Northgate Primary School
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Headteacher: Katie Penny

4th September 2026

Dear Parents of Explorers and Pioneers classes,

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to making sure that your child's start in their new school will be successful. Please remember to see a member of the Foundation Stage team over any concerns - our doors are always open as we begin working together.

I would like to formally introduce you to the Foundation Stage team. In addition to myself, we have Mrs Bishop who is the teacher in Pioneers and will be with us for the year. In addition, we have Mrs Priestman and Mr Marshall who are Higher Level Teaching Assistants. We are also lucky to have Ms Marker who will be a learning support assistant. Although your children are allocated to one of our two classes, they will work with all of the adults at different times throughout the year.

What we are learning

This week we will start by talking '**All About Me'**. The topic for the rest of term is **'People who help us'**. We have been talking about starting school to help us find out about our new school and friends. We will then look at who helps us in the community, and we have some visitors coming in to chat to the children. Following this we will be learning about rhymes including number and nursery rhymes. We will also start to look at maths including numbers, shapes and pattern. We will begin phonics, where we find out about letters and their sounds.

The children will undertake most of their learning through play and a wide variety of activities will be available inside and outside for them to choose. We call this independent learning time.

A weekly learning letter is sent home every Monday which explains what we will be learning about that week.

Lining up

We encourage our children in Foundation Stage to become as independent as possible and begin the day as we mean to go on, i.e. hanging their own coat on their peg, walk into the classroom with their classmates, putting their own book bag in the book bag box etc. These things will contribute to their learning and development. The school gates will open at 8.40am and the day begins at 8.50 signalled by the bell.

PE

During this half term the children will be taking part in lots of physical activities as part of their daily learning. We will have a formal PE lesson once a week on a **Tuesday**. The children will need to get changed into their PE kits for these sessions. Please ensure that every item of clothing is **clearly labelled** as the first few times, changing can be chaotic and it will be a great help! **Please remember that the only jewellery to be worn by the children is stud earrings. These must be taken out by parents on PE days unless your child can take their earrings out independently.** It is really helpful if the children leave their kits in school all the time. We will then send them home at the end of every half term to be washed.

Book Bags

Please encourage your child to remember to bring their book bag in daily to school. Initially, we will start sending home a book for your children to enjoy with you. Over the course of the year, your child

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will be given an appropriate reading book as we progress through our **'Unlocking letters and sounds'** phonics scheme. We are unable to send books home, however, if your child has not got their book bag. School logo book bags can be purchased. However, a sensible book bag of any kind is preferable to no book bag.

We will be holding a meeting in the next few weeks where you will be invited in to talk about the curriculum we follow, how we teach phonics, reading and maths and how you can help your children with these areas of learning. We look forward to seeing you then.

Reception baseline assessment: information for parents

During the first few weeks of school the children will undertake the reception baseline assessment. This is a statutory assessment which the government asks us to undertake

Here is a link to a leaflet for you to find out what the reception baseline assessment (RBA) is.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents

Northgate PTA

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) at Northgate work together throughout the school year to put on a number of fundraising events, such as the Summer BBQ and school discos, for children and families to take part in. The money raised all goes towards offering additional opportunities for our pupils including trips, visitors and special events.

The PTA are always welcoming to new members who would like to support the team in organising these events or even just offering new ideas and suggestions. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

Diary dates

Parents Curriculum meeting -	**Thursday 17th September at 2:45pm**
Parents Phonics session	**Thursday 8th October at 9am**
Parents Maths session	**Tuesday 10th November**
INSET day-	Friday 13th November
Half Term -	Monday 19th October – Friday 30st October
Parents Evenings -	**Tuesday 10th / Wednesday 11th November**
Nativity	**Tuesday 15th December at 9.45am and 1.45pm**
Christmas jumper day / Christmas Dinner -	Wednesday 16th December
Christmas party -	Thursday 17th December
Christmas Break -	Monday 21st December –Friday 1st January (We return to school on Monday 4th January)

(Items in **bold** are for parents to attend)

We look forward to working alongside you this term and over the next year.

Thank you!

Mr Coath, Mrs Bishop, Mrs Priestman, Mr Marshall and Mrs Marker.

The Foundation Stage team