

### Important Dates

Tues 9th Jan (2.45pm)	Safeguarding Training for new volunteers
Tues 6th Feb	Safer Internet Day
12th- 16th	Festival of Literature
Wb 12th	House Netball tournament
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>19th - 23rd Feb</i>
5th & 6th March	Parent Consultations
Thurs 7th March	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Thurs 14th March 9am	Playing maths games and work sharing
Thurs 21st March	Year 3/4 production
Wk beg 25th Mar	House Cross Country Final
Wk beg 25th Mar	Science week and House Science Quiz
Thurs 28th March	Term Ends 2pm

## Spring Term 2024

### General

Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas. Thank you for all your lovely gifts and Christmas cards.

Welcome to the start of Spring term! We have lots of fantastic activities planned for the Spring term. Our topic for the whole of the Spring Term is 'The Blue Abyss'.

We would really appreciate it if children could bring in some outdoor shoes that will stay in school and be worn during playtimes and lunchtimes.

If you have any questions, please contact the class teacher using their class email.

class7@northgate.herts.sch.uk

class8@northgate.herts.sch.uk

If you have any questions and need information for that day, please leave a message with the office.

### Maths

In maths this term we will focus on the following areas:

Decimal numbers

Money

Fractions

Properties of shapes

Symmetry

### Home Learning

Children are expected to read to an adult for 10 minutes at least 3 times a week in order to help them improve their decoding, increase their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of the text. If your child is a fluent reader, please talk to them about the vocabulary and check their understanding of the text. Please sign in their reading record. If your child has lost or misplaced their reading record, please let us know as soon as possible.

Spellings, based on the 'Read, write, inc' spelling scheme, are set on a weekly basis. Spelling scores are recorded in the home learning book each week by the pupils.

Maths Key Instant Recall Fact (KIRFS) for the half term should be practised as much as possible so it becomes fluent. See weekly home learning for details.

Times Tables up to 12 x 12 will now be practised on a weekly basis using Timetable Rockstars as children need rapid recall of facts. Teachers will advise on the times tables to be practised.

Maths, English and topic tasks are sent home on a Friday and need to be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. Home learning tasks must be completed in home learning books. These tasks should take approximately 30 minutes.

### Trips / Events/ Workshops

In the first half term, we will be completing some geography fieldwork at the River Stort. A date for this will be confirmed nearer the time.

We are hoping to visit the **Sea Life Centre in Southend** in the second half term. More details on this will be provided at a later date.

Thursday 14th March —parents invited to maths games and work sharing

### Our Topic

In our Blue Abyss topic, our geography will focus on rivers and oceans. To start with, we will find out about the features of river and will locate key rivers in the UK. We will also investigate the River Stort by taking a walk to our local river. After this, we will move onto learning about oceans. We will remind ourselves of the oceans in the world, find out about the layers of the ocean and learn about The Great Barrier Reef.

Our art in Spring 1 will be focusing on the artist 'Hokusai' and we will recreate his famous artwork 'The Great Wave' using watercolours. In Spring 2, we will make shoe box aquariums using cams in our DT lessons.

Our science for the first half term is 'Electricity' where we will learn about appliances that run on electricity and whether they are powered through mains electricity or batteries. We will explore how to make complete circuits and investigate which materials are insulators and conductors. After half term, we learn about 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. The children will explore ways to classify plants and animals and will learn the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates.

### PE

PE lessons are on **Mondays and Wednesdays** for both classes.

**Swimming** - This term it is **Class 8s** turn to go swimming on a Wednesday afternoon. The children will walk down to the swimming pool with their class but will need to be collected from Grange Paddocks at 3:45pm.

Children will need to come to school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. They will wear their kit for the whole day.

**Warm weather**—green shorts, white t-shirt and trainers. **Cold weather**—green shorts, white t-shirt, trainers and a green track-suit.

### Reading

Our guided reading book for this term will be '**Kensuke's Kingdom**'. Please ensure your child's reading record is in school daily so they can be used for communication about reading progress.

All children are expected have a book in class. They may use school library books or bring in an age appropriate book from home. If you are interested in helping to listen to individual readers, please contact the office.

### PSHE

In Spring 1 our unit is 'Dreams and Goals'. the children consider their hopes and dreams. They discuss how it feels when dreams don't come true and how to cope with/overcome feelings of disappointment.

In Spring 2 we look at 'Healthy Me'. the children learn about the importance of exercise and how it helps your body to stay healthy. They also learn about their heart and lungs. The children discover facts about calories, fat and sugar and how the amount they consume can affect their health. The children consider things, places and people that are dangerous and link this to strategies for keep-