

January 17th 2025

Headteacher's News

This half term's assembly theme is **kindness**, which is part of our new school code. We explored how simple acts can create a big impact in our school and community. Throughout the month, we'll be learning about what kindness looks like, why it matters, and encourage this to guide everyone's thinking and behaviour. We will consider how small gestures can make a world of difference. We will encourage everyone to think about how they can show kindness and make it a habit that spreads positivity.

This half-term, our learning power is **Reflective Learner Lion**. Through discussions about having a growth mindset, we are encouraging children to embrace 'marvellous mistakes' as opportunities to learn and grow. Key skills we're developing include: taking responsibility for our own learning, being open to trying things in different ways, and staying motivated to improve. If your child is struggling with something, you, as parents, can support this journey by using the phrase, "You can't do it yet!" to remind children that persistence and practice lead to progress. Together, we can help children reflect on their learning and build resilience and confidence for the future. Attached to this newsletter is a useful document from the National College regarding ten top tips for encouraging healthy friendships. Hope you have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

Our **School Council** held a meeting this week to discuss how best to use funds generously donated by our PTA to replace the **KS2** playground equipment. The students shared some fantastic ideas and are now working on refining them. Next week, they will meet with **Kirste Morris**, our School Business Manager, to discuss their proposals in more detail. Once they have a shortlist, the council will present the options to the rest of the school, giving everyone the opportunity to **vote for their favourite ideas**. Stay tuned for updates as we to make our playground even better!



Northgate's 2nd Annual Bake Off!

The School Council are thrilled to announce the return of Northgate's Bake Off to raise money for the school! This year we're introducing a new format, with the Bake Off split into two groups:

- **EYFS & KS1 on Thursday 13th February**
- **KS2 on Thursday 27th February.**

The School Council will run a cake sale following each round on Friday 14th February and Friday 28th February. More details about the event will be shared soon. Time to start planning your show-stopping bakes!

Sixteen students from **Year 5 and 6** took part in a **Sports Hall Athletics** competition at Birchwood on Wednesday afternoon. All students engaged in a variety of field events such as javelin, shot put, standing long jump and speed bounce. They then competed in both a 400 and 800 metre sprint, an obstacle race and hurdle event. Finley and Isla from Harriers class said that everyone involved had a fantastic time and Northgate scored first on the day with 196 points, coming second overall! Well done to everyone who took part!

Important Dates

Fri 24th Jan	Young Voices Choir at the O2
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 17th March	Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time)
Friday 21st March	
	9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance
Thurs 27th Mar	Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle
Fri 28th Mar	Science week—Visit from Fab Science
WK beg 31st Mar	Y5 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 3rd April	Term Ends 2pm
Fri 4th Apr	Easter holidays
7th- 21st April	Children back to school
Tues 22nd Aril	Year 4 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 1st May	Bank Holiday
Mon 5th May	Year 3 Instrumental Concert
Thurs 15th May	Y6 visit to Crucial Crew
Wed 21st May	End of term
Thurs 22nd May	Inset day
Fri 23rd May	Half term
26th—30th May	Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow)
Wed 2nd July	Break up for summer holidays
Tues 22nd July	Occasional day
Wes 23rd July	

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Young Voices Choir Year 6

The Young Voices concert takes place next Friday at the O2. Please can parents of children attending refer to the information email sent to them on Wednesday 15th January.

Safeguarding:

Smart Watch Guidelines at School

At our school, we only allow digital/smart watches that **only** track steps.

For safeguarding reasons, **children are not allowed** ;

- Smartwatches **that** connect to the internet or mobile phones.
- **Cameras on smartwatches**

If any issues arise, we may need to review individual cases or adjust permissions.

Thank you for supporting us in maintaining a safe and focused learning environment!

Enriching the Curriculum

On Thursday, one of our private music teachers, **Ben**, led a special music assembly for children in **Year 2 and 3** introducing them to the beautiful sound of the **cello**. Ben treated the children to a live performance, showcasing the cello's rich tones and versatility. Some lucky students even got the chance to try playing the instrument themselves! A big thank you to Ben for such an **engaging and educational session**. He will be repeating this on Thursday 30th January in music assembly for **Years 4 and 5**. Parents are very welcome to attend also!

We are fortunate to have several private music teachers who come to our school to provide lessons on a variety of instruments. These include:

- **Jeff, Ben, and Lyanna** – Piano
- **Lyanna** – Flute
- **Tim** – Drums
- **George** – Woodwind



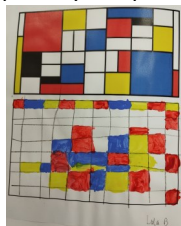
All lessons take place in our new, purpose-built Music Hub. If you would like to get in touch with any of these teachers, please find contact details on the timetable located on our website.

This term, **Reception** has been diving into their exciting topic, "**Children of the World**," and their focus this week is on the vibrant country of **Australia!**



The children have been learning about the geography of the country, its flag, different amazing animals on the continent and making their own aboriginal painting. This week, they explored a classic Australian children's party treat: **Angel (or Fairy) Bread**. Following a simple recipe, the children had a great time spreading butter onto slices of white bread and decorating them with colourful **hundreds and thousands**. This hands-on activity was enjoyed by everyone, especially the part where they got to taste their creations!

This week, **Year 1** have been exploring the work of the French Modernist artist **Piet Mondrian (1872–1944)**. The children have been learning all about his signature style, characterised by bold primary colours, clean black lines, and geometric shapes. Using Mondrian's paintings as inspiration, the children practised **drawing and painting in his unique style** creating their own stunning masterpieces. The children's work is absolutely brilliant!



During their science lesson today, **Year 3** explored the fascinating world of rocks by investigating their **permeability**. The experiment involved placing different types of rocks into water and observing if any **bubbles** emerged. The presence of bubbles indicates air escaping as water fills the tiny spaces within the rock—showing how **permeable** it is. The more bubbles, the more permeable the rock! It was an engaging activity that helped the children further understand the properties of rocks. Well done Year 3 for your scientific curiosity!

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Neve and Amouri

Puffins: Cassia **Owls:** Masha

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: showing great resilience in writing a brilliant set of instructions, reflecting on their work and striving to improve it, taking ownership of their own learning, always being respectful and motivated, becoming more confident in sharing ideas with the class and showing an excellent growth mindset.



Well done to:

Robins: Ethan

Starlings: Teiga

Skylarks: Edy

Nightingales: Denise

Kestrels: Jacob

Harriers: Dylan

Wrens: Tom

Sparrows: Frank

Swifts: Florence

Kingfishers: Henry

Kites: Henry

Hawks: Beatrice

Reminders and Updates

Important Notice

Check and Update Contact Information on Arbor

Parents, please log into your child's Arbor account to ensure all personal and contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If there is only one parent contact listed, kindly add a second and third contact where applicable. Having accurate contact details is crucial for managing any emergency situations effectively. Parents can update their child's account at anytime. Any changes made will be verified by the school office.

Urgent: Outstanding Dinner Money Debts

Please check your child's dinner money account on School Grid as there are **several outstanding debts** at present that require immediate payment. It is essential to monitor the account regularly to ensure it remains in credit. Your child may qualify for free school meals. To check eligibility, please visit www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims

Arbor Account Balances

Please ensure there are no outstanding balances on your child's Arbor account for trips, clubs, or other activities. Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters.

Northgate School Association

We hope you had an enjoyable and restful festive break!

Northgate PTA Lottery

The NEW Northgate PTA Lottery is here and we are pleased to announce our first winner, Neha Khanna. Huge congratulations! A payment is coming your way shortly.

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

Together, we can make a HUGE impact. Thank you for being part of something amazing!

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