

March 7th 2025

Headteacher's News

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our World Book Day Parade yesterday—the children looked fantastic! Our fun adjective-themed event helped support their language development. We thank you for your support. Please encourage your child to expand their vocabulary while reading, playing games, or watching programs together. Reading isn't limited to books—listening to audiobooks or using e-readers on apps like BorrowBox is a great way to enjoy stories. You can also turn on subtitles to promote speed reading. We hope you've received the World Book Day token, which can be used at a range of shops in town.

I hope you found the parent consultations useful and informative. If you have any feedback, please email on:

interact@northgate.herts.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you next week when family members are invited into school to play maths games with your child and for your child to share their work with you. Maths games, including board games with dice, are a great way to reinforce core learning and to help children's maths fluency. Sessions will be from 9am to 9.30am. Please wait in the dining room while registration is completed. Please see the dates for your child's class on the termly letter. Hope you have a lovely weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

On Tuesday, to support children's enthusiasm for books, KS1 children travelled to the Taylor Wimpey show home at Stortford Fields, where they were warmly welcomed by a professional local storyteller, Alex Jones. Alex brought stories to life with her engaging performance of Alice in Wonderland, playing all the different characters within the story. She really captivated the children's imaginations, adding energy and fun to their experiences. This visit was such an enjoyable adventure for the children, which enriched their appreciation for storytelling and literature. Thank you to Taylor Wimpey for hosting the event, Mrs Homer for organising and for the support of parent volunteers.



Northgate Book Swap on Tuesday/Wednesday was a great success! Children exchanged used books that they no longer wanted for new reading material for free, fostering a love of reading and providing access to a wider variety of literature. The event also helped reduce waste by encouraging the reuse of books, supporting environmental sustainability. It was a wonderful community-building initiative that united families, teachers, and students in a shared effort to enhance learning, while being mindful of the planet.

Important Dates

WK beg 10th Mar	Maths games/work sharing with parents Mon UKS2—9am, Tues EYFS --9am Wed KS1 --9am, Thurs LKS2 --9am 2.40pm Y6 Instrumental Concert 7.30pm PTA Well-being Event (parents/ carers)
Thurs 13th Mar Fri 14th Mar	Neurodiversity week Pyjama day for Red Nose Day (more info to follow nearer the time) Mother's Day Shop Book Fair (World Book vouchers accepted) 9.05am & 14.15am Y3/4 performance Y3 Trip to Colchester Castle EYFS/KS1 & KS2 School Disco with Book Fair
W/C 17 th Mar Fri 21st Mar	Science week—Visit from Fab Science Y5 Instrumental Concert Break the Rules Day Term Ends 2pm Easter holidays Children back to school Year 4 Instrumental Concert
W/C 24th Mar Wed 26th Mar Thurs 27th Mar Fri 28th Mar Fri 28th Mar	Bank Holiday Year 3 Instrumental Concert Y6 visit to Crucial Crew End of term Inset day Half term Father's Day Shop PTA Summer Fayre Year 6 Performance at South Mill Art. (details to follow) Sports Day (details to follow) Reserve Sports Day. Break up for summer holidays
WK beg 31st Mar Thurs 3rd April Fri 4th April Fri 4th Apr 7th- 21st April Tues 22nd Aril Thurs 1st May	Occasional day Start of New School Year
Mon 5th May Thurs 15th May Wed 21st May Thurs 22nd May	
Fri 23rd May 26th—30th May W/C 9th June Sat 14th June Wed 2nd July	
Fri 4th July Fri 11th July Tues 22nd July Wes 23rd July Thurs 4th Sept	

=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Safeguarding:

Group chats and inappropriate behaviours. Here are some ideas to discuss with your child to help make group chats positive experiences for them. Adults should emphasise the importance of being kind to others and ensuring that everyone's experience is positive.

1. Always be kind and respectful.
2. Think before you post: encourage your children to pause and consider how their words or images might affect others before sending.
3. Never share or forward inappropriate messages, images or videos.
4. Stress the importance of not sharing others personal information or screenshots without permission.
5. Having the confidence to leave a text group that is turning mean or inappropriate.

It might be worth reminding your children that very inappropriate messages are often shown to school staff by parents.

Enriching the Curriculum

World Book Day was celebrated on Thursday. This yearly event aims to celebrate authors, illustrators, books, and the joy of reading. Please see some of the wonderfully creative outfits on the last page. After the parade, staff ran around the classrooms, reading a story to each class in two minutes. We finished the day with an assembly, which included staff performing a World Book Day rap. Year 3 took part in a countywide WBD lesson, which ended with a sixty second reading session where the children adopted funny positions. World Book Day provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's independence in choosing books, and embedding a reading habit that brings a wide range of benefits. If your child is having trouble selecting a reading book, you can find a list of recommended titles for each year group on our school website under Learning – English – Reading. Please also encourage your child to talk to their class teacher or teaching assistant for support with choosing new books.

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." – Stephen King.



To celebrate Shrove Tuesday (pancake day), the children in EYFS had a fantastic time taking part in a fun and exciting pancake race! The playground was full of energy as the little ones raced to flip pancakes while running to the finish line. Later in the afternoon, the children made pancakes to eat!



Reminders and Updates

Nut allergies at school: Snacks and Pack lunches

As we have children with nut allergies at school, it is **very important** that parents **do not** include food containing nuts or nut products in snacks or lunch boxes. This includes items such as: peanut butter, pesto, Bakewell tarts or desserts which contain hazelnuts.

School uniform

Please ensure children wear black shoes in school, no boots are allowed or trainers (unless it's a PE day). Please ensure no jewellery is worn at school and any hair accessories must be sensible and in school colours.

Year 5/6 children are required to wear school ties as part of the school uniform.

Children **must not** wear branded sportswear eg joggers/ shorts on PE days.

Northgate Bake Off - Cake boxes

We still have quite a few cake boxes and tins that need collecting. If you are missing one, they are stacked up in reception by the office. Thank you.

Thank you

A big thank you to Mr Smith for generously volunteering to transport the table tennis tables to the school this week.

Celebration of Achievements

This week's stars of the week were:



Ducklings: Izzy D and Ivy G

Puffins: Ollie Owls:

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers and our school code. Our Star Learners were praised by their class teachers for: being a reflective learner by reviewing their work in order to improve, great resilience in writing lessons with spellings and punctuation, a positive attitude throughout the week, having imaginative ideas and working on the quality of their work independently.

Well done to:

Robins: Sebastian

Starlings: Theo

Skylarks: Robin

Nightingales:

Kestrels: Isabella

Harriers: Marvin

Wrens: Lola

Sparrows: Octavia

Swifts: Estelle

Kingfishers: Oscar

Kites: Ladi

Hawks: Martha

Music

During the whole-school assembly on Friday, Sebastian and Daniel from Harriers impressed everyone with their musical skills, playing the guitar and drums. Their performance was amazing, and the everyone thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment. Thank you.



Northgate School Association

Just a reminder about two ticketed events in March:

7pm on Friday 14th March- we have our new **Wellbeing and De-stress evening** for parents/carers. There will be a guided stress awareness workshop, taster Barre class and a relaxation sound meditation. To sign up: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/northgate-pta-wellbeing-and-de-stress-evening>.

Friday 28th March- our **School Discos** are taking place. Digital Pocahontas will be on the decks, we have pizza (must order in advance), glitter tattoos plus sweets, glow items and the Book Fair.

As usual there will be two separate events and tickets are available to buy now:

EYFS & KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2): 5pm - 6.15pm - parents / carers must attend. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-moxvprx>

KS2 (Y3-Y6): 6.45pm - 8pm - drop-off & pick-up. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/northgate-school-association/t-norqxdn>

As always, we need volunteers to enable events like this to happen, so please sign up here:

[PTA Disco: Disco - Friday 28th March 2025](#)

Plus our Mother's Day Shop, Book Fair and Break the Rules Day!

Hope you all have a relaxing weekend.

Gerri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team

