

December 6th 2024

Headteacher's News

After 22 incredible years of dedication and service, Mrs. Riggs has retired as a TA at Northgate. Her impact on our school community has been immeasurable, from her unwavering commitment to her students to the countless lives she has touched over the years. We extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to Mrs. Riggs as she embarks on a new chapter.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce Mrs. Reed, who has been at Northgate for 14 years, will be leaving us at the end of term to lead the setup of the new Autism Unit at Avanti. While her departure is a significant loss to our school community, we know the important work she will be doing to support students in this new role. Mrs. Reed's dedication and compassion will have left a lasting impact here, and we will miss her greatly. We would also like to thank and send our best wishes to our part time SEN TAs, Mrs. Van Zyl and Mrs. Armstrong, as well as Mrs. Martin, our MSA, who are also leaving us.

Thanks to the PTA who ran the 'Elfridges' pop up shop this week, which the children really enjoyed!

Please keep an eye on Christmas dates as we have a busy last two weeks with different pick ups for key stage two parents.

Have a great weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum

On Tuesday, **Year 2** hosted a special event as part of their topic about pirates. Parents volunteered to be hands-on, helping the children build magnificent lighthouses using recycled materials. This was a fantastic opportunity to bring learning to life while promoting sustainability. This practical lesson full of creativity and teamwork sparked the children's imaginations and lead to discussions about maritime adventures, the role of lighthouses in guiding ships and the importance of reusing materials in innovative ways.



Building on their autumn walk around the school grounds, **Year 1**

students have been studying autumn themed poems in English, using the book *There is a Season* by Murphy's Sketches as inspiration. They have explored creative language, written their own poems, and illustrated them beautifully. The children have put in tremendous effort and produced fantastic work, including this lovely piece by Hollie from our Robins class.



Thank you to Michael's mum who visited **Puffins and Owls** on Wednesday. She is head of engagement and inclusivity at her work place and shared her expertise with the children in such a creative and engaging way. Using Tickles the tiger and Zebra as a visual and storytelling tool was a clever way to teach young minds about diversity and inclusivity, helping to build strong, positive foundation for empathy and understanding.



Important Dates

Mon 9th Dec	9.00am Owls posting letters to Santa
Mon 9th Dec	10.30am Y3/4 charity bake sale
Mon 9th Dec	3.00pm Y6 pick up from rehearsal at St Michael's church
Mon 9th Dec	7.00am Y6 St Michaels church carol service
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 entertainment
Tues 17th Dec	KS2 Pantomime at South Mill Arts (pick up from theatre)
Tues 17th Dec	EYFS/KS1 Christmas lunch— home packed lunch for KS2 children
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— home packed lunch for KS1 & EYFS
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	9.00am Nursery Christmas carol concert
Thurs 19th Dec	Donations for food bank
Fri 20th Dec	Break the rules day
Fri 20th Dec	2pm End of term
Mon 6th Jan	Inset day
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
Thurs 22nd May	End of term
Fri 23rd May	Inset day
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 find a link below for an article from the HfL regarding free courses for parents/carers on relationships. Learn skills to navigate changes in your relationships, develop positive communication skills and learn practical steps that you can bring into your child's life to help them cope during and/or after a separation or divorce. [Free Relationship Support Courses For Hertfordshire Parents and Carers](#)

Reminders and updates

Charity Cake Sale for Y3 and 4—Monday 9th December

Amanda and Lauren from Hawks are holding a charity bake sale on Monday 9th December at break time for **years 3 and 4**. All proceeds will be sent to the Stroke Association. Prices range from 50p to £1.50. There will be gluten free cookies and all ingredients will be listed.

Year 6 Carol Concert at St Michael's Church—Monday 9th December

Both year 6 classes will have a practice at the church in the afternoon. Please arrange to pick up your child from the church at **3:00 PM**, unless you have informed us of alternative arrangements. Every year 6 child must bring a packed lunch that day. For the evening performance, doors will open at **6:40 PM**, and the concert is expected to finish at **8:00 PM**. Children must wear their full school uniform and look smart for the occasion. Space is limited, so we kindly ask each family to bring only one attendee to watch. (No siblings please)

Reception Christmas Nativity—Tuesday 10th December

The Reception Nativity performances are at **9:15 AM** and **2:30 PM**. Please ensure you bring your tickets with you. We kindly ask that younger siblings are not brought along if possible. If they do attend, we appreciate your willingness to step outside should they become disruptive. Thank you.

KS1 Christmas Production – 'The Late Angels' - Friday 13th December

Performances are at **9:15 AM** and **2:30 PM**. Please remember to bring your tickets with you. If possible, we kindly ask that younger siblings are not brought along. If they do attend, we appreciate your understanding in stepping outside if they become disruptive. Thank you

Nursery Christmas concerts—in class

This special occasion will take place on two separate days, Tuesday 17th December at **2.45pm** and Thursday 19th December at **9.00am**

Reception and KS1 Christmas lunch—Tuesday 17th December:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be having their Christmas lunch on 17th December. Meals must be booked in advance on School Grid.

Years 3-6 will need a packed lunch sent from home on this day as there will be no school lunch option available.

KS2 - Panto—Tuesday 17th December

Our KS2 children will be walking to the South Mills Theatre in the afternoon to watch 'Robin Hood'. The children will be having a home made packed lunch in their classroom before they go, as KS1 have their Christmas lunch in the dining hall. Pick up from outside the theatre for year groups is: **Y3: 3.30pm, Y4: 3.35pm, Y5: 3.40pm, Y6: 3.45pm.**

Please note siblings in KS1 can be picked up from school from 3.00pm to help with collecting KS2 children from South Mills. To let the office know in advance Please email: admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk

KS2 Christmas lunch - Wednesday 18th December

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be having their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 18th. Meals must be booked in advance on School Grid. **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will need a packed lunch from home on this day as there will be no school lunch option available.**

Fundraising Christmas jumper day—Wednesday 18th December:

This year we will be supporting the **Isabel Hospice**. Pupils and staff can choose to wear a Christmas jumper instead of a school jumper and a tie. The rest of the school uniform must still be worn as usual. We are suggesting a donation of £1 which will be collected in class on the day.

Key Stage 2 Church Service—Thursday 19th December

The church service will take place at St Michaels from **2:00pm to 3:00pm**. If you have younger children in school to pick up, they will wait with their teachers until you arrive. Please ensure all children are dressed in their full school uniform and looking smart for the occasion. Due to limited seating in the church, we kindly remind families that only one attendee per family can attend the performance. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Break the rules day—Friday 20th December: A fundraising event for the PTA. More details to follow shortly.

Term ends at 2pm that day.

Night owls will run from 2pm **but will close at the earlier time of 5.30pm.**

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Ivy V and Izzy S



Puffins: Danuji **Owls:** Amelia

Our 'Learner of the Week' certificates for the rest of this term are going to focus on 'learning powers/growth mindset'. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: asking for ways to improve their work, persevering with short division, using fantastic vocab and showing lots of independence.

Well done to:

Robins: Sebastian

Wrens: Lola

Starlings: Arthur

Sparrows: William

Skylarks: Charlotte

Swifts: Xavier

Nightingales: Jibreel

Kingfishers: Izzy S

Kestrels: Chloe

Kites: Harry

Harriers: Archie

Hawks: Joshua

The School Car Park

The school car park is designated for staff use only and is not available for general use. If you need to access it temporarily due to exceptional circumstances, such as your child having a broken bone or a sprained ankle, please speak with the school office for permission.

Damage to Vehicles

In the event of an accident, such as bumping or scraping a vehicle parked in the laybys outside the school, please inform the office if the car is unattended. This will allow them to notify the vehicle's owner. Unfortunately, this week a car was damaged, and no one came forward to report it.

Sporting achievement

We are thrilled to hear that Owen Wilkins achieved a bronze medal at the British School Judo Championships. Many congratulations Owen.

Northgate School Association

The NEW Northgate PTA Lottery is here!

WIN up to £1,000 every month while supporting Northgate Primary School!

With school funding tighter than ever, your participation funds vital resources and memorable experiences for our children.

Secure your ticket now: bit.ly/northgateptalottery

Together, we can make a HUGE difference.

Existing 250 Club Members

For members currently signed up to our existing 250 Club, we've decided to make this change to modernise the lottery by going fully digital! The dedicated lottery page allows supporters to sign up for a monthly direct debit in just minutes simplifying the entire process for both you and us, making us more sustainable by eliminating paper forms and streamlining the day-to-day management.

All you need to do is: cancel your current standing order for the 1st January 2025 and join the new lottery!

Christmas Tuck Shop

Please remember our Christmas tuck shop is taking place on Tuesday 10th December at pick up. We'll have treat bags, candy canes and lollipops! Please bring cash but we will have our card machine available too.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Geri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team