



NEWSLETTER

February 2018

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Headmistress's Message

The second half of term has only just begun but already pupils have achieved much. I have been impressed with the way our form groups have prepared and presented excellent assemblies to their peers and to parents. Preparing and presenting to an audience is an important skill to develop and I am delighted to see how positively our pupils respond to those opportunities whether in class, in assembly or outside the school.

We have sent out our first round of 11+ offers and scholarship awards for September 2018 and I am looking forward to welcoming many of them to join us in September.

Our own Year 11 are receiving offers from schools for their sixth form studies; well done to the many pupils with offers already from excellent independent schools, colleges and local schools.

We have our next Open Morning on Friday 9 March for new and prospective families. It is a working open morning so visitors will be able to see the school in action and pupils in class, as well as being toured by pupils and hearing from the Head Girl. We are looking forward to meeting them.

Please come and join us for the NSPA Egg Hunt and Easter walk in the forest on Sunday 18 March. Details are available from the school office. It should be a lovely morning and will be helping us to reach the iPad target that the NSPA are working towards.

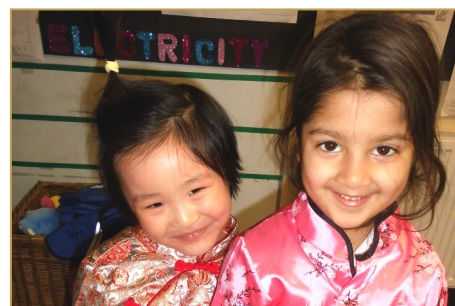
With my best wishes for the rest of term

Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress

Chinese New Year in Reception

The children in Reception had great fun learning about the Chinese New Year. They explored this special festival through dressing up and role play. They learnt the story of the animals, the Emperor and the Chinese zodiac.

The class also read another story called The Nian Monster. According to Chinese mythology, a nian is a creature that lives under the sea or in the mountains, and is associated with Chinese New Year. The story took everyone on a journey to Shanghai where they learnt about all the traditions and customs of this special time of the year.



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Colchester Zoo Trip

Year 2 had a wonderful time at Colchester Zoo on Tuesday 6 February. The day started with a quick play in one of the playgrounds before listening to a fantastic talk about African animals. The children all listened beautifully and learnt so much. They were able to touch different animal skins which helped them to identify which habitat the animals originally came from.



They then went on to explore the zoo and see if they could find any African animals. The children also got the opportunity to feed the giraffes and the elephants! It was a bit messy and smelly but great fun.

After a picnic lunch, Year 2 continued to explore the zoo and see what other animals we could find. The afternoon was finished off with everyone finding the tiger sitting high up on the platform.



Chinese New Year in Year 2

Mr Chow, the father of Year 2 pupil Pablo, visited the class and taught everyone all about Chinese New Year. It was really interesting.

They learnt about the origins of the holiday, why red is a lucky colour, and got to taste different food such as noodles. They were delicious! They also learnt to write some symbols in Chinese.



Chinese New Year in Year 5

Year 5 celebrated Chinese New Year 2018 – The Year of the Dog. They found out about the story of the animals and how they became the zodiacs – everyone felt sorry for the cat who got left out. They watched videos of the celebrations in China Town in London and learnt why the colour red is so important. After that they learnt how to write the animals in Chinese and had a go themselves. After a few more activities they got to try some Chinese food and opened their fortune cookies. Happy Chinese New Year!

“I quite liked it because we found out what the animals are on the year we were born, I liked it so much I actually went home and did some more work on it, and we are going to have a Chinese takeaway at the end of the week so we can have some more fortune cookies – I cannot wait!” **Finley**

“It was so amazing, I loved the lesson and I loved finding out which animal I was. I found out so much in this lesson, my animal was a Rat and I was an ‘earth rat’ as on the video it told us which element goes with your year too.” **Laila**

“The lesson was really fun! We got to eat fortune cookies and see our fortune, we stuck our fortune in our books and we also ate prawn crackers. My animal was a ‘fiery pig’.” **Margarida**





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Junior Maths Day

"On Monday 5 February, Normanhurst pupils (Years 1-6) had a 'Maths Day' which took place in school. We did this because we need to improve our problem solving skills and it was a way of making maths learning more enjoyable.

Years 3 and 4 had a workshop first. Our leader, Tom, explained the activities very clearly to us. In one of the activities, we had to use 3D shapes to create a cube. In another activity, we had to fit together pentominoes (2D shapes made out of five squares) on a mat. In the other activity, we had to organise triangles to make a square.

Next, we went back to our classroom and we had to do a Maths challenge. We had to use tangrams to copy a pattern on a board. Unfortunately Connaught lost in our class, however over the whole of the Junior classes, they managed to win!

After that, we did a class activity where there were chairs which had different quadrilaterals on. Then our teacher described the properties of one of the quadrilaterals and we had to run to the shape we thought it was. My favourite part was the class activity because I found it extremely exhilarating."

By Mert, Year 4



British Library Trip

On Tuesday 6 February, Years 5 and 6 went to the Exhibition of the History of Magic and learnt about the ideas behind and the inspirations for J K Rowling's work. Accompanied by a guide from the library, the children saw some of Rowling's original notes, and were able to take part in interactive activities in each room. They saw artefacts from the history of magic around the world, including cauldrons, broom sticks, calendars and astronomy items.

Here, **Kian** in Year 5 recounts his experience of the day.

"On our trip to the British Library we went on the overground train to Liverpool Street. From Liverpool Street we went to Kings Cross St Pancras. The reason we went to the British Library was because there was a Harry Potter exhibition. It was called The History of Magic.

On the train me, Luke, Mr Ram, Jordan and Atilla played A-Z football teams. When we arrived our first lesson was Potions. I made a youth potion with a devils tongue, a dragons leg, butterfly blood, goblin blood, dragon toes and a unicorn horn.

The rooms were Potions, Alchemy, Herbology, Charms, Astronomy, Defence against the Dark Arts, Care of Magical Creatures, and Past, Present and Future.

I like the Care of Magical Creatures because there were lots of pictures of magical creatures. I learnt that Nicholas Flamel was a real person."

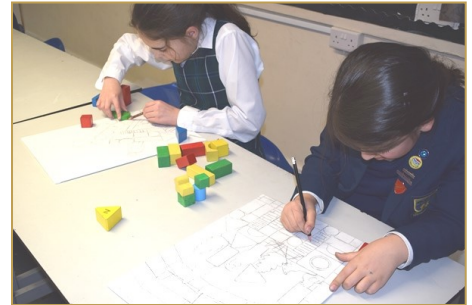




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Experimental Drawing in Art Club

The participants of Art Club were inspired by the Swiss, German abstract artist, Paul Klee in their recent sessions. They began by looking at examples of his paintings and the way he constructed his landscapes from beautifully coloured geometric shapes. They then borrowed Kindergarten's building bricks and used them to mark out shapes and construct an abstract landscape. Art Club participants produced some fantastic drawings and were very grateful to Kindergarten for the loan of their building bricks!



Year 6 Travel Agents!



Year 6 have been further developing some of the skills that they have learnt in their IT lessons to help them make their very own holiday brochures. Not only did the children have to conduct research on their chosen destination, but they also had to design an attractive front cover, use different fonts and images, create a brochure layout and include all the information that they had researched.

Everyone did a fantastic job, with the final brochures both informative and well designed, well done Year 6!

Top of the League!

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to our pupils and staff as it was published in February in the Evening Standard that Normanhurst is top of the Waltham Forest GCSE league table! 19 schools are included in the league table which compares percentage passing 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C/9-4 including English and Maths and percentage passing the English Baccalaureate.

Well done to all of our hard working pupils from 2017, we are very proud!



Year 2 Science Experiments

During Science, Year 2 pupils have been testing the durability of different materials. All pupils worked extremely hard, and recorded all their findings in their workbooks. The children should be very proud of the way that they conducted their experiments, working independently and helping each other out when needed.



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Year 6 Theme Park Developers

Year 6 have had the tricky task of creating a theme park business in class. The children started with the budget of £500,000 and had to think carefully about what they could spend this money on. As well as deciding on any major or minor rides they were going to have, they also had to think about the other facilities visitors would need, such as toilets, shops, cafes and paths.

Armed with a price list, the class were tasked with designing and drawing their park on squared paper, making sure not to go over their spending limit but still providing all the necessary facilities.

From their maps, pupils could then work out how much it would cost to run their theme park which included costs for both staff and electricity, and maintenance. Armed with this information, pupils could calculate how much they should charge for each person to enter the park.



Profit and loss was the next task! They were told that each visitor would spend a £5 at each cafe and £3 at each shop they had. Taking away the total costs, they could work out the profit and loss from each day. They even had to design their own advertising for the park!

It was a very productive lesson with pupils learning a lot about how much needs to be taken into consideration when it comes to running a business.



Lego Club Fun!

Children love attending Lego club after school on a Thursday. In addition to having fun with their friends, it gives them the opportunity to be creative and build models they can be proud of.

Using Lego bricks is also a great opportunity for building fine motor skills and the bricks are a great manipulative to work the fingers. It helps to provide an understanding of spatial awareness and teaches mathematical concepts of symmetry, shape and geometry.

The possibilities of what to build are endless!



Quadrilaterals in the Playground

Year 4 had lots of fun learning about quadrilaterals in the playground! After learning about their properties in class, the children headed outside to further develop their understanding.

Different shapes had been placed around the playground and when a shape was described to them, they had to run to the shape they thought the description was referring to. Not only was the activity useful, but everyone also had a lot of fun!



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Year 5 Make Learning Fun

Year 5 pupils have been enjoying a number of exciting lessons across the curriculum this term. In English they created dramatic reconstructions of different stanzas from the class poem 'Last Night I Saw the City Breathing' by Andrew Fusek Peters. They used the animated language of the poem to think about speech, speed, pausing, facial expressions, freeze frames and acting.

In their Art lessons, Year 5 spent time in the first half of the term working on 'Starry Night' By Vincent van Gogh. They started by colouring in a pre-drawn version of the painting, then they drew their own versions, using watercolours to paint them. The pupils learnt about mixing colours and using different brush strokes. They were so proud of their artwork that they created an 'art gallery' to present their paintings to Mr Beint and Mrs Barnard.

Year 5 also learnt a lot about Vincent van Gogh. They researched him and used their knowledge to write a biography on him for Big Writing. They could even answer all the questions on the painter that Miss Barnard and Mr Beint were able to come up with.

Their Science topic this term is 'Properties and Changes of Materials', and pupils have been experimenting with making a solid into a liquid. They particularly enjoyed testing the melting temperatures of chocolate by seeing if it melted faster in their hands or in their mouths. It was a very popular lesson!

In another Science lesson, the class found a tray of mixed up materials and had to demonstrate that a mixture of solids could be separated through investigating different techniques. The pupils used a variety of techniques including their hands, a home-made sieve and mixing solids with water to create the process of dissolving. They then had to say whether their techniques were successful or not in separating the materials.

First of all, the croutons were picked out by hand, then magnets were used to take out the paper clips. The class made a sieve by making holes in a paper cup with a pencil, and used it to take the oats and raisins out. The holes in the sieve were too big and the oats were not successfully separated, so they then had to make a new sieve with smaller holes. Finally, the sand and salt were separated by putting them in water and letting the salt dissolve then removing the sand from the water solution. Year 5 loved this investigation, which has inspired them to investigate other aspects of materials.

The class did an experiment to see which type of sugar would dissolve the fastest. They worked out how to make it a fair test and then all the children made their predictions. They found out that caster sugar dissolved the fastest and that light brown soft sugar dissolved the slowest.

"In the Science experiment I learnt that caster sugar is faster to dissolve in water, I really enjoyed it because I get to spend time doing different Science experiments." **Shaunella**

"In the Science experiment I learnt how sugar dissolves in water, I really enjoyed this Science experiment because I got to pour the sugar into the bowl and to see how long it takes for it to dissolve." **Timothy**





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Science Museum Trip

Year 3 visited the Science Museum to learn about their Science topic of 'Forces and Magnets' in an interactive way. They visited the Wonderlab, where they were able to touch and feel real-time science experiments, as well as watch a short show on how explosions are made!

Then the class watched the 'Feel the Force' show, where they learnt all about Phil the Frog's adventures, investigating friction and magnetic attraction.

John said "It was really good to actually see science happen in real-life". **Eloise** added "I liked it when they showed us how the forces work in different ways."



Year 3 Assembly

Year 3 taught the Juniors all about how sunflowers grow in their class assembly. They sang about what is needed to grow a healthy plant, and the right conditions to plant it in. It was lovely to see all the children perform with such confidence.

The class even gave out some of their home-grown daffodils to their parents at the end of the assembly.



7C Senior Assembly—In the News

7C presented an assembly to the Seniors based upon a news report, covering all important matters in January 2018.

Damon, the news reporter in the studio introduced the assembly: "In this week's headlines we have everything from fake missiles to President Trump to out of this world movies. My colleagues have put in lots of time and research into these matters and we assure you that you will take something with you today and be better informed by the end."



7C worked amazingly well as a team, bringing together news reports regarding different topics of interest. At the end of their presentation 7C were praised by Mr Beint for the way they delivered their assembly with such confidence and for covering such a broad range of current affairs. Well done 7C!

Year 8 Ceramic Sculptures

This term, pupils have been studying the ceramic artists Anne Castrano and Phoebe Cummings. They have been exploring how artists use the environment around them to create art work.

They made a series of drawings from observation of natural forms and have used their studies of the artists' works to create their own design for a clay sculpture.





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Year 3 Arts and Crafts

In Art, Year 3 have been developing multiple skills while creating money purses in celebration of Chinese New Year. The pupils had to concentrate very hard when it came to sewing round the edges of the purse, but all did very well with some great results, well done!



To celebrate Valentine's Day, the pupils took part in lots of themed craft activities. There were a range of crafts on offer including cutting out shapes, using symmetry to colour in hearts and making a Valentine's Day card.



Year 1 Investigate Bark

Year 1 have been out and about during their lessons to learn about nature outside of the classroom. One of their topics this month was looking at the bark of different trees. Using their magnifying glasses they carefully took it in turns to study the wood. They couldn't believe how different the bark on trees could be! It was great fun being able to make rubbings of the various textures.



Out of this World in Early Years

This term the Early Years children have enjoyed learning all about the solar system in their space topic. As an exciting end to the topic, the children were set with the tricky task to build rockets using a range of materials. After much cutting and sticking, the class were ready to blast off into space! Good work!



The Mayor Presents Loughton Young Artists

On the evening of Friday 23 February, a special event was held at Loughton Art Gallery to celebrate the best artwork produced by all of the schools that took part in the Loughton Young Artists competition. Earlier in the month a panel of judges visited the art exhibition at Loughton Gallery hosted by Braeside School and Normanthurst School to select winning artworks.

The first prize went to Karisma at Braeside for her striking and extremely realistic self-portrait. Second prize went to Bilal from Normanthurst for his stunning architectural form photography. Highly commended went to Suzannah from Braeside for her thought provoking mixed media work entitled 'cultural identity'.

Prizes were presented by the Mayor of Loughton. Well done everyone!





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Safer Internet Day Senior Assembly

As a part of their PSHE curriculum, Senior pupils took part in a Safer Internet Day school assembly, looking at ways to stay safe online when using social media. This year the theme of Safer Internet Day is 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'.

During the assembly pupils looked at the different types of social media that they use and thought about ways of ensuring that they are respectful to one another when they use them. Pupils also learnt about different actions they can take if they become the victim of cyber bullying.

Another important theme that was discussed was digital wellbeing and how pupils can find ways to ensure that they are always mindful of their interactions on social media and how they affect one another in both a positive and negative way. Pupils were able to discuss and feed back in groups on issues surrounding safe use of social media and digital wellbeing.

Form tutors will be continuing to explore internet safety as a part of their PSHE programme.



Brandon's Badminton Success Continues

In past issues of the newsletter, we have followed with interest the career of Year 11 pupil Brandon in competitive badminton. We are very proud to report that in the recent Under 19 English National Championships, Brandon gained silver medals in both the singles and doubles events, as well as reaching the quarter finals of the mixed category.

We wish Brandon the best of luck in forthcoming international competitions, and look forward to reporting his continued success. In the meantime we congratulate him on his excellent results in the English Nationals.



Year 7 Science gets Creative

In Science Year 7 have been learning about different types of cells. As a part of their homework they produced amazing 3D cell models based on a range of different cell structures.

It was clear that a lot of time and thought had gone into creating the models which were produced using a wide range of materials. The pupils spoke with great enthusiasm about the different processes used to create their models and how this tied in with their learning in Science.

In the whole school assembly they looked at how they can adopt a creative approach to learning, and it is wonderful to see how the pupils are applying this in different ways to all of their subjects.

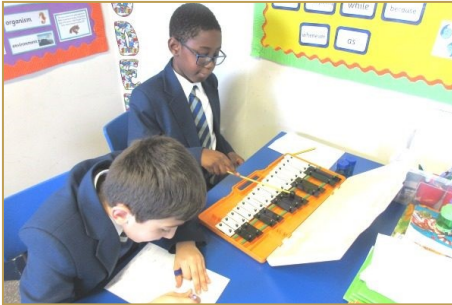
Well done Year 7!





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Year 4 Investigate Sound



Year 4 have been investigating pitch and volume in a recent lesson. The experiments were conducted using a range of different sound making devices, there were elastic bands round a tub, drums, water bottles, bells and more.

The children took it in turns to make noise using these instruments, all the while listening carefully to the volume and the pitch. They then wrote all their findings down. It was a great lesson, even if it was slightly noisy!

Bingo at the Spinney

The children that are taking part in the adopt a grandparent scheme were kind enough to pay a visit to the residents who live at the local care home, the Spinney. While they were there the children helped to assist the residents with a game of bingo.

The children had a lovely time chatting to the elderly and are already looking forward to visiting them again soon.



Year 2 Maasi Warriors

Year 2 have been learning all about Maasai Warriors, a group of people who inhabit southern Kenya and northern Tanzania.

When a Maasai warrior comes of age, they take part in a jumping dance. This dance is one of the things that the warriors are well known for. After learning about this ritual, the children tried to jump as high as the Maasai themselves, while maintaining a narrow posture. It looks like we have some warriors in the making!



Young Artists in Year 1

Children Year 1 have been working very hard during their Art lessons. They have been using a range of techniques to develop their finished pieces.

Using a variety of shapes, pupils used their imaginations to create designs, with some fantastic results. Each pupil developed their own ideas building in both 2D and 3D.

Children developed another technique which involved screwing up tissue paper into small balls and sticking them onto a pre-draw design of a giant crocodile! This project involved a lot of teamwork with some pupils taking the responsibility for cutting up the tissue paper very carefully, while others were involved with the sticking process.

Lastly they worked on developing their clay modelling techniques. It was quite tricky and fiddly but everyone should be very proud of what they have been able to achieve.





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Poetry Live!

On Friday 23 February the whole of Year 11, with the English department, attended a 'Poetry Live' event at the Dominion Theatre. Poets including the current Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, and Simon Armitage, Oxford Professor of Poetry, read out their poems from the GCSE poetry anthology, and answered pupils' questions.

They also heard John Agard, Gillian Clarke and assorted other poets, as well as one of the chief examiners from the AQA board discussing examination technique.

The day was jam packed with stimulating talks and was a great success. In the words of John Agard, "Let language be your friend."

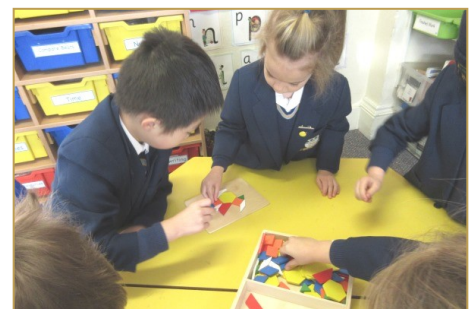


Year 1 Interactive Maths Workshop

On Monday 5 February Year 1 to 6 took part in an interactive Maths workshop. Each year group performed similar activities in varying difficulties. Year 1 spent the day solving many Maths related puzzles using numbers, shapes, counters and blocks.



A lot of the work involved working as a team to solve the puzzles. Well done Year 1!



Normanhurst Sports Report

Netball Earlier this month, the Year 7 and Years 8/9 girls netball teams played in the Waltham Forest netball tournament at Redbridge Sports Centre. Both teams reached their respective finals but then lost to Forest School in both age groups. Well done to everyone who played.

Volleyball Normanhurst School travelled to Leyton Sixth Form College to take part in what is now becoming an annual Waltham Forest volleyball competition. Normanhurst reached the final after beating Norlington, Chingford and Walthamstow Academy in the group stages, and Leytonstone A team in the semi-final. In the final, Normanhurst played Leytonstone B team, who were unbeaten in the competition so far. Leytonstone B were formidable opponents and finished as the winners by a score of 17-10.

The PE Dept would like to congratulate Tobi, Tolani, Jesse, Miles, Jay and Harry for their well-earned runners-up position.





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

Wow - Christmas done. Dry January (nearly) done. And now it's almost time to gorge on chocolate. Yippee!

The other good news is that our last fundraiser, the Mini Disco, was not only a sell out, but it was also tremendous fun. Young and old all enjoyed themselves and the music, the party games, the fab outfits and the sugar rushes all combined to make it a classic Normanhurst family night.

As we go to press, the Film and Pizza Evening will have taken place. Ticket sales have been good and with a bossy baby keeping an eye on proceedings, we hope the children enjoyed another tasty event.

Sunday 18 March is the date for our next fundraiser. The much anticipated Egg Hunt starts out at the school hall at 11am where the creative amongst us will help to fashion Easter baskets ahead of an 11.30am departure. Then it will be a group march to Connaught Waters, a sprint around the lake and a crawl back to school for some well deserved hot cross buns and a drink or three. En route, the children will be required to solve cryptic questions in order to win chocolaty treats. Open to families from Kindergarten to Year 6, tickets are now on sale in the school office on a first come basis.

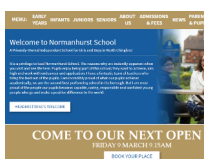
Another letter with more news about events for the summer term will follow, but please note the date for the Annual Summer BBQ is Saturday 23 June. It is the biggest event on the NSPA calendar and with sunshine and a fair wind, it should be the event that ensures we reach our fundraising target to purchase 36 iPads which will enhance all of our childrens' learning experience. We would not be able to do this without your continued support. Thank-you from all of us at the NSPA.

We look forward to seeing you at these and other NSPA events throughout the year.

The NSPA Committee



Social Networking



Website

Go to the School Calendar page for upcoming events and our [News](#) page for all the latest news and lots more photographs.



Instagram

Follow us on Instagram for regular photo updates! Search for [normanhurstschool](#) to find us, then click follow!



App

Keep up to date with the latest news, calendar dates, and much more by downloading the new Normanhurst School App.



Twitter

Follow us [@NormanhurstSch](#) on Twitter to get the latest updates.



Facebook is our newest form of Social Media. Like us on Facebook to get news, photos, events and updates posted straight to your newsfeed.



OPEN MORNING
Friday 9 March 2018 at 9.15am