

Northgate Primary School

Newsletter

September 18th 2026

Headteacher's News

We hope you enjoyed the Reception and Year 5 Meet the Teacher sessions and found them a useful opportunity to learn more about the year ahead. We look forward to welcoming Year 1 next week. Throughout their time at Northgate, our pupils have many opportunities to take on responsibility and develop important skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. In Year 6, one of these special opportunities is becoming a House or Vice Captain, helping to support and represent their House and contribute to school life.

The process of choosing our House Captains involved staff members considering which children regularly demonstrate our school values through their behaviour, attitude and commitment to learning. The children were invited to prepare and present a short speech to myself and Mrs Clynes, explaining why they felt they would be well suited to the role and what they could bring to the Northgate community.

We were so impressed by the quality of the speeches and by the confidence shown by every child who took part. The children spoke about their skills, their experiences at Northgate and shared some excellent examples of their leadership, teamwork and contribution to school life. With so many strong candidates, making the final decision was certainly not easy.

Our new House Captains are revealed on the next page. Many congratulations to them, and a huge well done to every child who put themselves forward and gave the opportunity their very best. Our pupils can also become involved in a number of other leadership groups at Northgate, including the School Council, Eco Council, and our Well-being, Inclusion and Diversity Council. These positions provide valuable opportunities for children to express their views, put forward ideas and help make a positive difference to our school community.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum European Day of Languages

All primary schools must study a modern foreign language and at Northgate we study French in KS2. Next Thursday 24th September, Northgate will be celebrating European Day of Languages. Your child/ren will be sent home with a white sticky label. Please can they wear this into school on **Thursday 24th September** with a **foreign language greeting** on it. E.g. Bonjour. This will help prompt discussions in class and help celebrate awareness for the languages and cultures in our Northgate community. We have spare sticky labels in school should labels be forgotten/lost.

We are inviting parents who speak another language at home to come in during the week commencing 21st September to lead a short language session with their child's class. This could be a 15 minute introduction to greetings, reading a story in another language or sharing photos of a country. If you are interested please contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

Important Dates

Wed 23rd Sept	Y1 3.00pm Meet the Teacher
Wed 23rd Sept	Y5 Trip to Duxford
Thurs 24 th Sept	European Day of Languages
Monday 28th Sept	Black History Month Launch
Friday 2nd Oct	Food Collection starts for Harvest Festival
Mon 5th Oct	Reception 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
	9.20am phonics parent workshop
Thur 8th Oct	KS1 9am Harvest assembly (parents)
Tues 13th Oct	Y2 walk to Waytemore castle
Wed 14th Oct	Whole school individual photos
Mon 19th Oct	Y5/6 9am reading with parents
Tues 20th Oct	EYFS 9am reading with parents
Wed 21st Oct	Y3/4 9am reading with parents
Thurs 22nd Oct	Y1/2 9am reading with parents
Fri 23rd Oct	Inset Day
26th –30th Oct	Half Term
Tues 8th Dec	EYFS Christmas production: 9.15am/2.30pm
Wed 9th Dec	KS2 Pantomime 1:30pm South Mills
Fri 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas production: 9.10am/2.40pm
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 17th Dec	KS2 2pm Carol Concert St Michaels
Friday 18th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
21st Dec—1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4th Jan	Inset day
Tues 5th Jan	School term starts
15th—19th Feb	Half Term
Thurs 25th Mar	2pm finish break up for Easter
30th Mar—9th April	Easter Holidays

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Pupil Premium funding

Urgent Update: New DfE Guidance—please check your Free School Meals eligibility now

New government guidelines mean that your child/ren might now be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). Even if you don't think you qualify, circumstances change and our systems will pick up your eligibility immediately. Please choose one of the following options today to ensure that your child and our school don't miss out on vital funding:

Option 1: Let us check for you. (Recommended) Fill out our quick School FSM checker google form <https://forms.gle/HjqmUn5K2nLgxE8j7>.

We just need your date of birth and National Insurance number. We will run the check and our system will automatically register you the moment you become eligible.

Option 2: Apply independently right away via the official [GOV.UK Free School Meals Portal](https://www.gov.uk/free-school-meals)

Safeguarding

The NSPCC website has tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your children safe online. Some examples are:

Talking to your child about online safety. For advice on how to start the conversation and get support if you're worried click [here](#)

Enriching the Curriculum

Class Reading Journals

To promote a love of reading, each week, throughout our school, one child from each class will design and write a piece in their class reading journal, showcasing a book they have read and enjoyed. Children can describe why they liked the book or share their favourite characters. This initiative encourages creativity and helps students reflect on and connect with the stories they read. By the end of the year, we will have a wonderful collection of 30 fabulous books recommended by our students themselves.

Reading in EYFS

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will bring a library book home each week to encourage book exploration and responsibility for their book bags. These books will be changed weekly. We kindly ask parents to read the book with their child, discussing the story, characters, and explaining any unfamiliar vocabulary. This shared reading time is crucial in nurturing a love of reading. This week, our EYFS children met their class bird toys— Dilly and Dally Ducklings, Peter Puffin and Barney Owl. Each week, four children will take home these cuddly friends to share stories with them. Please take a photo of your child reading with their bird toy and send it to the class email so we can celebrate their reading adventures in class books and displays!

Little Wandle Phonics Programme

At Northgate, we use the Little Wandle Phonics Programme from Nursery up to Year 2. This phonics-based approach helps young children develop strong reading skills through a structured framework that guides both parents and teachers. It ensures children can confidently decode and understand words. Families can access helpful resources on the Little Wandle website: [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#). It features short videos to support pronunciation, printable resources, and nursery rhymes. No login is needed, making it an easy and convenient place to support your child's phonics learning at home.

SEND-Autumn newsletter

The Autumn SEND DSPL3 newsletter for our local area is attached. It contains details of support groups, coffee mornings, courses and workshops.

Please find a link to their website for further information that you may find helpful <https://www.dspl3.org.uk/>

Reminders and Updates

Making School Payments for Meals Please ensure that you pay for your child's school meals in advance. If you think you may have an outstanding balance, kindly check your School Grid account and make full payment as soon as possible. Thank you

Child's school records

Please check and update your child's contact details, medical records, dietary requirements to ensure they are correct and up to date on Arbor. It can be amended by parents and will be sent to the office for verification.

Emails to admin

When contacting the office by the admin email, please provide the name of your child and their class. This helps to quickly identify the child and pass any messages on. Thanks

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: The whole class again for learning the class routines so well!



Puffins: Arielle

Owls: Chester

'Star of the Week' focuses on what the children are proud of. They were praised by their class teachers for all their excellent work this week and fantastic achievements.

Well done to:

Robins: Ilaria

Wrens: Alfie

Starlings: Oliver

Sparrows: Chloe

Skylarks: Ada

Swifts: Albie

Nightingales: Max

Kingfishers: Mia

Kestrels: Georgia

Kites: Rex

Harriers: Shay

Hawks: Benedict



House Captains & Vice Captains

Well done to the new house captains/vice captains in Year 6

Romans

Emily
Charlie
Shay
Izzy

Vikings

James
Orla
Oscar
Lara

Normans

Mason
Safaa
Hazel
Autumn

Saxons

Olivia
Mya
Lena
Imogen

Summer Challenges

Some KS2 children who visited France during the summer completed the French Summer Challenge set by Mme Edwards. In recognition, Mrs Edwards awarded them a pen and a certificate. One child used what they had learnt in a recent French topic to order an ice cream on holiday! Well done to:

Juliet-Kingfishers Erin—Nightingales Hepzi—Kites

Clubs

We are pleased to confirm the return of many popular clubs at Northgate, including:

ComputerXplorers, Afterschool Art Club, Cheerleading, Dance with Paula, Pro-Karate, Lego Club, Rocksteady, Speech and Drama, Football, Multisport, and Dodgeball

We also have a fantastic range of music teachers who come into school to give children the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments, such as: **piano, drums, guitar, woodwind, flute, cello, and violin**. These lessons take place either during the school day or after school.

A space has become available with our Piano teacher Mr Thompson please email him directly to book jefftho-music@btinternet.com

You can view our activities timetable on our website under *Parent Information > Clubs and Activities > School Clubs*,

Please check the timetable carefully to see which clubs are available for your child's year group.

- **All internal clubs can be booked via Arbor.**
- **External clubs and music sessions must be booked directly with the individual providers.**