

January 24th 2025

Headteacher's News

As ever we hope to offer a range of opportunities for our pupils. Good luck to the Year 6 choir, who are performing in the O2 tonight as part of the largest children's choir. Our children and teachers will unite in an electrifying choir experience. Thanks to Mrs Cheung for organising this event.

Please remember the national drive on school attendance. Children arriving late, after 9.30am, are registered as unauthorised for that session, unless evidence of an appointment is provided. We have a significant number of pupils missing learning by being taken out of school. Please try to book dental appointments etc. after school or in the school holidays. If your child is in year 1, 4 or 6, please remember that they will be participating in **national assessments** during the summer term. Please ensure that holidays are not booked at these times. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

On Wednesday, children in **Years 1-4** enjoyed a visit from children's author and illustrator Robyn Wilson-Owen. Robyn shared her creative journey, explaining how she transitioned from designing theatre props and sets to writing and illustrating children's books after completing an MA in illustration. She described how she finds inspiration in the world around her, making quick pen-and-ink sketches, adding watercolours in her unique style, and creating rough drafts while embracing mistakes as part of the process.

The children loved joining in with sound effects as Robyn read her book *Hedge Lion*, and they enjoyed a drawing session where she taught them to create cartoon snails and birds. The session left the children inspired, curious, and excited to try their own creative ideas.

We now have a signed copy of *Hedge Lion* at school for children to enjoy!

Robyn invited everyone to visit her at Bishops Stortford Library in February and March, where she'll be the artist-in-residence hosting activities for all ages. Please use the link below for more information. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/news-and-campaigns/artistinresidence-bishops-stortford>



Reading with children builds language skills, sparks imagination, and fosters a love of learning. It strengthens bonds, boosts confidence, and creates lasting memories through shared stories.

Important Dates

W/c 27th Jan	Y2 Walk to Old Northgate School
Wed 29th Jan	Y1 Local Area Walk
Mon 3rd Feb	Y6 Victorian Day
Tues 4th Feb	Y4 Trip to the Sea life centre
Mon 10th Feb	Y5 Visit from Wonderdome.
Tues 11th Feb	Internet Safety Day
Thurs 13th Feb	EYFS/KS1 School Council Bake off
10th—14th Feb	Literature Festival at the BSC
17th-21st Feb	Half term
Thurs 27th Feb	KS2 School Council Bake off
4th & 6th Mar	Parent Consultations (Details to follow)
Tues 4th Mar	Rec/Y1 Trip to Stortford fields Story Teller
Thurs 6th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
WK beg 10th Mar	Maths games/work sharing with parents
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am
	Wed KS1 —9am, Thurs LKS2 —9am
	Year 6 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 13th Mar	Neurodiversity week
W/C 17 th Mar	Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time)
Fri 21st Mar	9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance
	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle school Disco
Thurs 27th Mar	Science week—Visit from Fab Science
Fri 28th Mar	Y5 Instrumental Concert
Fri 28th Mar	Term Ends 2pm
WK beg 31st Mar	Easter holidays
Thurs 3rd April	Children back to school
Fri 4th April	Year 4 Instrumental Concert
7th- 21st April	Bank Holiday
Tues 22nd Aril	Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 1st May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Mon 5th May	End of term
Thurs 15th May	Inset day
Wed 21st May	Half term
Thurs 22nd May	Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow)
Fri 23rd May	Break up for summer holidays
26th—30th May	Occasional day
Wed 2nd July	Start of New School Year
	=*Red = New Item / Change to Item
Tues 22nd July	
Wes 23rd July	
Thurs 4th Sept	

Children's word of the year

Northgate School is on point with our new school code! Oxford Press has just announced that young people from across the UK have chosen '**kindness**' as the 'Children's word of the year 2024'. The Product Director said, "It tells us that empathy, and tolerance and the language we use matter, and that kindness is not only a solution to so many problems but is something everyone and anyone can do to make a difference."

Safeguarding:

Please find the link below for NHS guidelines on childhood ailments. This is a good guide for parents when deliberating if your child is well enough to come to school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Enriching the Curriculum

On Monday, the Executive Council, consisting of Isla, Finley, Julia, and Aditi, met with Business Manager Kirste Morris to discuss a long term plan for replacing the old trim trail playground equipment. The children expressed that they think the new equipment should focus on generating fun while promoting health, fitness, and mental well-being.

During the discussion, several ideas for equipment were suggested, such as pull-up bars, pedal bikes, climbing areas, and swings. Many factors must be carefully considered including the overall cost, as the PTA has kindly donated funds for the project but resources remain limited; health and safety requirements to ensure all equipment is compliant; and the space available within the playground area.

Ms Morris will now reach out to suppliers of specialist playground equipment to share the council's ideas and gather quotes. Once she has received some viable options, she will present them back to the Executive Council for further discussion. Then the whole of KS2 will be involved in a voting process before any final decisions are made. The meeting was highly productive, with plenty of thoughtful input from everyone involved. Well done to the Executive Council for their excellent teamwork!

Puffins and Owls this week has been using scientific skills to predict the outcome of an experiment. Using brightly coloured skittles they made a pattern on a plate, then the children discussed what they thought would happen if the skittles were submerged in warm water. The children drew pictures of their predictions and then watched the experiment unfold with a beautiful rainbow creeping into the middle of the plate. They then compared their predictions to the actual outcome. The children really enjoyed this work.



Reminders and Updates

Reception and Nursery Applications

The Northgate Nursery Application Form for September 2025 is now open. This is the application form for children, born between **1st September 2021 and 31 August 2022**, who would like to attend Northgate Nursery for **term time only**. Please click the following to apply or visit our website for more information

<https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/admissions/342699>

A Reminder About Punctuality

Please ensure children arrive at school on time, as the school day starts promptly at **8:50 am**. Morning sessions typically begin with important learning in maths or English, and lateness not only affects your child's learning but also disrupts the class. We understand occasional delays happen, but regular punctuality helps children settle into their day and make the most of their education. If you need support with getting your child to school on time, please contact Mrs. Rogers, our Pastoral Lead, via the school office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Nova and Cole **Puffins:** Aarav **Owls:** Ralph 'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: reflecting on the design of their moon buggy in DT, working incredibly hard to succeed in maths, sharing expertise in computing, helping around the classroom, taking responsibility for tidying any mess and showing kindness and support to the new member of the class!

Well done to:

Robins: Sebby

Starlings: Kitty

Skylarks: Emily

Nightingales: Lucas

Kestrels: Chloe

Harriers: Ria

Wrens: Vanya

Sparrows: Alicia

Swifts: Elliot

Kingfishers: Ella

Kites: Rory

Hawks: James



French Language

Year 5 have been learning how to order food and drinks in a "Salon de thé." To conclude their topic, the children practised using this language in a role play with Madame Edwards and thoroughly enjoyed eating their French food afterward!

"On Thursday lunchtime, we ordered some French food from Mrs Edwards. We had to say: Bonjour, je voudrais un croissant et un jus d'orange, s'il vous plaît, which means Hello, I would like a croissant and an orange juice, please." By Annabelle and Cora from Kestrels



Sporting Achievements

Many congratulations to Owen W from Kingfishers, who competed recently in the British School Championship Judo Competition, where he won a gold medal. Fantastic!

Northgate School Association

Northgate PTA Lottery

The NEW Northgate PTA Lottery is here!

The Northgate PTA Lottery is an opportunity to WIN up to £1,000 every month while making a real difference for Northgate Primary School! With school funding tighter than ever, your support through this lottery helps provide vital resources and unforgettable experiences for our children.

Don't miss out – secure your ticket now: bit.ly/northgateptalottery

Events

Look out for new PTA event dates coming shortly. Over the next couple of months we have our new Wellbeing Event, School Discos, Mother's Day shop and our Book Fair. Lots to enjoy plus lots of opportunities to support our children's school by providing much needed resources.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!
Gerri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team