer](#) provides a wide variety of helpful websites and contact lines. More locally, information on SEN for families and can be found on the [DSPL3 website](#) (Delivering Special Provision Locally – Area 3). For [Neurodiversity support](#), please also find a wealth of resources by following the above link. The recently released [Neurodiversity Hand-book](#) for parents, written by parents, may also be of interest. We would like to particularly draw your attention to [Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#). They have just launched their third annual survey and would appreciate feedback from parent carers of children and young people with SEND across Hertfordshire. Please help by completing their survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCISurvey2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCISurvey2024)

At Northgate, we also run termly **Stepping Stones Parent coffee mornings**. Our next meeting will be on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 9am**.

## Northgate School Association

### Christmas Cards and Gifts

Today, each child should have 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!

### Halloween Tuck Shop

Our Halloween Tuck Shop is taking place on Tuesday 22nd October where you can buy lollies and treat bags at pick up time. Lots of sweets treats! Please bring cash if possible but card machines will be available.

### Fireworks Night Event

We are now less than a month away from our Fireworks Night and we 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 weekend.**

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