

September 6th 2024

Headteacher's News

Welcome back to a new school year and a warm welcome to all our new families. I hope that you had an enjoyable summer. We have had a great start to the term with the children settling back exceptionally well, showing positive learning behaviours and looking so smart. We are all really looking forward to another wonderful year ahead and the staff have a wide range of exciting events and opportunities planned. Today in assembly I introduced our updated school values, '**Respect, Honesty, Resilience, Self-discipline, Kindness, Responsibility, Inclusiveness, Perseverance, Communication, Community spirit, Independence and Politeness**'—all of which are considered within our school assemblies.

Welcome to all our new teacher, Miss Prow. We also welcome Miss Beales, Miss Grimes, Ms Kippax to the staff team. You will have opportunities to meet your child's teacher at the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions over the coming weeks.

If you would like to discuss any issues, I am at the main gate most mornings, so please catch me or pop into the office to make an appointment. I am currently working four days a week, so on Thursdays, Mrs Clynes will be in charge with the support of Mrs Layer. If you wish to discuss a class issue, please make sure you have raised the matter with the teacher first. If you would like an appointment with your child's class teacher, please write them a note, use the new class email address or arrange it at the end of the day with them. If you are not happy with the response from the class teacher, our middle leaders this year are Mrs McFarlane, Mr Sainsbury, Mrs Shepherd and Mr Brown. All would be very happy to meet you to discuss a problem.

We do not allow adults around the back of the school in the mornings for safeguarding reasons. Adults who need to come into school must sign in at the office.

I look forward to seeing all students develop and make good progress this year whilst working in partnership with our parents, Mrs J Tanner.

Guardians should have received a welcome email to set up an account on **Arbor**. This will allow you to see and update your child's information easily.

Parental Involvement

We value your support and involvement in the school and there are a number of ways for you to become involved:

One-to-One Reading

We are looking for parents who would like to help with reading in KS1 or KS2 (Mon-Thurs) in the afternoons. Having an adult read with children makes a huge difference to their learning. Reading will start on Monday 16th September. If you would like to help this year, whether you have previously helped before or not, please complete an on-line form to let us know when you are available. You can find this on our website.

Safeguarding in schools is paramount and all adults volunteering will need annual updates. If you do want help in school, I would be grateful if you could ensure that you attend this session. If you are interested in helping in class, please contact the office or your class teacher. Thank you.

The next session for volunteers will be on Wednesday 18th September at 9.00am and will include a supporting reading training session.

Other Support

If you are interested in committing time each week to volunteering in a class or in the library, helping children change books or with simple admin work, please let the office or your child's class teacher know. Many thanks.

Important Dates

Tues 10th Sept	2.50pm Y2 Meet the parents
Wed 11th Sept	9.00am Y4 Meet the parents
	2.50pm Y1 Meet the parents
Thurs 12th Sept	9.00am Y5 Meet the parents
	2.50pm Y3 Meet the parents
Wed 18th Sept	2.50pm Reception Meet the parents
Tues 24th Sept	9.00am Y1 Phonics workshop (parents)
Thurs 26 th Sept	9am KS2 PSHE workshop (parents)
Wed 2 nd Oct	9am Years 3/4 times table workshop
Thurs 3 rd Oct	9am EYFS/KS1 PSHE workshop (parents)
Tues 8th Oct	9.00am Reception Harvest assembly
	9.20am Phonics workshop (parents)
Wed 9th Oct	9.00am KS1 Harvest assembly (parents)
	9.20am Y2 parent workshop
	6pm Year 5/6 parent workshop
W/C 14th Oct	Reading with parents
Fri 25th Oct	Inset Day
28th Oct—1st Nov	Half term
Fri 8th Nov	5pm-8pm PTA Fireworks
Tues 10th Dec	Christmas production EYFS (9.15, 2.30pm)
Fri 13th Dec	Christmas production KS1 (9.15, 2.30pm)
	=*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Contacting Class Teachers

The new class emails are below. Please be aware these are not for emergency information as they may not be looked at daily and it may take a few days receive a response.

Miss Powala - ducklings@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs McFarlane/Mrs Hayes - puffins@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Aziz/Mrs Cope - owls@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mr Sainsbury - robins@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Ferdinand/Mrs Hickey - wrens@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Shepherd - starlings@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Ahwe/Mrs Stephens - sparrows@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Jones/Mrs Pratt - skylarks@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Miss Prow - swifts@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Venning - nightingales@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mr Dunn - kingfishers@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mrs Layer/Mrs Gitto - kestrels@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Miss Cotterell - kites@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Miss Hartley - harriers@northgate.herts.sch.uk
 Mr Brown - hawks@northgate.herts.sch.uk

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding issue, our designated safeguarding leads are: Mrs Tanner, Mrs Clynes, Mrs Layer, Mrs Shepherd and Mrs Wallace.

Medicines: If your child requires medicine during the school day, a 'Administration of Medication' form must be completed. You will find the form on our school website or [here](#). An adult must hand the medication in/collected to/from the school office. **Children must not bring medicines to school in their bags or pockets.** The medication must be in its original packaging, with leaflets, in date and, where relevant, have the pharmacy label attached. It is vital that parents **keep aware of expiry dates** and replace items such as inhalers and auto-injectors prior to expiry.

Reminders and Updates

Uniform Reminders

Skirts and trousers must be smart school wear. The Upper Key Stage 2 children are expected to wear a shirt and tie. Ties are optional in Lower Key Stage 2. **All items of uniform must be named.** Smart black shoes should be worn, without flashing lights (or with the lights turned off). Children are **not allowed** to wear trainers, fashion shoes or boots.

Children are **not allowed** to wear earrings or other jewellery in school. Children who have not had their earrings removed after the summer need to have a letter explaining the situation addressed to Mrs Tanner. Smart watches must not be worn in school. Hair accessories must be in yellow or bottle green. No extreme hairstyles are allowed. Thank you for your support.

During PE lessons all children should wear bottle green shorts with and a white t-shirt (with school logo or unbranded white t-shirt) or a bottle green tracksuit.

Second Hand Uniform

We have a lot of second-hand uniform in very good condition. This will be on sale (weather permitting) in the shelter, in-between the two playgrounds, every day for the next couple of weeks. An honesty box has been placed on the wall by the library. Payment is cash only and you will need to bring change. Prices vary from £1.00 for non branded items, £2.00 for branded items, £3.00 for coats and shoes.

Water bottles

Please make sure your children's water bottles are named. Thank you

Newsletter

The newsletter is our main form of communication to parents and it is usually sent out after school on Friday afternoon (it can also be found on the school website). If you are not receiving emails or your email address changes, please let the office know ASAP.

Healthy Snacks

Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack for mid-morning playtime. Please avoid sending sweets, crisps, nuts or chocolate. Nursery to Year 2 have a fruit snack provided daily.

School Lunches

Pre-ordering lunches on School Grid allows the kitchen sufficient time to order the correct amounts of food for each week. Please bear with us as we are in the process of implementing a new school payment system. Parents are to continue to make payments as usual, but for those parents who haven't been set up yet, still order meals. Further communication will be sent out to everyone regarding the new process very shortly.

Parking

Please remember to show consideration to others when driving and parking near the school. If possible, please use the rugby club for parking and cross with Tony, our crossing patrol person.

Mobile Phones/Permission to walk home

Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school, unless walking home alone (UKS2). A year 5 or 6 child may have permission from their parent to walk home alone (please fill out a permission slip on our website stating this). In this instance, the phone should be handed to their class teacher as they come into registration and will be given back to them at the end of the day. On days when they are not walking home alone, UKS2 children should not have phones in school.

School Day

For drop off, the school gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:50am. If you arrive after 8:50am, please go through the school office to sign in. Pick-up will be at 3:20 PM, with children being collected from outside their classrooms. We kindly ask parents and carers to stand behind the line in the playground to ensure that teachers can clearly see you when releasing your child.

Pupil Premium Grant

If you are struggling financially and think you may need help, then please consider checking your eligibility for free school meals by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Please look out for further communication from Northgate regarding support with eligibility checks. We would like to help identify anyone who might be able to claim funding towards additional staff time, support financially with school trips, extra computers, books, trips, etc. If you have any questions or would like help with an application, please email Mrs Ferdinand on pupilpremium@northgate.herts.sch.uk.

Northgate School Association

We hope you all had a wonderful summer. A huge welcome to all our new Northgate families joining us!

At Northgate, we have a very active PTA Committee holding many events throughout the year in order to raise much needed funds for our school. Over the last 12 months, we raised money for lots of school resources including: books and play equipment; iPads and laptops; Sensory Room; School Enrichment weeks; pantomime visits and road signs. What a difference us Parents/Carers all made, thank you! If you fancy joining the PTA team or simply have a few hours to volunteer, please do contact me at ptanorthgate@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you! Any support you can give, would be much appreciated.

PTA Events

We'll be sending out our PTA Event Calendar for this academic year very shortly. We are hoping to hold lots of fundraising events. In the meantime, please save Friday 8th November 2024 in your diaries as we have our hugely popular Fireworks event taking place that evening! Tickets can be purchased very soon.

Things you can do in the meantime to support our PTA to raise funds for the school:

Easyfundraising

Sign up for Easyfundraising and whilst you are shopping, you can raise money for our school! Over 7,500 brands and sites will donate to us every time you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself. This means you can raise money for us every time you buy clothes, groceries, takeaways, insurance, school supplies or anything else you might be buying online. It's easy, completely FREE and will make a BIG difference to our school. Please sign up and help us raise more: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/northgate-association/?utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=raisingforaschool-fb1

Pre Loved Uniform

Our pre-loved rail is packed with PE kits, logo polo shirts, sweatshirts, jumpers, cardigans and lots of trousers, shorts, dresses, skirts, ties and bags. Most items are £1, so come and grab a bargain and support the PTA!

PTA Astra Recycling Bin

Our large green Astra Recycling bin is situated at the entrance to the school. Astra Recycling takes a whole host of textiles (including logo uniform), which they either reuse as clothing or mulch down to use as insulation so next to nothing goes to waste. You can donate: Clothes, Shoes, Bed Linen, Soft Toys, Accessories (such as belts, hats, gloves, scarves, handbags). So please bring any textiles you no longer need as the PTA will receive cash per kilo donated.

Asda Cashpot for Schools

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. Even if you do not shop at Asda, they will donate £1 just by you opting in through the Asda Rewards app.

If you then do actually shop in store or online then they will donate 0.5% of your shop. This is for a limited time only between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started. Here is the link to the iPhone app: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/asda-rewards/id1578902078>

Thank you for your support!

Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Gerri Wren (PTA Chair) & The PTA Team