

November 29th 2024

## Headteacher's News

Each year there are a series of national tests which give parents the opportunity to see how your child's performance compares to other children nationally. As it is very important that your child is in school at these times and in the weeks running up to the assessments, please do not book appointments, holidays etc. around the test dates.

Y1 Phonics Week - 9th June - 13th 2025 (plus Y2 phonic catch ups)

Y4 Times Tables Tests - 2nd June to 13th June 2025

Y6 SATs—Monday 12th—Thursday 15th May 2025

I hope you have received the attendance letter this week regarding the changes to our attendance policy and implementation for fining for unauthorised absence. Please note that children who arrive after registers close at 9.30am have to be marked as unauthorised for that session, unless you have already informed the school office with a genuine reason e.g. doctors appointment. Our new attendance policy can be found on the school website. Please do contact the school if you are having difficulties regarding getting your child to school and would like some support.

As we approach December, it is an extremely busy time of year at school, which includes some changes in pick up for KS2. Please make sure you are aware of these dates which can be found in the 'Important Dates' list.

Have a good weekend.

## Enriching the Curriculum

### Geography Field Trip

On Tuesday, as part of their topic on the local environment, Year 5 students went on a geography field trip to Stortford Fields. During the trip, they observed, measured, recorded, and presented various human and physical features of the local area. Using a range of techniques, including sketching maps, examining plans, and creating graphs, they explored the environment in detail.

At the end of Hensman Close, the children sketched a row of residential buildings, labelling the different types of houses they observed. They were encouraged to consider who might live there and what facilities residents would need nearby. The students demonstrated excellent effort, using a variety of skills to analyse and document the geographical information they gathered. Please see brilliant sketches by Otis and Chloe in Kestrels.



In English, Year 3 have been reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and were tasked with creating their own magical sweets or Wonka bars for homework. They designed treats with exciting names, magical properties, and eye-catching packaging, including the Marvellous Mango Mars Bar, Fantastic Never-ending Marshmallow Delight and Supergeez Sweets, that grant powers like strength, invisibility, x-ray vision or flight!

## Important Dates

Mon 2nd Dec	Elfridges Shop for Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 3 and 6
Tues 3rd Dec	Elfridges Shop for Years 2, 4 and 5
Wed 4th Dec	Elfridges Shop for All Years
Mon 9th Dec	9.00am Owls posting letters to Santa
Tues 10th Dec	9.15am, 2.30pm Reception Christmas production
Tues 10th Dec	After school PTA Christmas Tuck Shop
Wed 11th Dec	9.00am Puffins posting letters to Santa
Thurs 12th Dec	9.15am Road safety with Ducklings class
Fri 13th Dec	Nursery Christmas Craft Afternoon
Fri 13th Dec	9.15am, 2.30pm Christmas production KS1
Mon 16th Dec	9.00am Reception Christmas activity morning
Tues 17th Dec	KS1 visiting Pantomime.
Tues 17th Dec	KS2 Pantomime at South Mill Arts (pick up from theatre)
Tues 17th Dec	EYFS/KS1 Christmas lunch— <b>home packed lunch for KS2 children</b>
Tues 17th Dec	2.45pm Nursery Christmas carol concert
Wed 18th Dec	Christmas jumper day
Wed 18th Dec	Nursery Christmas activity day
Wed 18th Dec	KS2 Christmas lunch— <b>home packed lunch for KS1 &amp; EYFS</b>
Wed 18th Dec	Volunteer coffee morning 9am
Wed 18th Dec	1.30pm Road safety with Ducklings class
Wed 18th Dec	Donations for food bank
Thurs 19th Dec	KS2 St Michael's church carol service (pick up from church)
Thurs 19th Dec	9.15am Road safety with Ducklings class
Fri 20th Dec	Donations for food bank
Fri 20th Dec	Break the rules day
Fri 20th Dec	2pm End of term
Mon 6th Jan	<b>Inset day</b>
Tues 7th Jan	Start of spring term
Fri 24th Jan	Young Voices Choir at the O2
17th-21st Feb	Half term
Thurs 13th Mar	Year 6 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 27th Mar	Year 5 Instrumental Concert
1st, 2nd & 4th April	Visit from Fab Science
7th- 21st April	Easter holidays
Thurs 1st May	Year 4 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 15th May	Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Wed 21st May	9.30am Year 6 visit the Crucial Crew
Thurs 22nd May	End of term
Fri 23rd May	<b>Inset day</b>
26th—30th May	Half term
Tues 22nd July	Break up for summer holidays
Wes 23rd July	Occasional day

=\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Safeguarding:

Please be vigilant about two common skin conditions that are quite prevalent at the moment and infectious: **Scabies and ringworm**. To find out more please click on this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scabies/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ringworm/>

## Enriching the Curriculum

### New books in the Library: "The Wild Robot" Trilogy by Peter Brown!

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of *The Wild Robot* trilogy in our school library! This extraordinary series combines action, adventure, and heart-warming themes, exploring what happens when nature and technology collide. The stories are packed with excitement and thought-provoking lessons.

The first book has just been adapted into a thrilling film, which has already captivated audiences. Lucas in Nightingales was particularly excited, sharing how much he enjoyed the movie and how he can't wait to dive into the books!



### Tesco's Community programme

Northgate was delighted to be nominated for Tesco's **Stronger Starts programme**, giving us the opportunity to receive a generous charity grant. Over several weeks, local shoppers voted for their preferred charity, and thanks to the incredible support from our community, Northgate received the most votes! As a result, we were awarded a £1,500 grant, which has been used to purchase valuable equipment for our **Sensory, Music, and Sports Departments**.

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Homer who kindly nominated Northgate and to everyone who voted.



### Sports

Congratulations to Cora from Kestrels for winning Gold for Northgate in a British Schools Judo competition!

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



**Ducklings:** Everly and Alan

**Puffins:** Michael      **Owls:** Freya

Our 'Learner of the Week' certificates for the rest of this term are going to focus on Learning Powers or Growth Mindset. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: resilience when finding work difficult, listening respectfully, always doing the right thing and being a reflective learner. **Well done to:**

**Robins:** Chloe

**Wrens:** Allegra

**Starlings:** James

**Sparrows:** Ava

**Skylarks:** Ava

**Swifts:** Nicolae

**Nightingales:** Hazal

**Kingfishers:** George

**Kestrels:** Josh

**Kites:** Miken

**Harriers:** Martha

**Hawks:** Orla

## Arrive on Time and Pick up Promptly

Every minute of the school day matters at Northgate. Arriving on time ensures students don't miss key instructions or announcements and helps build valuable life skills like punctuality and responsibility. Late arrivals disrupt learning and the class flow, while timely pickups ensure smooth transitions and reduce stress for everyone.

We kindly remind families to plan ahead and account for potential delays. If you do have any problems getting to school at drop off or pick up, please let the office know in advance.

## Northgate School Association

### Elfridges Shop

Our Christmas 'Elfridges' shop takes place next week. The shop, like our Mother's Day & Father's Day shops, will give children an opportunity to independently buy a gift for their parents/carers.

The sales will take place in the dining hall at morning break on the following dates:

**Monday 2nd December-** Nursery, Reception, Y1, 3 & 6

**Tuesday 3rd December-** Y2, 4 & 5

**Wednesday 4th December-** All Years

Each gift will be priced at £4. Please bring cash into class on sale day. Thanks to our sponsor Stewart Apau Architecture.

### Christmas Tuck Shop

Please note that our Christmas tuck shop will now be taking place on Tuesday 10th December and **not** Monday 9th December.

### Northgate PTA Lottery

Look out for details next week regarding our new Northgate PTA Lottery!

Our current 250 Club will be ceasing in December 2024 and our new Lottery will have its first winner in January 2025.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Hope you all have a lovely weekend.**

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

## Reminders and updates

### Christmas cards for pupils

To support the environment and waste, if your child would like to send a Christmas card at school, we are encouraging them to write or make **one card for the whole class**. This will be displayed in their classroom for everyone to enjoy. It was calculated that if each child wrote a Christmas card for every classmate, it would result in over 13,000 cards across the school! Thank you for your support in making this a meaningful and sustainable tradition!

### No dogs on school grounds

We would like to remind everyone that dogs are not allowed on school grounds at any time, including during or after school hours. The only exception to this rule is assistance dogs. Even the most well-behaved dogs can react unpredictably in busy, noisy, and unfamiliar school environments. Additionally, some children may have allergies, and there is always a risk of fouling. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school safe and welcoming for everyone.

### Important uniform

Our lost property collection is overflowing with **unnamed Uniform**. If uniform is unnamed it means that we are unable to return to the owner. We kindly ask that you label **all** pieces of your child's uniform as well personal items such as water bottles, lunchboxes and bags with their full name using a permanent marker, iron-on labels, or sewn tags.