Northgate Primary School Newsletter

November 20th 2026

Headteacher's News

As parents, we face the ongoing challenge of navigating the online world alongside our children, helping them understand the opportunities it offers while keeping them safe from inappropriate content. With online games constantly evolving, it is important that we remain informed about what our children may encounter.

With the release of Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA VI), parents are encouraged to be aware of the game's content and age restrictions. The game is rated **PEGI 18** and is intended for adults only. It contains extreme violence, strong language, sexual content, drug and alcohol references, and themes involving crime and other mature social issues. Its online features may also expose players to interactions with strangers, inappropriate language and unsuitable content.

Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their children's online gaming, talk openly about the games they play and ensure age ratings are respected. It is also important to use parental controls to restrict online communication, in-game purchases and access to payment details.

Even if children are not playing GTA VI themselves, they may encounter gameplay footage or conversations about the game online or among friends. Open, age-appropriate conversations can help children make safe and informed choices. Please see the attached poster for more information about Grand Theft Auto VI.

As a reminder, please be mindful of the photographs and information you share online. Please do not post photographs or videos of other people's children on social media and pictures of other people's children should not be put through AI. It is also important to remind children never to share personal information online that could put them at risk, such as their full name, home address, details or the name of the school they attend. By working together, we can help protect children's privacy and keep them safe online.

Have a great weekend.

Enriching the Curriculum





This week has been Wellbeing Week, with a whole-school focus on 'Random Acts of Kindness.' During Monday's assembly, the WID Committee encouraged everyone to think about what wellbeing means and how small acts of kindness can make a difference in our everyday lives. They explored simple ways to show kindness, such as smiling, offering help, using kind words and including others so that nobody feels left out. The committee also reminded us of the importance of being kind not only to our friends and those we know well, but also to people we may not know very well, and to ourselves. They emphasised that kindness does not have to involve grand gestures; even the smallest acts can have a positive impact on how someone feels. By showing kindness through our words and actions, we can all help to create a happier, more caring school community. Together, we can make a difference!

Important Dates

WC Mon 23rd Nov	APDR/IPP Parent Meetings
Mon 30th Nov	Elfridges run by PTA
Wed 2nd Dec	Year 3 Orienteering walk
Wed 2nd Dec	Elfridges run by PTA
Thurs 3rd Dec	Elfridges run by PTA
Tues 8th Dec	Reception Christmas production 9.15am/ 2.30pm
Wed 9th Dec	Nursery Christmas sing-a-long 9.00am
Wed 9th Dec	**KS2 Pantomime 1:30 pm South Mills (Pick up from theatre)**
Fri 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas production 9.10am/ 2.40pm
Tues 15th Dec	Christmas Dinner for EYFS & KS1
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Dinner for KS2
Wed 16th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 16th Dec	Santa Fun Run
Thurs 17th Dec	**KS2 2pm** Carol Concert St Michaels (pick up from Church)
Wed 16th Dec	Rock Steady Concert 2:00 pm
Fri 18th Dec	Break the Rules Day
Fri 18th Dec	2pm finish Break up for Christmas
21st Dec—1st Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4th Jan	**Inset day**
Tues 5th Jan	School term starts
Mon 25th Jan	Spring PTA Meeting
15th-19th Feb	Half Term
Thurs 25th Mar	2pm finish Break up for Easter

Practical Well-Being Tips for Parents

Make time to talk: Try to check in daily with your child about how they're feeling.

Encourage open conversations: Let your child know that all feelings are okay. Listen without judgement and reassure them that it's okay to talk about worries or things they find difficult.

Build routine: Regular sleep, healthy meals, and set routines help children feel secure.

Encourage connection: Help your child stay connected with friends, family — social connections are a big part of wellbeing.

Create opportunities for fun: Make time for activities your child enjoys. Playing, laughing and spending time together can boost mood and help reduce stress.

Celebrate the little things: Recognise and praise your child's efforts, achievements and positive moments, however small. Building confidence and self-esteem can support their overall wellbeing.

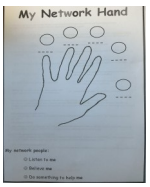
Model self-care: Children watch and learn. Show them how to manage stress in a healthy way. Use 'the five ways to Wellbeing'.

Be ready to ask for help: Recognise when things might be beyond what you can support at home.

Enriching the Curriculum







Continuing the Wellbeing Week focus , every class created their very own **Kindness Tree**. Each child was given a leaf to write down an act of kindness, whether something they had done or something kind they could do for others. The leaves were then added to the class tree, creating a beautiful display of kindness and reminding us all how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. It was wonderful to see the children thinking about how they can spread kindness and make our school community a happier place!

In our PSHE lessons this week, the children focused on identifying the trusted adults in their lives by creating their own **Safe Network Hand**. Each child placed themselves at the centre of their hand, with each finger representing a safe adult they know and trust. These are the people they can turn to if they need help, advice or simply someone to talk to. This activity encouraged the children to think about the importance of having trusted people around them and reminded them that they are never alone and that there is always someone they can talk to if they need support.

On Friday, our WID committee along with Mrs Rogers hosted a coffee morning for our parents. The purpose of the coffee morning was to share information with parents about the ways in which we support everybody's wellbeing at Northgate. Well done to the WID committee for all their hard work this week.

Santa Run



We are excited to announce that Mrs Rogers and the WID committee will be organising our **second annual Santa Fun Run** on **Wednesday 16th December**, coinciding with **Christmas Jumper Day!** Every child at Northgate will have the opportunity to take part in a festive fun run around the school field during the school day, helping us to raise money for our chosen charity, **Holy Trinity Homeless Night Shelter Charity**. A donation of **£1 per child** is kindly requested to take part. We look forward to seeing everyone dressed in their festive jumpers and enjoying this wonderful Christmas event! Thanks for your support!

Reminders and Updates

Pick Up Changes— Any changes to your child's end-of-day pick-up arrangements should be emailed to the Northgate Admin team as soon as possible, and before the 3:20pm school pick-up time. We appreciate that last-minute changes can sometimes happen; however, if you need to notify us of a change after 3:00pm, please telephone the school rather than emailing so that we can ensure the message is received in time. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Absences - If your child is absent from school please notify us by either calling the absence line or emailing us on absence@northgate.herts.sch.uk providing the name of your child, their class and details of the absence and the name of your child and the name of the class. Please provide evidence of all medical appointments.

If your child has been sick please note that they cannot attend school until 48hours after the last episode of sickness.

Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week are:

Ducklings: Ava and Rosie

Puffins: Iona **Owls: Hector**

'Star of the Week' focus on Learning Powers and the School Code.

Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers this week for a range of skills including: English , Maths, Geography, Artwork, Handwriting, being a good, kind role model.



Well done to:

Robins: Bethany
Starlings: Bonnie
Skylarks: Fintan
Nightingales: Dune
Kestrels: William
Kestrels: Agnes
Harriers: Maisy
Wrens: Rory
Sparrows: Lina
Swifts: Giulia
Kingfishers: Eleanor
Kites: Matilda
Hawks: Henry

Safeguarding

During Wednesday's Road Safety assembly, we were delighted to welcome representatives from Hertfordshire County Council and Councillor Swainston, who spoke to us about road safety and the measures being introduced to help keep everyone safe on our roads. They discussed a range of ideas, including cycle paths, upgraded walkways and the proposed introduction of 20mph speed limits around schools. It was an informative visit, helping us to understand how these changes can make our local communities safer for everyone. A leaflet has been sent home with a survey about the proposal to reduce speed limits around schools locally to 20mph. We would encourage you to share your views by completing the survey.



Northgate School Association



Christmas Card Designs

Christmas card design sheets will be coming home this week from school! Children can create their own festive design, which can be turned into personalized Christmas cards-perfect for family and friends. All ordering information included on the sheet. Please ensure that orders are placed and completed sheets are returned to school from Monday 23rd November and no later than Thursday 26th November.



Elfridges Shop

Our Christmas 'Elfridges' shop takes place in the week commencing 30th November.

This shop, gives the children an opportunity to independently buy a gift for their parents/carers.

The sales will take place in the dining hall at morning break on the following dates:

Mon 30th November - Nursery, Reception,Years 1, 3 and 6
Weds 2nd December - Years 2, 4 and 5
Thurs 3rd December- All Years (final purchases).

Each gift will be priced at £5.00 Please bring cash into class