

NEWSLETTER

December 2022



A very frosty Thursday morning Running Club

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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

I cannot believe how quickly the Autumn term has gone. It has been busy in the lead up to the festive period, even with the addition of snow.

During the second half of the term we have had House Competitions, the arrival of our Christmas tree, the Early Years Festive Fun Day, the return of the visiting pantomime for the junior pupils, our first ever Winter Fair and the 'Superstar!' Nativity performances.

It has been wonderful to see up to three generations all under one roof for the Christmas Nativity - this is truly special. We wholeheartedly appreciate everyone who attended, as there is nothing quite like performing in front of a live audience. Both pupils and staff have really enjoyed learning their lines, performing and singing. It has been a wonderful way to start the festive season.

At this time of year we do not forget those in our local community and in doing so, have created cards for the residents at the Spinney care home and made contributions towards the local food bank. This has encouraged us to think of others in challenging times and reflect upon how fortunate we are.

This December edition of the newsletter will give you an indication of the many opportunities the pupils have enjoyed. We too have enjoyed organising these experiences to extend our students' learning.

I would like to wish our Normanhurst families a peaceful and joyful festive season, please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. The spring term begins for pupils on Tuesday 10 January.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

FESTIVITIES IN THE EARLY YEARS



The children in the Early Years Department had a wonderful day discovering different aspects of the festive season during their special Festive Fun Day. There were creative activities such as printing poinsettias using orange peel, making Christingles and painting golden baubles. They learnt about



snow globes and then made their own. The afternoon ended with a wonderful interactive and sensory storytelling session delivered by 'Adventure Babies' of Waltham Forest, where the Kindergarten children set off on a journey to discover the 'Gruffalo's Child'. It was a wonderful day and a great start to the festive season.



How exciting, the children in Early Years enjoyed an unexpected snow storm in the garden area! We had great fun gently blowing snowballs and ice skating.



The children in the Early Years department have enjoyed a very exciting start to the festive season. There have been so many special events. It started with our special Festive Fun Day, then our wonderful 'Superstar!' Nativity. We have eaten a tasty Christmas dinner and played traditional party games. There was a visit from Father Christmas and of course the pantomime. At the end of term we joined the rest of the school for the traditional Carol Service. We have taken winter walks in the forest and even along Station Road to see the Christmas tree and lights. Throughout it all the children have demonstrated fantastic behaviour and a sense of wonder and awe that makes working with our youngest children so special at this time of year.



EARLY YEARS FESTIVITIES continued

A huge well done to our wonderful Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children for putting on not just one, but three incredible Nativity performances this week.

This year, the Nativity had a slight twist, with a 'Superstar' singing theme running throughout. Years 1 and 2 did a great job of acting and narrating the story, while Kindergarten brought to life a Nativity tableau, complete with some fantastic costumes. There were lots of great songs, but some favourites included 'We're Not Washing our Socks', 'Shine', and of course, 'Superstar!'.



RECEPTION NEWS



Reception have been learning about hibernation and to fully understand this, we conducted a science experiment. We filled two water bottles with hot water, put one of them back in its fluffy cover, wrapped it up in a blanket and put it in its home to hibernate. The other we left outside without a cover. At the end of the day, we checked both hot water bottles to see how warm they were. We discovered the one that had been hibernating had kept much warmer!



Reception had a team-work STEM challenge. They had to design an igloo, decide on which materials they might use to make it and then work together with their team mates to build their igloo. Two groups used marshmallows, sticks and icing glue and the final group used sugar cubes, icing glue, foam



pieces and sticks. They worked together to make sure their igloo stood up and had an entrance as well as a roof.

"I liked helping Lilia and Hashim and putting the special glue on." - Isla

"I made a marshmallow one. I put some marshmallows on sticks." - Henry

"We used frosting." - Lenna-Mae



Reception discovered 'magic paint'. They designed some beautiful winter hats and then used the magic paint on top which created a beautiful effect. They also tried this with snowflakes as well as making some special baubles on Festive Fun Day with Kindergarten.



JUNIOR NEWS

Year 2 have begun learning about the Great Fire of London and the baker, Thomas Farriner. They put on their chef hats to do some baking and made some delicious bread! They carefully weighed the ingredients and followed the instructions. They even learnt how to write their own recipe using clear and detailed instructions.



Year 2 took a trip to Chingford Fire Station. They met with the fire fighters who showed them all around the station. They learnt how fires are fought in the present day and impressed the fire fighters with their knowledge of the Great Fire of London. Whilst at the station there were two call outs and they got to watch the firefighters get ready for action. They also cheered along their teachers as they raced to get into the firefighting gear, which was very heavy! At the end of the day, they all had a chance to hold the firehose and spray the water. A fun day was had by all!



This term, **Year 4** are studying the Ancient Greeks in History. They had an enjoyable lesson, unravelling a ginormous 8 metre long timeline. This was to understand where the Ancient Greeks fall in relation to ourselves today and other civilisations such as the Roman Empire, Ancient Egypt, and the Anglo-Saxons.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

IWM Duxford

To further develop their World War II knowledge, Year 6 visited Duxford Aviation Museum. As soon as they arrived they were greeted by an army helicopter which flew over them and landed nearby. They visited the 1940s Control Room, which was crucial during the Battle of Britain, and learnt why this battle was important and about spitfires and how these planes helped the RAF.

There were many opportunities for pupils to get close to various aircrafts and they were allowed to enter some of the bigger planes. They also visited the D-Day exhibition where they watched a short movie that explained how the landings changed the course of the war and learnt about the USA involvement. They then inspected some of the vehicles that were used during this time. They were also able to handle some of the replica items, outfits and weapons that were used during the war.



It was an extremely informative day for all the pupils and they thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

Museum of London

In the autumn term, Year 6 studied their local area and looked at how they could improve Chingford to make it more sustainable. They visited the Museum of London where they learnt how hunters and gatherers lived in London and the surrounding areas, and what their settlements looked like. They then moved onto the Roman invasion of the City of London and learnt how it expanded drastically in such a short space of time.

Year 6 pupils also learnt how Anglo-Saxons settled in London after the Romans had left. They had the opportunity to sit in an Anglo-Saxon house and looked at various household items that were essential at the time. They also learnt about the plague and the Great Fire of London, before



visiting a Victorian street, where they looked at various shops and artefacts from the era.

It was a great day and it enabled children to understand how London evolved in order to become the city it is today.

Year 6 were also lucky enough to come across a display about the life of Harry Kane and had a close look at his personal belongings which ranged from his primary school books to his football kits.

JUNIOR NEWS continued

Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6 took part in 'Parliament Week' this term through a variety of activities. In the Early Years, the pupils learnt all about the importance of voting. They played an 'agree or disagree' game and wore a glove on one hand to show their vote against statements such as 'strawberries are the best fruit', 'mathematics is the hardest subject' and 'cats make the best pets'.



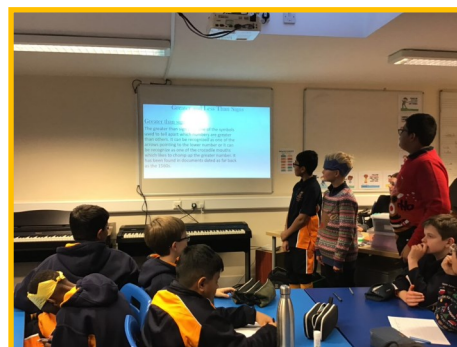
Pupils in the older years took a virtual trip to the Houses of Parliament and had a tour around the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Year 2 said that they were very intrigued by the different coloured seats and the reasons for this! Our pupils learnt more about our current Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, during the week too!



Other activities included: Year 2 taking part in a short quiz about UK elections and the voting system and Years 4 and 5 taking part in class debates. Year 6 learnt about the PM's Question Time as well as the long process that is needed to turn a bill into law. Children then completed an activity on Rishi Sunak and learnt about the recent developments while choosing the new PM of the UK. What a great week of activities!

SENIOR NEWS

Year 7 have been busy collaborating in small groups for their recent Maths homework. Over the past term they have been working on making presentations surrounding different objectives in the Maths Curriculum. They were given the task to work together, using their computing skills to create a Powerpoint Presentation to present to their peers in a lesson that will teach each other about the subject area. Whilst they were presenting, the other pupils had to assess and judge the presentation being made. Both Mrs Mouslmani and Miss Stone have been impressed by the projects, well done Year 7!

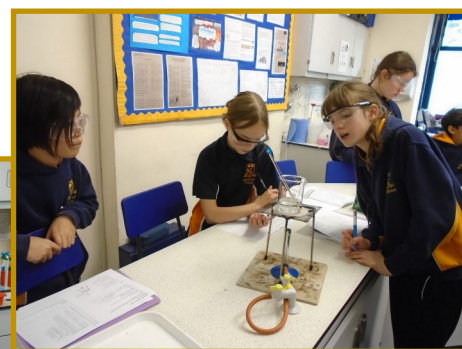
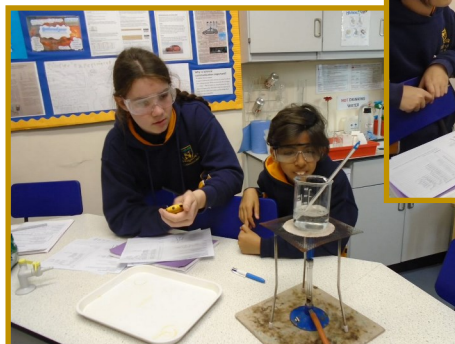


SENIOR NEWS continued

Science News

Year 7 students investigated whether the boiling point of water is indeed 100°C and used their results to plot a boiling curve. They also observed all the changes that happen when water boils.

Do try this at home: The [‘Frost in a can experiment’](#) is a great way to explore states of matter at home.



Year 8 students particularly enjoyed making their own glue by adding bases to milk and vinegar when learning about Polymerisation. They investigated whether the type of milk or the type of base would affect the strength of their glue. They then had a ‘glue off’ to figure out which milk and base combination made the strongest glue .

Do try this at home: As you get ready for the festive season, read about the amazing science behind [‘Why Jelly wobbles’](#). What does the pineapple tree have to do with jelly?



The Year 7s and 8s have also been attempting their progress tasks with growing confidence.

Year 9 students have begun their GCSE course learning about the building blocks of matter and life. During their Biology lessons, they have been learning about the scientists who contributed to the cell theory. They have made their own slides and viewed stained onion specimens under the microscope.

They have also been learning about the fundamentals of matter including elements, compounds and mixtures. They particularly enjoyed a demonstration of ‘Ink Distillation



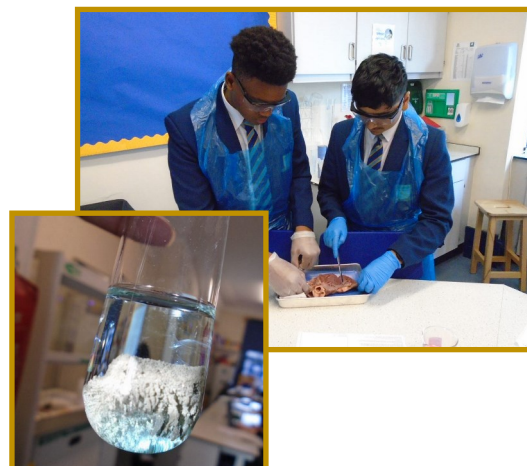
Do try this at home: Take the [‘Mycoscope explore challenge’](#) to guess what the microscopic image is depicting. How many did you get right? This is the time of the year when the Year 9s make their option choices. If your child is confused about which GCSE Science course is more suited to their needs [‘this article’](#) is a good start.

SENIOR NEWS continued

Science News continued



Year 10 have had a busy term and are now well into their GCSE course. A few practical activities they enjoyed have included dissecting hearts in Biology when studying about the circulatory system and making silver in Chemistry when they learnt about reacting masses in chemical reactions.

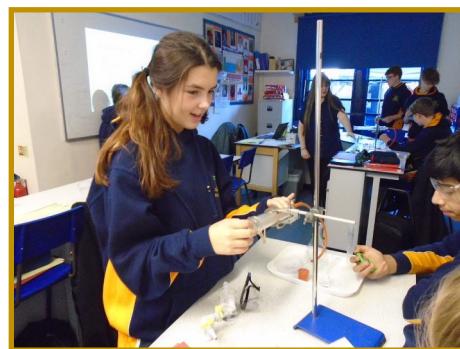
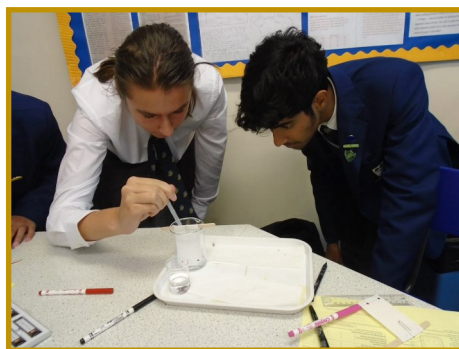


Do try this at home: Scientists have been studying how our habits as children and teenagers affect our health as adults. This [article](#) shares what they have found



Year 11 have done some incredible work over the term and are now busy preparing to sit their mock exams. They did have some fun in the laboratory along the way, from looking at how force and mass affects acceleration in physics to exploding methane bubbles in chemistry when they learn about fuels.

Do try this at home: Sir David Attenborough's breath-taking docuseries 'Our Planet' is a must watch over the festive break'



Year 9

On 15 November, Year 9 pupils visited the Fortune Theatre near Covent Garden to see the spine chilling theatre adaptation of Susan Hill's *Woman in Black*. The actors Julian Forsyth (Arthurs Kipps) and Matthew Spencer (The Actor) successfully created a suspenseful performance using minimal set, props and multi-rolling which kept our students on the edge of their seats throughout! Overall, this was a fun and inspiring experience.



HOUSE DEBATE



Pupils had a debating competition in their Houses on the topic of 'Should the England Football Team be attending the World Cup in Qatar?' For the purpose of the debate, Connaught House were against England attending and Warren were for attending. Selected pupils from Years 6 -11 formed a team on each side and gave their arguments and formed rebuttals throughout. The competition was judged by four special guests: Mrs Imre, Mr Duck, Mr Dickinson and Rován, one of our Head Prefects. Both teams were very prepared and confidently shared their views. Once the debate was over it was decided that Warren had won the overall debate. Well done to both teams, we look forward to the next debating competition!



MATHS BEE



Mrs Mouslmani, Head of Maths in the Seniors, organised an exciting House Event for pupils in Years 5-11 – a Maths Bee! Pupils from each year group were chosen to represent their houses in either a Head to Head Challenge or participate as part of the team Maths challenge in order to win points for their team.

Audience members were able to support in the Head to Head round, should the pupil choose the 'ask the audience option', they also earned points for their house during the interactive Kahoot Quiz and by completing a cross-number too. All of the pupils had a fantastic time and some were even quoted to have said 'Maths is *actually* fun!' Mrs Mouslmani is busy checking all the points earned at the event and the winners be announced at the Celebration Assemblies held at the end of term, watch this space...



SENIOR NEWS continued



On 25 November **Year 10** visited the Bank of England Museum and the Museum of London for a combined History/Business Studies/PSHE trip.

Pupils were able to see for themselves the Bank's history, its buildings and the people that shaped it over its 300 years. Activities included handling real gold bars, looking at million pound banknotes and understanding how the bank works day-to-day in its responsibilities.



Pupils then walked to the Museum of London to see how the city they live in has changed over time. Particular exhibits of interest for pupils were 'Immigration through time', the Suffragette struggle and the Plague and Great Fire of London during the Restoration period. There was also a timely World Cup exhibit on London footballers including England Captain Harry Kane.

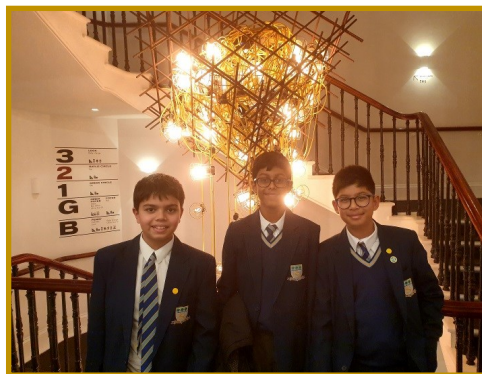
Sadly this is the last time that schools can visit the museum as it is being closed next week permanently and only relocating across to its new Spitalfields location in 2026.

Our **Year 7** children were privileged to be invited to follow the journey of our shoeboxes. We set off to Cambridge last Thursday and arrived at a pop up warehouse to be met by the chief Elf who set the children to work, sorting the boxes so that they contained the correct items to go through customs. The children worked in teams with runners taking the boxes down to the packers. It did resemble Santa's workshop! We managed to sort and pack 800 boxes that are bound for Azerbaijan for the refugee children from Ukraine. It was heart-warming to see our children giving back to the community and what struck a chord with us all was knowing that the next person to open a box would be the child receiving this as a Christmas present.

Thank you to everyone who took part and for all the charity donations we have received this year.



On Thursday 7 December **Year 7** pupils went on a trip to The Old Vic in London to see their adaptation of Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'. It was an amazing performance with a fantastic set design and beautifully sung Christmas songs. The show gave a new perspective on 'A Christmas Carol' while still staying true to the original roots of the story. It was an amazing experience and pupils loved it!



Year 7 had a fabulous end of term Christmas lunch outing to Prezzo. All the pupils enjoyed a 3 course lunch and exchanged some Secret Santa gifts. Everyone had a lovely time. We can't wait to do it again next year!



Y10 Christmas lunch In what has become something of an end of term tradition, on Thursday 8 December all of Year 10 went for a meal to Epic Burger in Chingford. This was a wonderful opportunity to socialise and celebrate all our successes over the last term.

Christmas lunch at school Pupils were treated to a delicious spread of turkey, brussel sprouts, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets and an assortment of vegetables topped off with gravy. With tables set for the occasion, crackers, music and decorations it was a truly festive event!



SPORTS NEWS



Selina 7M had a fantastic weekend winning 1st place over all in her Winter Gymnastics Competition at Casablanca Gymnastics Centre in North Weald.

Well done Selina!

Basketball

Pupils have been taking part in lots of basketball this term and Mr Marsden our resident basketball expert has been passing on lots of his knowledge to pupils. They have been learning 3v3 half court games as well as full court. The Y7 girls have also played their first inter-school basketball fixture against Walthamstow Academy. They played amazingly well and drew 20-20. Well done girls!

Please remember Mr Marsden runs basketball club so do sign up if you have enjoyed and want to play more basketball.

House Sports

Pupils have been taking part this term in lots of inter-house sports, including football, netball and rugby.

All results are recorded and cups will be awarded at Speech Day at the end of the year!



Sports Hall Athletics

Lots of Sports Hall Athletics competitions have been taking place during November. Each school year from Years 2-8 have taken part. The Y9 pupils spent the day scoring and recording during the ISA Junior Athletics events. They were excellent ambassadors for the school and many other schools complimented our pupils on their hard work and fantastic attitudes.



NORMANHURST WINTER FAIR



Our first Normanhurst Winter Fair and what an incredible evening. It was an opportunity to bring our school community together and witness some wonderful performances. There was a wonderful energy from the pupils running their stalls, smiles on the faces of children visiting Santa's Grotto and general laughter from the festive spirit. Thank you to all the NSPA, prefects, staff, families and businesses who made this such a successful event.



MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM MRS FISHER

I just want to say a last goodbye to you all. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching all of your children and watching them continue to develop and grow from their days in Early Years to where they are now.

Thank you for all your kindness, lovely words and gifts. As I leave Normanhurst I know that I will miss each and every one of you and will take many happy memories with me to treasure for ever.

NSPA

Dear Parents

And so ends 2022, and the first term of the school year! Already we have had a welcome walk, and a well attended new NSPA quiz. We have had our Winter Fair, which was another new event in the NSPA calendar and was organised and run by our own highly enterprising children.

As we reach the end of the year, it is worth reflecting on what is funded by the NSPA, and how your donations have been used already this term. Recently, we were delighted to be asked to fund the new Christmas decorations, which have made the front of the school glow with festive spirit. The NSPA bought a new speaker system, which got its inaugural try out at the Winter Fair. And we also paid for the toys and sweets that your children came home with towards the end of term after their Christmas party. So, thank you very much for helping to contribute towards all these lovely gestures for the children.

Looking ahead, next year is Normanhurst School's 100 years, with centenary themed events already lining up! Dates for your diary so far are the Juniors' disco to be held on Friday 3 February, and an extra special school barbeque on Saturday 8 July.

Please also remember that the NSPA is in charge of the second-hand uniform sales, and all money from this goes towards NSPA-funded events and activities for the children. Our next uniform sales stall will be on Thursday 19 January, or alternatively, please place an order through the school office.

Until next time, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and here's to a wonderful 2023!

Best wishes

The NSPA Committee

normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association