# Norman Gate School Newsletter

Autumn Term Issue 5 — Friday 14th November 2025

## Diary Dates 2025/2026

**Wednesday 10th December**
Christmas Performance
2pm
(Cub, Caterpillar, Hoglet, Kit, Otter and Butterfly class)

**Thursday 11th December**
Christmas Jumper Day

**Friday 12th December**
Christmas Performance
1:30pm
(Hedgehog, Badger and Fox Class)

**Thursday 18th December**
Christmas Lunch
Nursery Christmas Songs & Fun
11:30 am & 3pm

**Friday 19th December**
Christmas party &
Santa Visit

## Inset Days 2025-2026

9th February 2026
27th March 2026
5th May 2026

**A Busy Week in School!**
It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting week across the school:
Our school choir took part in the Special School Music Festival, singing and signing beautifully, representing the school with pride.
Fox and Badger Class enjoyed their trips to the cinema as part of the Into Film Festival.
Fox Class supported Andover Trees with some tree planting, helping to care for our local environment.
The whole school has been involved in the Children in Need 'Challenge Yourself to 25' sponsored challenge, and we are thrilled to share that we have already raised over £600! A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far.
Throughout all of these events and activities, it has been wonderful to see our school value of Positivity shining through, whether in the enthusiasm of our choir, the excitement of class trips or the teamwork during the Children in Need challenge.

**Parents' Evening**
Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening on Monday. Your ongoing support and engagement make such a positive difference.

**Parent Governor Vacancy**
A reminder that the closing date for applications for our Parent Governor position is Wednesday 19th November. If you are interested in supporting the school in this important role, please ensure your application is submitted by then.

**Parking**
I am also aware of the impact the new barriers are having for some families. I will be meeting with Councillor Anderson and representatives from Hampshire County Council to discuss this further.

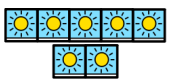
**Toilets**
We are seeing a significant increase in children coming into school before the start of the day to use the staff toilets. As we only have four staff toilets, it's important that these remain available for staff so they can prepare for the school day. Please ensure that children use the toilet at home before arriving at school.

**Goodbye and Hello**
At the end of November, we will be saying goodbye to Charlotte, Hedgehog class teacher, who will be moving away. We are incredibly grateful for all the care, commitment, and wish her every success in the future.

We are delighted to welcome Kirsty to the team, who will be joining us as the new class teacher. Kirsty has already started at Norman Gate and is getting to know the children and the routines.

At the end of the term, we will also be saying goodbye to Kathy and Rachel, our TOP workers, who have been a great support to Early Years pupils and families at Norman Gate and in the wider community – thank you both.
Also leaving at the end of the term is Liza, she has been a dedicated LSA at Norman Gate for an incredible 21 years, and will be retiring. Her commitment, warmth, and positivity have made a big difference to so many children, families and staff.

## Signs of the Week



Dance

fire

# Cub Class

Cub class have made a great start to the half term, and have settled back into school fantastically. This term we are learning all about different celebrations. We have been talking and reading all about birthdays and how different people like to celebrate. The children have enjoyed making birthday cake out of playdough and having their own role play birthday tea parties!

We have also enjoyed learning all about bonfire night and fireworks. The children used their art skills to make their own wonderful paintings to represent fireworks. This week, with the help of our friends in Fox class, we have been thinking about remembrance day and made poppies using collage.

Well done Cub Class!

## Andover Christmas Lights Switch On

# Fox Class

As part of our Topic work in Fox class our focus has been on *Self Portraits*. The children have been exploring how artists use colour, expression and background to share their emotions, interests and identity. We began by learning about **Frida Kahlo**, a famous Mexican artist known for her powerful self-portraits. The children discussed what they liked or disliked about her work and discovered that art is *subjective* — there's no right or wrong answer!
Using Frida's paintings as inspiration, pupils examined how colours and backgrounds can express feelings. Together, we explored a **colour wheel of emotions**, linking colours to moods such as happiness, sadness, peace and excitement.
Children then created their own expressive pieces, choosing a scene and colours that represented how they felt. They practised blending pastel colours and developing their line drawings. Finally, they designed a *self-portrait collage* showing what makes them unique — their favourite places, toys and interests — combining drawing, collage and acetate work to create stunning layered art that truly reflects *who they are*.

| Norman Gate School | | | |
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| DSL & DDSL's<br>(Designated Safeguarding Lead)<br>(Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads) | | | |
| **Lisa Collins**<br>Headteacher | **Sophie Durbajlo**<br>Deputy Headteacher | **Kay Barnikel**<br>Home/School Co-Ordinator | **Lindsay Symmonds**<br>Teacher |
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# Music Club

This week the children from Music Club were invited to perform at the "All That I Am" inclusive performing arts festival at Samuel Cody School in Farnborough. The children voluntarily gave up part of their lunchtimes each week to meet and practice singing and signing the song "Reach for the Stars". They had an amazing time watching the other schools perform and were able to give an incredible performance themselves, which received a standing ovation from the audience. The children represented Norman Gate school fantastically, showing our school values of Courage, Teamwork and Positivity throughout the day. Well done Music Club!

# Remembrance