

May 1st 2026

Headteacher's News

At Northgate Primary School, we place a strong emphasis on the importance of regular attendance. As outlined in our Attendance Policy, found on our website, attending school every day and on time is vital for your child's learning, wellbeing and overall progress. Even small amounts of absence can have a significant impact on achievement.

Holidays in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, based on national guidance and requests must be made in writing to myself in advance. Any absence taken without permission will be recorded as unauthorised.

Under the current Hertfordshire County Council and National guidance, a Penalty Notice may be issued from the County Council when a child has 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a 10-week period. The first penalty notice is £160 per parent, per child, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. A second offence within a three-year period will result in a £160 fine per parent, per child, with no reduction. If a third offence occurs, the case may be referred for prosecution. We ask for your continued support in ensuring that holidays are taken during school holiday periods and that your child attends school regularly. By working together, we can give every child the best possible opportunity to succeed.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with attendance, please contact the school—we are here to support you. Hope you have a fantastic Bank Holiday weekend.

Enriching the curriculum

On Tuesday, **EYFS and KS1** showcased their talents to their peers in a wonderful music assembly organised by Mrs Cope and Miss Day. Each class prepared a song of their choice and performed it beautifully. The performances were so impressive that it was decided they will share them with KS2 in assembly next Tuesday. Well done, children!



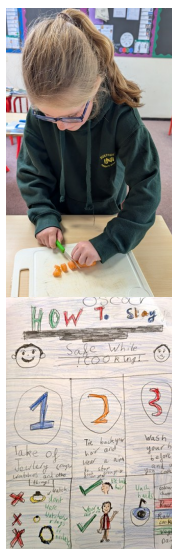
Year 5: Food Preparation Skills

To prepare for upcoming food technology lessons over the next few weeks, Year 5 have been developing their food preparation skills which included cutting and peeling.

As part of their current topic on the Amazon, the children will be creating a Brazilian-inspired menu, including a main course, side dish and dessert. Planned dishes include a traditional stew and pão de queijo (cheese bread).

They will also be linking their practical work to their research on sustainability, deforestation and the coastal regions of Brazil.

We look forward to seeing—and smelling—the results of the children's hard work.



Important Dates

Mon 4th May

Tues 5th May
Thurs 7th May
11th—14th May
Mon 11th May
Wed 13th May
Fri 15th May
Fri 15th May
18th—22nd May

Mon 18th May

Tues 19th May
Thurs 21st May
Fri 22nd May

25th—29th May

Mon 1st June

Tues 2nd June

Tues 2nd June

2nd -12th June

Sat 6th June

W/C 8th June

Mon 8th June

Mon 8th June

Wed 10th June

Mon 15th June

Wed 17th June

Wed 17th June

Mon 22nd June

Wed 24th June

Wed 24th June

29th June—3rd July

Mon 6th July

Wed 8th July

Wed 8th July

Thurs 9th July

Fri 10th July

13th—17th July

Mon 13th July

Mon 13th July

Tues 14th July

Wed 15th July

Wed 15th July

Wed 15th July

Thurs 16th July

Mon 20th July

Tues 21st July

Wed 22nd July

23rd July—31st Aug

1st & 2nd Sept

Thurs 3rd Sept

*Red = New Item / Change to Item

Bank Holiday

9.15am Reception visit from Karate coach

Y4 Instrumental Concert

Y6 SATs

10am Swifts visit to the Library

9am Y1 meeting re Phonics Screening.

Y4 Viking Day

10am Kestrels visit to the Library

Neurodiversity Week

Y6 Learning basic CPR skills

Y6 visit to Crucial Crew

Y3 Instrumental Concert

End of term

Half term

Inset day

First day back at school

Y2 Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo

Y4 National Multiplication tests.

PTA Summer Fayre

Y1 Phonics screening

Reception trip to Willows Farm

10am Sparrows visit to the Library

Class Photos

10am Starlings visit to the Library

Y5 Egyptian Day

10am Wrens visit to the Library

10am Kites visit to the Library

Y1 trip to Audley End

5.30pm—6.30pm EYFS Welcome Evening for children starting in Sept

Y6 Residential PGL Overstrand Hall

10am Harriers visit to the Library

10am Hawks visit to the Library

Consultations and transition meetings

Move up day

Sports Day

Art Week

10am Kingfishers visit to the Library

2.50pm KS1 Art work sharing with parents

2.50pm UKS2 work sharing with parents

10am Nightingales visit to the Library

2.50pm EYFS work sharing with parents

Y6 Performance at South mill (details TBC)

2.50pm LKS2 work sharing with parents

Y6 Leavers Assembly

2pm Break up for summer holidays

Occasional day

Summer Holidays

Inset day

Start of New School Year

Safeguarding

Start the Day Right

We all know that a healthy breakfast is key to a successful day. It provides the energy and nutrients needed for better focus, mood and learning. Whole grains, fruit and protein help children stay alert and engaged.

We have noticed that some children are missing this important meal and are then struggling with their work due to hunger. This can affect their concentration and wellbeing. We encourage parents and carers to ensure children have a nutritious breakfast each morning to support their success in school.

Enriching the Curriculum

Puffins and Robins were the next classes to enjoy a visit to the local library this week. They explored the world of books and discovered just how valuable libraries are to the community and how convenient and accessible the library is for everyone to use.



We hope these visits inspire and foster a lifelong love of reading.

As part of their *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* topic, Puffins enjoyed making porridge last week. The children helped to prepare it by mixing oats and water before taking it to the forest, where they added fruit and enjoyed eating it together. They have also been exploring a range of hands-on activities linked to the story.

In Owls' Class, children have been enjoying the picture book *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy. The story follows Baby Bear as he uses his imagination to travel to the moon in a cardboard box rocket before bath time. Inspired by the book, the children created their own rockets in Forest School using natural materials, encouraging creativity and imaginative play.



Reminders and Updates

Donations of costumes

If you have any unwanted costumes from our school theme days, such as Roman, Greek, Egyptian, Victorian etc, we would be very grateful for your donations. These costumes will be passed on to families who may not have access to them, helping ensure every child can fully take part in our special events. Thank you for your support.

Medication forms

If your child needs to have medication administered at school, a medical form must be filled out online via our school website. Please note that we will only administer medicine that is required four times a day (three times a day can be given to the children before school, after school and before bed). It is essential that the medication is brought in, in its original box with labels and insert. Thank you.

Packed Lunches:

As we have children with **nut allergies**, please be careful not to include food containing nuts or nut products, such as peanut butter, pesto, Bakewell tart, chocolate products or desserts which contain nuts.

Bottle Cap Donations

Please continue to save bottle tops for our playground art installation, which the children will be working on during Art Week. We welcome plastic lids of any size or colour. Please bring any donations to the school office.

Celebration of Achievements



This week's stars of the week were:

Ducklings: Tara and Magali

Puffins: Jude **Owls:** Novak

'Learner of the Week' certificates were focused on learning powers and our school code.

Well done to:

Robins: Freya

Wrens: Ivy

Starlings: Kaya

Sparrows: Charlotte

Skylarks: Teni

Swifts: Theo

Nightingales: Millie

Kingfishers: Sofia

Kestrels: Lena

Kites: Henry

Harriers: Erin

Hawks: Dolly

Happy birthday to Mrs Murrant today!

As a gift, Mrs Smith surprised her with a present that she had handmade for her and the Ducklings' class to enjoy. The children now have a baker's hat, apron, tray, and five iced currant buns to use in their role play. Thank you Mrs Smith.



Stephen Lawrence Day

Last week and this week, our children took part in assemblies to mark Stephen Lawrence Day, remembering Stephen Lawrence and reflecting on the importance of kindness, fairness and respect for all.

Through stories and discussion, pupils explored how small actions—such as helping others, sharing, or offering a smile—can make a big difference. They were encouraged to “be an ally” by speaking up against unkindness and including everyone in our school community.

They also learned about the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, which continues Stephen's legacy by inspiring young people to create a fairer society. As a school, we are reminded to choose kindness, include everyone and stand up for what is right.

Supporting Children With Assessments

As SATs and other assessments approach, it is good to help children prepare, and support children's emotional wellbeing.

How parents can help to prepare:

- Reassure your child and praise effort, not results.— assessments are used to identify gaps in learning.
- Help reinforce the core skills—read daily and practise key skills like recall of number bonds and times tables.
- Keep routines calm and consistent, with good sleep and healthy meals.
- Encourage your child to do lots of outdoor play and be in the fresh air to help them sleep well.
- If needed, do short bursts of revision.
- Reassure your child that it is normal to feel anxious and them to develop coping strategies such as ones discussed in school.
- Contact school for support if your child particularly feels anxious.

Together, we can help children feel confident and ready to do their best.