

May 24th 2024

### Headteacher's News

Thank you to Mrs Rogers and Mrs Stephens for organising our Neurodiversity Week. Please see details below.

This week, I went with five budding musicians to TBSHS to work with some of their students and primary pupils across the town to develop their song writing skills. The children worked in small groups writing lyrics, composing the tune and developing chords to go with their song. If your child is interested in song writing and looking for something to do over the holidays, please see The Stortford Young Songwriters competition at <https://stortfordsongwriters.org>. The deadline to enter has now been extended to Friday June 21st. DeRosa Music in Bishops Stortford and Saffron Walden will be offering a term's scholarship to the winners of each category. Each category winner will also have an opportunity for their song to be recorded in a studio. The competition has been launched in memory of Claire Newman - Martha and Rose's mum. We are sad to say that after many years of teaching French at Northgate Mad-am Craston has decided to retire. We thank her for her many years of enthusiastic teaching.

We hope you have a fantastic half term—fingers crossed for some sunshine! Just to remind you that Monday June 3rd is an INSET day so we look forward to welcoming the children back in on Tuesday 4th June, except our Year 6 who are heading off on school journey on Monday 5th June.

### Enriching the curriculum



Well done to **Year 3**, who impressed their family members with their musical talents, sharing songs and dances that they have learnt in their music lessons. Well done also to all the fantastic soloists. Thanks to Mrs Cheung and the class teachers for organising this event.

This week was **Neurodiversity Week** at Northgate. Neurodiversity describes the different thinking styles that affect how people communicate with the world around them. It includes autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Tourette's. This week, pupils have learned about and celebrated our differences, learnt about famous neurodivergent people, some classes debated Justin Timberlake's quote: "To make a difference, you need to be different." Each class decorated sections of an umbrella with statements about what makes them special. These umbrellas were used in a school as part of a video for a song, "Who We Are". This video will be shared shortly.

Thanks to Jenny and her team in the kitchen, the children enjoyed a special cultural diversity lunch on Thursday.



Today, **Year 6** made a visit to see the **Crucial Crew** at the Barnabas Centre in Thorley. Whilst there, they took part in a variety of interactive scenarios regarding personal safety. Expert volunteers gave vital information and guidance on a range of topics including e-safety, first-aid, dangerous substances, road safety, fire safety and managing money.

*"We learnt about banking safely including how to avoid scams and definitions of fraud!" "We learnt how to do CPR with a specific grip to the beat of Baby Shark."*

### Important Dates

27th—31st May

**Mon 3rd June**

W/C 3rd June

3rd—7th June

Fri 7th June

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June

Sat 8th June

W/C 10th June

Mon 10th June

Mon 10th June

Wed 12th June

Thurs 13th June

Fri 14th June

Thurs 20th June

Fri 21st June

Fri 21st June

Wed 26th June

Wed 26th June

Mon 1st July

Tues 2nd July

Fri 5th July

Wb 8th July

Wb 8th July

Thurs 11th July

Tues 16th July

W/C 15th July

Thurs 18th July

Fri 19th July

Fri 19th July

**2nd & 3rd Sept**

**Wed 4th Sept**

Half Term

**Inset Day**

Y4 National multiplication assessments

Y6 School Journey, Kingswood

Non-school uniform day in exchange for

a bottle for the Summer Fayre tombola

9.00am Stepping Stones coffee morning with

Nicky Chamberlain from SPACE

PTA Summer Fayre

PTA Father's Day Shop

Y1 National phonics, screening.

Y3 Trip to Celtic Harmony

Class photos

Visit from Herts & Essex Music Group

Y5 Egyptian workshop

Visit from Woodwind Stortford

Y2 Trip to Paradise Wildlife Park

Y4 Stansted Mountfitchet Visit

Y1 Trip to Audley End

Year 2 Music Festival at South Mills (parents

able to watch from 2.15pm—3.00pm

information to follow

Y5 /6 rehearsal at theatre (timings TBC)

Y5/6 performance (timings TBC)

PTA Sports Day After Party & Colour Run

History week

History with Parents /work sharing 9am

School Transition Day

Take over day

PTA Ice Cream Sales

9.15am Y6 Leavers' assembly

PTA Break the Rules Day

2pm Last Day of Term

**Inset days**

**First day of the school year**

### Attendance this Term

Yr	%
<b>R</b>	<b>95.4%</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>92.7%</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>94.6%</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>95.2%</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>96.3%</b>

Our target	96%
<b>Whole school</b>	<b>95%</b>

0 days off	100%	Fantastic
5 days off a year	97%	Good
10 days off a year	95%	Slight concern
20 days off a year	90%	Concerned
30 days off a year	85%	Very concerned

### Safeguarding

Have you heard about the **Smartphone Free Childhood** movement in the UK? It's there to protect children from the negative impact of smartphones. A few parents have set up a Whatsapp group and would welcome more parents to join the group in order to discuss this subject further:

[bit.ly/northgatesmartphonefree](https://bit.ly/northgatesmartphonefree)

More general information can be found here:

[www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk](http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk)

Please see the attached letter.

## Enriching the Curriculum

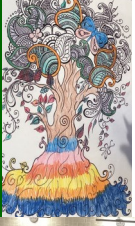
On Thursday, the **WID (Wellbeing, Inclusion and Diversity) Council** visited Elm View Care home to run a session of mindful colouring with some of the residents. The children were absolutely wonderful, displaying exceptional behaviour and they interacted really well with the residents. During a refreshment break, the children sang "Who We Are" which the residents were very impressed with. It proved to be a lovely event for both the older and younger generations. We are enjoying building a positive relationship between the school and the care home.

Thanks to Mrs Rogers for organising this event.

The **Northgate Gators Cheerleading Squad** demonstrated three routines at the Silver Leys Polo Club Family Day event last weekend. The Gators joined forces with two

other squads on the pitch to perform for a large audience and expertly accomplished a crowd pleasing exhibition of work. Compliments were given on the high standard of skills and how well behaved the cheerleaders were. Well done also

to the Northgate pupils who entered the annual schools polo competition and came second in their division.



## Celebration of Achievements

**Nursery:** Miguel

**R1:** Tom **R2:** Ralph

This week our 'Learners of the Week' focused on "Creative Thinking".

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: writing a wonderfully creative story and always really thinking about their written or verbal responses, always being ready to try a new approach and persevering when things are tricky, fantastic problem solving in the sculpture unit in art, always being curious and asking good questions to develop their learning, being curious and addressing challenging questions to help prove their learning, having amazing ideas and creative thoughts in their writing, being confident to express their ideas in class discussions, writing such a creative 'cold and stranded' narrative and persevering with independent writing when finding it difficult at first, then producing a brilliant piece of work.

Class 1: Jack	Class 7: Rosie
Class 2: Evelyn	Class 8: Max
Class 3: Toby	Class 9: Lauren
Class 4: Wren	Class 10: Millie
Class 5: Lena	Class 11: Anabella
Class 6: Thomas	Class 12: Ronnie



Northgate Lego Challenge Club (Years 1 –6)  
Socialise and get creative with your friends.  
Do different challenges each week.  
Limited spaces available.

Mondays, Wednesdays 3.15pm—4.15pm £5.00 per session.  
To book email: admin@northgate.herts.sch.uk



## Reminders and Notices

### Taking a child out of school

If you know in advance that your child is going to be absent from school, please fill out an absence request form which is located on the home page of the school website.

Please remember that if you take your child out of school for a holiday this will **not be** authorised. Only exceptional circumstances might warrant authorisation, and these are in line with national guidelines. If you are having problems with getting your child to school and you would like support, please contact Mrs Rogers, our pastoral leader.

### Parking

**Do not** park in the entrance to the staff car park at anytime, as it restricts staff and visitors from entering or leaving, but more importantly this must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

### Stepping Stones coffee morning

Nicky Chaperlin from SPACE is coming to our next Stepping Stones meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. She has experience of working as a teacher and acting head to SPACE in its early days. Along with her fellow team members they shaped SPACE to the organisation it is today. She is one of the Senior Leadership team and is hands on with all training, support, activities and events.

The **governors** are currently looking for anyone with an accounting or health and safety background who may be interested in joining the team. If you would like to know more, please contact one of our governors - lucy.grant@northgate.herts.sch.uk

## Northgate School Association

### Summer Fayre— Volunteers needed please!

We are still looking for volunteers to help us at our Summer Fayre on Saturday 8th June 2024. We need volunteers in the following areas: **12pm slot:**

A steward for the alcohol purchasing area, Seaside Crafts

#### **1.30pm slot:**

Splat the Rat, Hoop La, Higher or Lower Game, Tin Can Valley, Nerf Gun Target Shoot, Entrance, a steward for the alcohol purchasing area, Buried Treasure, Crazy Golf, High Striker Bell, Pre Loved Uniform/Books, Seaside Crafts

Please sign up here to help: <https://m.signupgenius.com/?#!/showSignUp/70A0B48AEAE23AAF85-48892296-northgate>

Thank you!

### Non-school uniform day

On Friday 7th June, all children will be able to come to school in non-school uniform in exchange for a bottle for our Bottle Tombola at the Summer Fayre. Thank you for your support- we can't do this without you!

### Raffle Tickets and Summer Fayre Brochure.

Just a reminder to return your raffle ticket stubs and money to your Class Teacher.

**Hope you all have a relaxing half term.**

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