

# Northgate Primary School Newsletter

January 23rd 2026

## Headteacher's News

We are committed to enhancing our lunchtime play provision to ensure pupils are supported in developing independence, social skills, positive behaviour, and overall wellbeing. As part of this, we are excited to be developing **PULSE (Play, Understand, Learn, Self-manage, Explore)** — an enriched outdoor lunchtime play programme for the whole school. PULSE aims to provide children with greater opportunities for purposeful, creative, and social play, supporting their development and wellbeing during lunchtimes. To make this possible, we would **love your help** in transforming our outdoor play space ahead of the launch.

On the morning of **Saturday 21 March 2026**, we will be hosting a **volunteer morning**, with jobs including: laying membrane and gravel, building mud kitchens, sorting and moving materials and storage, storing equipment (from pens to large items), painting, gardening and much more (see attached flyer). No experience is needed — just a willingness to help, whether for the whole morning or part of it. If you are able to support us, please **complete the Google Form** below to register your interest:

<https://forms.gle/JpND4dnrfrdNPpWo6>

Thank you in advance for helping us create an exciting, enriching play environment for all our children. More information about this exciting initiative to follow.

Good luck to the Year 5 and 6 choir, who are performing in the O2 tonight as part of the largest children's choir. Thanks to Mrs Cheung for organising this event.

Hope you have a wonderful weekend.

## Enriching the curriculum

This week, Year 3 enjoyed a walk to St Michael's Church, where they took part in a guided tour and learned about its fascinating history. They discovered that the church has been an important part of the community for hundreds of years, with a priest recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The children explored the church's tall spire, stained glass windows and historic stone font. The oldest item in the church is a font found buried in the churchyard in 1868! They also learned that the church was rebuilt in the 1400s and was once used as a stable during the English Civil War. The visit brought their history and RE learning to life and helped them explore an important local landmark.



**EVERY CHILD  
EVERY CHANCE • EVERY DAY**

## Important Dates

Mon 26th Jan	Y6 Victorian Day
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Y2 Old Northgate School walk
9th– 13th Feb	Festival of Literature
Wb 9th Feb	House Netball tournament
Tues 10th Feb	Internet Safety Day
<b>Wes 11th Feb</b>	<b>Y5 Trip to Bayfordbury Observatory</b>
Fri 13th Feb	Independent Enquirer Elephant Day
<b>16th—20th Feb</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Tue 24th Feb	9am Y5/6 Science Show at BSC
3th & 5th Mar	Parent Consultations
<b>Mon 9th Mar</b>	<b>Y4 Trip to Sealife Adventure Southend</b>
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day (dressing as an adjective)
Week beg 10th Mar	Playing maths games and work sharing
	Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS —9am
	Wed LSK2 —9am, Thurs KS1 —9am
Thurs 12th Mar	Y6 Instrumental Concert
Fri 20th Mar	Y 3/4 production 9:05 and 2:15
Wk beg 23rd Mar	Science week (Fab Science/House quiz)
Wk beg 23rd Mar	House Cross Country
Tues 24th Mar	Y4 Local river walk
Wed 25th Mar	Rocksteady Concert pm
Fri 27th Ma	2pm Break up for Easter
<b>30th Mar—10th April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Tues 19th May</b>	<b>Y6 visit to Crucial Crew</b>
Thurs 22nd May	End of term
25th—29th May	Half term
<b>Mon 1st June</b>	<b>Inset day</b>
rThurs 25th June	Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo
Thurs 9th July	Move up day
Tues 21st July	2pm Break up for summer holidays
<b>Wes 22nd July</b>	<b>Occasional day</b>

\*Red = New Item / Change to Item

## Year 2 French Language Club

**Thursday lunchtimes, 12:50–1:20pm**

From this term until the end of the summer term, all Year 2 children can take part in a French lunchtime club in small groups. Children will be invited by their teacher and may choose whether to attend.

The club introduces basic French through games and songs, helping to build enthusiasm for languages ahead of Key Stage 2. A Language Angels app login will be sent home for optional practice.

## Sport

Sixteen children from year 5 and 6, took part in sport hall athletics at birchwood on Thursday afternoon. Everyone competed and took part in a field event and races. Northgate came second out of twelve schools. Mr Brown was very impressed with their positive attitude and sportsmanship. Well done!



## Safeguarding:

Please find the link below for NHS guidelines on childhood ailments. This is a good guide for parents when deliberating if your child is well enough to come to school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## Enriching the Curriculum

On Wednesday, Year 1 went on a local walk around Bishop's Stortford. Despite the weather, the children were enthusiastic as they spotted historical landmarks and practised guiding the group using left and right. The walk supported their geography learning through exploring Bishop's Stortford. Future learning will include comparing our town with London and learning to use simple maps. The trip also linked to History, as the children spotted Queen Elizabeth II post boxes ahead of their work on Queen Elizabeth and King Charles. The walk helped bring their learning to life and build confidence in the local area.



Today, our Year 5/6 Choir visited the O2 Arena for **Young Voices 26**, the world's largest school choir event.

After weeks of hard work learning songs and actions, the children joined thousands of young singers to prepare for an exciting performance this evening.

We are very proud of everyone involved and look forward to sharing more in next week's newsletter.



## Reminders and Updates

### AVM Workwear and Embroidery—School Uniform

We've been notified by our uniform supplier that, due to increased costs from their suppliers, there will be a slight price increase on school uniforms starting **1st February 2026**. They have kept the increases as small as possible. Please refer to the attached order form for updated prices. We appreciate your understanding.

### Nursery Applications

The Northgate Nursery Application form for September 2026 is now open (for children born between **1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023**).

We have parent tours available on Wednesday 21st January and Thursday 5th February at 9.45am. Please click the following to apply or book a visit our website for more information <https://www.northgate.herts.sch.uk/web/admissions/342699>

Online applications must be completed by 5pm on Friday 6th March 2026. If you require further information please contact the school via email [admissions@northgate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@northgate.herts.sch.uk), or call **01279 652376**.

### A Reminder About Punctuality

Please ensure children arrive at school on time, as the school day starts promptly at **8:50 am**. Morning sessions typically begin with important learning in maths or English, and lateness not only affects your child's learning but also disrupts the class. We understand occasional delays happen, but regular punctuality helps children settle into their day and make the most of their education. If you need support with getting your child to school on time, please contact Mrs. Rogers, our Pastoral Lead, via the school office. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:

**Ducklings:** James and Arielle

**Puffins:** Kyrie **Owls:** Amouri

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: Making sure her work is always great quality and for being super creative and imaginative!

**Well done to:**

**Robins:** Oliver

**Starlings:** Oscar

**Skylarks:** Juliet

**Nightingales:** Israel

**Kestrels:** Ege

**Harriers:** Agnes

**Wrens:** Lina

**Sparrows:** Giulia

**Swifts:** Penelope

**Kingfishers:**

**Kites:** Rosie

**Hawks:** Dolly



## Request from Reception

EYFS are looking for donations to help develop and enhance their garden area. If you are able to help, we would be very grateful for any of the following items:

- Garden spades (adult-sized are fine)
- Garden digging tools
- Planks of spare wood
- Scaffolding boards
- Buckets
- Large plastic tubs for the digging area
- Plastic tubes
- Metal pipes (for a music wall)
- Outdoor paint
- Spring bulbs
- Large plant pots
- Watering cans
- Water toys
- Barbie/dolls' clothes

If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

## Community News

### **Free Online Parenting Course for Hertfordshire Families**

Are you a parent or carer of a child aged **2–11** with **Autism or ADHD** (including children currently on an assessment pathway)?

**Families In Focus CIC** is offering a **free, interactive and evidence-based online parenting course** designed to support families.

**The course will help you to:**

- Understand Autism, ADHD, sensory needs and children's behaviour
- Learn practical strategies for a calmer, happier family life
- Support siblings and navigate EHCPs
- Access up-to-date local services

**Course details:**

**Wednesdays 9:30am–11:30am or 6:30pm–8:30pm**

**4, 11, 25 February | 4, 11 March**

**To book:** Email Francine & Lesley at

[bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk](mailto:bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk)

**Funded by the Hertfordshire Targeted Parenting Fund**

*Places are limited — book early to gain practical tools to support your family.*