



NEWSLETTER

December 2018

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Headmistress's Message

It has been lovely to see so many parents at our Christmas events this year: the three excellent infant Nativity performances and the inspiring whole school Carol Service on Tuesday 11 December.

I feel very proud of the pupils: their enthusiasm, willingness and skills. It was a privilege to see the pupils perform and participate, be it singing, reading, acting or playing in the orchestra and band.

I am grateful also to parents and pupils for your generous donations to our charities in the retiring collections, to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal and to the toy appeal for the Hestia refuge.

The school has thought about others and shown generosity and kindness, which is fitting for this Christmas season.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas season and every good wish for the New Year. Thank you so much for the cards and gifts you kindly gave me.

The Spring term begins for pupils on Tuesday 8 January at the normal times. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

With my best wishes,

Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress

Remembrance Day in Early Years

In November, the Early Years children enjoyed learning about why we commemorate

Remembrance Day. They had a special workshop where they learnt about what the soldiers had to do before they could join the armed forces, such as

ensuring that they were tall and fit enough. The children had a great time trying on soldiers' hats and learning how to march. The children behaved in an exemplary way and all listened very carefully to instructions. Well done, everyone!

The children also participated in a minute's silence with the rest of the juniors to remember those who died in the two world wars, as well as those who are currently serving our country in the armed forces.





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Remembrance Day in the Juniors

Pupils in Reception and the Junior School have been commemorating one hundred years since the end of the first world war in a variety of ways.

Remembering the Fallen On Monday 12 November the Juniors gathered outside the front of the school and held a two minutes silence for the centenary year of World War I ending. Mrs Jones played the last post prior to the silence. On this day the Juniors took part in Remembrance Day activities and a WWI workshop. A very respectful day, well done Juniors!

WWI Workshop On Monday 12 November Kindergarten to Year 6 took part in a WWI workshop. The workshop started with a lively and very funny look at how dads, older brothers and uncles would be recruited into the Army! All the children were marching on the spot and singing WWI songs all to the beat of a military side drum! They looked at how the Army commanders had to grapple with the nightmare of weapons technology which had raced ahead to modern weapons, whilst battlefield communications technology was still stuck one hundred years in the past to the times of the American Civil War.

In the hall pupils acted out scenarios as luckless soldiers trying to lay telephone cables, or as message runners coming under fire from beanbags! The children also re-enacted different trench pre-attack bombardment tactics, with some of the children being the German targets, some as the attacking soldiers and some throwing bean bags as the Royal Artillery! There was lots of excitement in our workshops but lots of things learnt too – a good day had by all.

Shroud of the Somme On Friday 9 November, Years 5 and 6 went to The Shroud of the Somme exhibition at the Olympic Park. The exhibit consists of a shrouded figure, created by Rob Heard, to represent each of the 1,561 days of the First World War with a small plaque recording the number of Commonwealth servicemen lost on each day. The daily record of lost lives highlights the scale of the conflict, that saw 983,779 killed from the British Commonwealth. The worst day of the War was on 1 July 1916 when 19,240 were killed at the Battle of the Somme. The major battles are also highlighted in chronological order. Each figure that Rob Heard created was made with a name of a real soldier in mind, so that each soldier was individually acknowledged and remembered. Rob worked his way down the list, crossing off a name for each figure he created. He cut and hand-stitched their calico shrouds, then covered and bound the figures in the shrouds. He did this 72,396 times.

Finley (Year 6) - The impact of the war is phenomenal and it really impacted me visiting here.

Isabelle (Year 6) – I learnt that everyone is important whether they are dead or alive.

Sevan (Year 5) – I was surprised to see how many people died on Christmas day.

Charlie T (Year 5) – My friends and I stood to one side and did a minute's silence to thank them for what they did for us.





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Remembrance Day in the Juniors continued

Poppy Art To celebrate the centenary of the First World War and Remembrance Day, Year 2 had an Art afternoon, creating a variety of poppies using different techniques. The children made edible poppies, poppies made from using half a potato as a stamp and they also used charcoal to create a field of poppies. Lastly they used cupcake cases to craft a 3D poppy. It was a really enjoyable afternoon; the children created some beautiful art work and we were able to reflect and think about all of those who lost their lives during the war.



Christmas Craft Club

Since half-term, pupils from Years 1 – 6 have been attending Christmas Craft Club with Miss Stone. Each week the children have produced a different Christmas themed craft item using various media. There have been some new arts and crafts methods, and a range of skills learnt along the way.

Week 1 saw the pupils designing wooden baubles using a template and also creating a Christmas picture using a series of images called agamographs; these will make beautiful additions to some Christmas trees at home! Most of the items in Week 2 did not quite make it home, as Reindeer Rice Krispie cakes were the order of the day! The delicious treat, including chocolate and sweets along with Rice Krispies, proved too tempting for most attendees and the cakes were soon eaten.

In Week 3 the children used their cutting skills to make Rocking Snowmen from paper plates, practising their sticking and decorating skills too. Week 4 saw some beautiful Snow Globes being created using Mason Jars and a little 'Reindeer Magic' to produce some picturesque snowy scenes.

Christingles were the theme in Week 5; using fresh oranges, strawberry pencils and jelly sweets to decorate, the children then added a candle, ribbon and some cocktails sticks to finish off the Christingles ready to take home.



Year 3 Stonehenge Projects

Year 3 were set a challenge over half-term to create their own version of Stonehenge, with only one rule: it had to be bigger than an A3 piece of paper! The children took on the challenge and built some fantastic Stonehenge replicas out of modelling clay, Lego, card and even Jenga bricks.

The class were then able to show their Stonehenge models in a special assembly to the Junior classes. All the children won a prize for their excellent Stonehenge work and a special prize went to Orson, Max, William and Sienna who worked extremely hard to make outstanding projects. It was lovely to see the class put so much effort into the activity.





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Early Years Get Ready for Christmas!

In Kindergarten the children have been enjoying a very busy festive season.

We started with Festive Fun Day on the 30 November, when the children celebrated festivals from around the world. In view of the date, our special focus was on St Andrew this year, and everyone dressed as superheroes.

Then came the Christmas play 'O Little Town of Normanthurst'. The Kindergarten children took a traditional nursery rhyme and changed the words to 'I'm a Little Christmas Tree'! They sang and performed their actions beautifully, and what a lovely surprise it was when the snow came falling down!

On the afternoon of Thursday 6 December, the Early Years children had a super time at the Dugdale Centre watching their production of 'Christmas Tales from the Shed'. The show was a fun mixture of songs and storytelling where crowd participation was a must. The children enjoyed taking part in singing Christmas songs and meeting all the different characters in the story, and they were brilliant at showcasing their great dance moves and singing voices.

This was a lovely experience for all the children involved and the children really got into the Christmas spirit when they met Father Christmas!

After Christmas lunch on 7 December, the Kindergarten encountered Father Christmas again when he paid a visit to give out gifts to the children.

In between all these lovely events, the children found time to take a local walk to look for signs of Christmas, and ended by finding the big Christmas tree on the Green.



Following Morris the Magpie's Example

Year 2 have been learning about Recycling in Science and have been reading the story of Morris the Magpie, who began collecting all the rubbish left by humans. He quickly realised how big the problem of rubbish was!

The children have also learnt about the process of recycling and how important this is. Following all this learning the children had a junk modelling afternoon to discover what could be re-made into something new. They had a wonderful time and worked so well together to create a variety of interesting things!





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Junior Pantomime Trip

On Thursday 6 December, Normanhurst Juniors went to watch the 'Beauty and the Beast' pantomime being performed at Millfield Theatre. Imogen in Year 4 was lucky enough to receive a golden ticket, so she was invited up on the stage to take part in some fun and games with the rest of the audience. Imogen tells us, "I enjoyed the pantomime a lot, my favourite character was Louie because he is fun and energetic. He also has crazy ideas and he's very silly. Lots of the characters wore weird costumes and some were really sparkly! I had a great time."



Normanhurst Christmas Lunches

On Friday 7 December both the Seniors and the Juniors enjoyed a traditional Christmas lunch served by their teachers. They showed great appreciation to the catering staff who were called out of the kitchen to acknowledge the pupils' thanks.

Afterwards the hall was cleared ready for the Junior Christmas party, where pupils received a very special seasonal visitor. Father Christmas, ably assisted by his trusty elf (Mr Grant!), distributed presents to every Junior pupil, and the celebrations continued with dancing to Christmas tunes.



Carol Service

The stage was set and the stars aligned for the Normanhurst annual carol service, held at the church of St Peter and St Paul on the Green. The theme this year was 'Superstars', with Years 5 and 6 taking the lead roles to retell the story of the Nativity through the eyes of a star looking down. Finley in Year 6 shone brightly as Steve the Star!



The whole performance was accompanied by the school orchestra, choir and rock band, performing a range of music from traditional carols

to modern songs. Not to be outdone, the staff choir gave a harmonious rendition of 'Do You Hear What I Hear?'

Father Andy Trenier became The Greatest Showman for the occasion, and encouraged us all to think about the real star of Christmas, Jesus.

The afternoon left pupils, staff, family and friends feeling both privileged and ready for Christmas. A retiring collection was held and raised £316.00 for the benefit of the school's nominated charities.





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Trips to Wagamama

On Tuesday 27 November, Years 3 and 4 visited Wagamama in Spitalfields for a fantastic food technology trip. Each child used a set of scales to weigh out their ingredients for a 'Mini Yaki Soba' dish and then were able to watch how the chefs cooked their noodle dish. After, they were able to eat their noodle dish for lunch, and each child went home with their own apron and a goody bag!

Then, a week later, it was the turn of Years 5 and 6 to make the gastronomic trip. Below, Mia in Year 5 recounts her experience of the visit.

"On Tuesday 4 December 2018, we went on a trip to Wagamama. My partner was Konrad. We went on the overground train from Chingford Station to Liverpool Street. We had fun on the train and made funny faces. It took about 28 minutes.

When we got there, we sat down on benches with a super-duper long table! There was a guy called Leon who told us all about Wagamama. 'Wagamama' means 'naughty children'. This is a fact! We also learnt that the first Wagamama was in 1992. Another fact is that there are three different kinds of noodles. Leon showed us the chef's uniform.

The shirt is white so if it gets dirty they can tell and they go and change their shirt. They need to have clean clothes on because if they have something on their shirt it could go in their food. Leon demonstrated this by getting a felt tip pen and drawing on one of the chef's shirts. It is also fire-proof. They wear these big shoes so they cannot hurt themselves or slip over. The uniform was super-awesomely-epic.

Now we had to smell and/or feel the ingredients and guess what they were. Most of them were rather easy. I learnt the differences between the different types of food (mushroom, tomatoes etc). We got to taste some foods too. I never knew how many different ingredients went into this food! Now we had to prepare our lunch! I put a plastic bag on a scale and put in noodles, sweetcorn and peppers. Now to put my meal in the oven...

Finally! Time to eat! I ate my noodles and they tasted 'fantabulous' (I know that is not a word but there is no other way to describe the taste!). Finally we had to go back to school. We went on the train again and finally got back to Chingford station. We then went in back to class. I learnt that noodles are really long and I liked the noodles."



Year 2 Trip to Royal Gunpowder Mills

On Tuesday 6 November, all of Year 2 went to the Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Abbey. It was a fantastic trip in which the pupils extended their learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, which has been their topic this term. Year 2 were able to also learn more about how people lived during that time, for example, what games they played, what food they ate, and how to write with ink and a quill.

The children had a great day and really enjoyed the trip, which included practical activities like making a lantern and role-playing.





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Little Angel Theatre Company Visit

On 8 November, the Little Angel Theatre Company kindly came to Normanhurst School to help Year 7 better understand puppets; both the making and performing aspects.

The pupils started the day in Art, where they made their own stick puppets from scratch. Using the inspiration of 'Into The Woods', they saw every character type you can imagine, from witches and giants, to werewolves and ugly sisters, to Cinderellas and Red Riding Hoods.

After lunch the pupils made their way to the hall, where they learnt how to 'breathe life' into inanimate objects. Starting off simply they turned simple bin bags into hooded, floating figures. These eerie creatures were manipulated by three pupils per bag, and were used to tell simple stories.

The day finished up with Year 7 getting to use the actual puppets used by the Little Angel Theatre Company. These professional standard puppets are not used by many people at all, so it was an exciting opportunity for the pupils to be able to create small scenes with them.



Recreating the Solar System

Over the October half term, Year 5 had a project for homework to create a diorama of our solar system. They went above and beyond expectations! We had polystyrene, paint, playdough, wire, felt tips, fabric, cardboard, string, stickers, glitter and even flashing lights!

The teachers were overwhelmed by the amount of time and effort that went into the projects; everyone in the class earned house point rewards for their hard work, and it was really hard to choose a winner. After much deliberation, first place went to Mia, second to Mattea, third to George and fourth to Mert. These children earned bonus points for adding extra detail and thinking 'outside the box'. Well done to Year 5!



Super Smoothie Instructions

Years 3 and 4 were lucky enough to watch Mr Grant and Mrs Beeson create their own super smoothies. They thought carefully about the equipment and ingredients we needed and the precise steps we needed to follow in order to create a tasty smoothie. The audience participation was fantastic! This links to their 'Instructions' unit in English. In the lessons that followed the children had a go at writing a set of clear instructions to make their own smoothies, and then had the chance to put their instructions into practice by creating their delicious concoctions in the final week.





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Connaught House Assembly

Connaught On Tuesday 27 November, Connaught House met to celebrate the achievements its pupils have made so far this term. Mrs Prior and Mr Ram were very complimentary about all they had achieved and thanked them for their continued support.

Certificates were handed out to all the participants in items 1 and 2 of this year's House Music competition, which Connaught won, and every Connaught pupil was given a 'Well Done' business card.

Mr Ram and Mrs Prior announced that the pupil from each form who had earned the most house points would receive a special certificate at the end of term.

As a 'Thank You' for working so hard, the two House teachers also announced a pizza party to be held before the Christmas holiday.



Year 11 Christmas Lunch

Year 11 celebrated their Christmas lunch at Chingford's 'Mamma Mia' on the 5 December. The whole year group walked down the road and were treated to an Italian feast, with pizza and pasta galore!

The day was topped off with us singing Happy Birthday to Tobi, who was lucky enough to be the birthday boy on the day.

Bellissimo!



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.



App

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



Instagram

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



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.

NEWSLETTER

Pupil News

Our pupils continue to make us proud with their activities and achievements outside of school.

Bayley's Foxy Feast



Bayley in Year 2 was keen to share his culinary art with us when he reproduced a character from his favourite book using some of his favourite food!

Nina Takes a Leading Role

Year 1 pupil Nina has continued to work hard on developing her performing skills, not only attending classical ballet and tap lessons but also enjoying her second year at Stagecoach.

Despite being one of the smallest and not having had lessons for very long, Nina is progressing extremely well and scored a leading role in the recent play 'The Day the Crayons Quit' where she was the main narrator (with the largest number of lines) and performed several dances and songs, including 'True Colours' with sign language.



Bahar's Gymnastics Success

Bahar in Year 3 took part in the International Devotion London Gymnastics Tournament 2018 which included seven countries for children of all ages. She took part in the Under 8s category and won first place! Here, she speaks to Mr Grant about how she feels about her success and her future in Gymnastics.

What inspired you to start gymnastics? I watched a famous gymnast on the TV and asked my parents if I could try out a gymnastics club. I really enjoy learning new moves, in particular learning new somersaults.

How often do you train? I train for gymnastics three times a week with my gymnastics club where we learn different moves that could be added into a routine.

What did you have to do to win first place? To enter the competition, I had to plan a routine that was on the floor and had to involve lots of 'hard jumps' and 'balances'. It was the hardest routine I have ever learnt and it took me months to learn the routine perfectly.

How did it feel to win a gold medal? I felt really excited as it was a really difficult competition and I felt proud that I represented my country as well as my school in the competition.

Would you like to continue with gymnastics when you are older? I'd love to be a famous gymnast representing my country at lots of big events, and I could even take part in the Olympics!



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Pupil News continued

Eden's Model Answers

Mrs Coates sat down with Eden, 11D, to talk about her flourishing modelling career.

How did you initially get in to modelling? A friend of mine has a brother who was scouted at Wireless; he was the one who suggested me to the agency. I then went for a walk-in with the agency (The Squad Management). That was last year, and then this October I was signed by them.

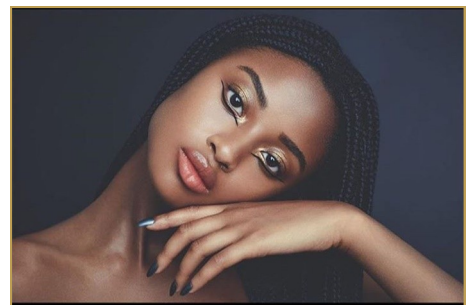
What shows have you done so far? My first ever fashion show was in the Shard for Bao Ta London. It was thrilling – I had never done a show like that before. It was also really stressful! It was an adrenaline rush like I've never experienced before.

Have you done any photoshoots? I think I've done seven so far. I've done one in Witham, in Brixton and in Crystal Palace. The Crystal Palace shoot was my favourite. It was a test shoot, but I found out a few weeks later that the photos had been approved for Lucy's Magazine, an American publication. That was really exciting for me because I'm so new to the industry, so it's a big opportunity.

Have you got any upcoming events? I have a few photoshoots lined up in January, and I'll definitely be going to castings next year.

Could you sum up the experience so far in three words? Exciting, energetic, stressful!

What advice would you give to people looking to pursue a modelling career? Always be confident and always be ready. You never know what will happen!



Chioke's Karate Success Continues

Year 6 pupil Chioke, together with his Karate league team Luke's Legends, gained silver medals at the recent finals.

Chioke was also awarded the Student of the Week at fight club and has the trophy for the week.

Like Chioke's mother who gave us this report and photo, we at Normanhurst are very proud of his achievements and the progress he has made.



Tiago Leads his Team to Victory!

Tiago in Year 4 was chosen to be captain of his team, the Little Soccer Stars, in a recent football tournament.

The team played ten matches and Tiago scored nine goals, leading the team to tournament champions!

Well done, Tiago!





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Pupil News continued

Paige's Swimming Award

Paige in Year 4 earned herself a gold trophy for her outstanding swimming with her Gaters swimming club, completing lengths of the pool in different strokes such as butterfly, breast-stroke and front crawl.

Paige tells us, "I am not usually that confident with my front crawl, but I ended up doing really well." We are very proud of you Paige, well done!



Year 8 Trip to Kew Gardens

Kew is London's largest UNESCO World Heritage site. Its collection of living plants is the largest and most diverse in the world, and was an ideal location for Year 8 to learn more about Biology and experience 'hands on' the different biospheres available in each of the buildings. On their recent visit, pupils enjoyed meeting Kew's experts who gave them a guided tour, and allowed them to investigate and explore various plant species from the different climate 'biomes' and participate in an educational Q&A session. Other highlights included a 'treetop' tour of the gardens and visiting the giant pagoda.



Remembrance Assembly

On Thursday 8 November our Year 11 Historians delivered a moving tribute for Remembrance Assembly to mark the centenary since the end of World War I. Darby told our pupils about George Ellison, a 40 year-old Yorkshireman who was the last British soldier to be killed in the conflict, and he also talked about 17 year old Londoner John Parr who was the first British soldier to be killed. Miles went on to talk about the Allied Offensive known as the Battle of Amiens, which marked the beginning of the end of the First World War. This three-day battle kick-started the Hundred Days Offensive, which finally broke through German resistance. Miles also read the Famous war poem 'In Flanders Field', written by John McCrae in 1915.

Katy spoke in the Remembrance Assembly about "Tout Le Monde a La Bataille". This took place during the dying days of September 1918, when an onslaught in Northern France and Flanders, coupled with defeats for the Central Powers on other fronts, forced German overtures for an armistice. These events were shown on an excellent Powerpoint presentation put together by Leon. Finally we heard a moving rendition of the Last Post by Hannah in Year 10. Well done to all who participated, including our Head Boy Umar who stepped in at the last moment.





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NSPCC 'Speak Out. Stay Safe.' Campaign

On Wednesday 21 November, the NSPCC visited our school and delivered their **Speak out. Stay safe.** assemblies to our Reception and Junior pupils. In two assemblies spanning Reception to Year 2 and Years 3 to 6, they shared information with the children in an age appropriate way about how they can keep themselves safe from harm and get help if they have any worries.

It was a very worthwhile and empowering session for both pupils and teachers. They spoke to the children and staff about the valuable work they do across the country, and talked about how important it is for everyone in our school community to join them in their 'fight for every childhood'.

After the assemblies, the NSPCC held a series of workshops, which the children found informative. For Years 5 and 6, our visitor explained what forms of risks there may be in daily life that children should be able to identify. The pupils completed different activities about identifying different types of risks and abuse that may make someone's life difficult. They also learnt different strategies to cope with such situations as well as being introduced to Childline. There were a lot of videos which taught them how difficult things in life can be dealt with and how positive endings are possible when someone is finding things difficult. This was certainly the highlight of the visit for these pupils.

Years 5 and 6 were very informed after the session and were able to speak about different places where they feel happy, what makes them happy and who they can talk to if they are worried about things. Pupils completed another short session in class with their teacher to boost their learning from the NSPCC visit.

Overall, it was a very useful session for our older junior pupils, especially in preparation for the life in the seniors and beyond.



Year 5 Trip to the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge

On Wednesday 7 November Year 5 visited the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge to go orienteering through history in our local forest. The pupils split into three different groups and had to navigate their way through the historic events that shaped Epping Forest. Their mission was to find artefacts and oral history clues and use them to create a timeline, opening a window into the past. They learnt many skills including using maps and compasses and orienteering. Year 5 had a lovely morning, they all commented on the new skills they learnt and said how much they enjoyed spending time in the forest.



Year 8 Panto Performances

Adhering to the festive time of the year, Year 8 have been studying the wonderfully silly theatre form of pantomime. They were able to put on saw some fantastic performances, with fantastic costumes to match. Their energy and humour was brilliant to see, and we are sure that parents of our Year 8 pupils will be hearing plenty of "Oh no I didn't!" and "He's behind you!" over the holidays.



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GCSE History Trip to the Holocaust Exhibition

Our GCSE Historians recalled their most shocking discoveries from the Imperial War Museum Holocaust Exhibition during our feedback session. For Howie (Year 10) it was seeing how well known clothing companies like Hugo Boss profited from the Nazi atrocities, while for Mia (also Year 10) it was seeing a man being measured to see whether his facial features conformed to the Nazi Aryan racial stereotype.

During our initial taught session with our guide Jo, our pupils brainstormed their ideas about the Holocaust before we were shown the IWM official definition: "The systematic murder of Europe's Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War 2. For the first time in history, industrial methods were used for the mass extermination of a whole people". Pupils then handled a clockwork wooden toy bear which they learned belonged to Paul Sondhoff, who was hidden in a small cupboard in Vienna for four years by his elderly piano teacher. Katy (Year 10) asked how the Museum acquired it and was told that after Paul was liberated and fled to America he left the bear with a friend who passed it on to the Museum.



Our historians saw numerous other artefacts as they walked around the exhibition with headphones. A copy of Mein Kampf containing Hitler's anti-Semitic ramblings was available, alongside the brown uniform of the Nazi Stormtroopers (SA). Close by was the uniform of Himmler and the SS, along with 1933 film footage of Joseph Goebbels spreading race hatred propaganda which mobilised the masses through lurid images and simple messages repeated over and over again. Further film footage showed the burning of books by Jewish authors and the Nazi boycott of Jewish shops. Amongst the most poignant exhibits was the display case of personal belongings of Jews excavated from the Chelmno death camp, where gas vans were used to kill 150,000 Jews. Their bodies were then plundered and burned, and the exhibits on show included their shoes, buttons, a broken comb, cups and cutlery.

Also very moving were the personal accounts by people such as Esther Brunstein, who described how Polish non-Jews assisted the Nazis by attacking Jews with scissors and cutting off their beards. It was refreshing to watch a more positive account by Helga Kohn-Wertheimer, who was eight and living in Vienna when the Nazis took over Austria. She was hidden in a cupboard but managed to secure a passage to England, arriving at Harwich in June 1939, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. Maria Ossowski talked about her experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto, and artefacts on display from the Lodz ghetto included prayer books and marriage documents.

In the "Last Letters" section, we saw a letter dated 23 September 1942 from Adrien to his wife describing his feelings before his imminent deportation to the gas chambers. Roman Halter described his horrific train journey without air, water or toilet facilities. Finally, we walked round the enormous model of the murder process at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the death camps. The model showed what happened to 2,000 Hungarian Jews who arrived there in late May 1944 after a two day train journey in rail wagons. Those selected for gassing, including the elderly and children, walked to their deaths escorted by SS guards, while the more able prisoners did heavy labour. However, many working prisoners still died through disease or starvation.

Bryony, Mia and Hawi were so engrossed in the earlier exhibits that they missed the model of Auschwitz, but plan to go another time independently. They also missed learning about the fate of some of the top Nazis responsible for the atrocities such as Rudolf Hess, who was captured by the British and hung for crimes against humanity in 1947. However, many others such as "angel of death" Josef Mengele evaded justice by fleeing to Brazil, where he died in a swimming accident in 1979. This had been a very thought provoking school trip which will be repeated another year for our GCSE History students.



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Normanhurst Sports Report

Sports Hall Athletics This term boys and girls from Year 1 to Year 8 took part in the London Borough of Waltham Forest Sports Hall Athletics held at the Peter May Sports Centre. The younger pupils did a carousel of running, jumping and throwing activities. At each station the children scored points by how many, how far or how fast they achieved. At the end, each school added up their points with the winner qualifying for the London Youth Games. Pupils in Year 5-8 did specific athletics events including standing long and triple jump, shot put, vertical jump, speed bounce and a variety of obstacle, and long and short track races. All pupils took part with excellent enthusiasm and there were some notable individual performances. Lucy in Year 8 ran the 6 lap and set an excellent pace throughout. The Year 7 girls also put in an impressive performance in the sprint relay. The borough will publish results at the end of term and we will find out if any of our teams have qualified for the London finals.

Girls' Football This term the girls in Years 7-9 have been playing football in lessons, and have had their own football club on Tuesdays after school. However the weather has not been kind to them and fixtures have either been cancelled due to heavy rain or played in horrible cold wet nights. Despite this, the team played well in their two matches; although they lost, 3-1 to Holy Family and 4-0 to Leytonstone School, they improved lots in the games and still have one more match to play. Let's hope they can secure a win. Well done all who played!

ISA Badminton This year Normanhurst sent a team of five Year 9 boys and girls to the ISA London North Badminton Competition at the Webber School (a centre of excellence for badminton). There were teams from ten other independent schools and matches battled on all day. The competition was a mix of doubles and singles in a team format. Normanhurst played well all day; the boys finished in 6th and the girls came 3rd. Well done! These players will also attend the borough badminton held at Peter May at the end of term.

Junior Football On Friday 9 November, Normanhurst took their U11 A and B teams to play against Forest School. In two enthralling games we ran out 6-1 winners in our B team fixture against their C team while our A's came from 2 goals down to draw 6-6. Both of these results are fantastic given the relative size of the two schools. Two weeks later we also took our U10 A and B teams to Forest who, not to be outdone, put in two superb performances. Our A team won 10-0 while our B team, made up exclusively of pupils from Year 4, narrowly lost 4-2. This is testament to all of the hard work the boys have put in this term so well done to all!

Then, on 29 November Normanhurst Year 3 and 4 pupils travelled over to Keble Prep School to take part in their first football fixture of the season. Every single boy in Year 4 represented the school in the match and what a credit they were to us. The boys battled hard and, in spells, played some nice football even though not all of the results went our way. In a much improved second half from the A team, they finally decide to pass the ball around and show the talent they possess as a team.

As always the sportsmanship and behaviour of the boys was impeccable, well done to them all. A huge thank you to all parents who travelled to support the team!





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report continued

Fitness Assessments As part of the PE curriculum pupils from Years 7-9 are being tested in a comprehensive range of standardised fitness tests to give each pupil a profile of their abilities. We will be focusing on agility cardio vascular fitness, muscular strength, flexibility, speed and reaction times. These tests include a 12 minutes Cooper run, Illinois agility tests, sit up tests, squat tests, sprints and sit and reach to name a few.

We have been really impressed with the attitude of the pupils during these tests and their determination to achieve good scores. This information will enable us to identify talent and see progress, and will clearly show where we can help a pupil to develop weaker areas. Looking forward to our GCSE PE starting next year this will help pupils discover if PE is a subject they might want to study at GCSE.

Year 4 Netball Festival All the Year 4 girls love netball and they recently had the opportunity to represent school at the Borough Netball Festival. They formed two teams and took part in a round robin of matches against other Year 4 teams from across the borough. The girls all played really well, scoring some goals and winning some of their games. A great start to their netball journey! Well done!

Junior Football Sports leaders Since half term some Year 10 pupils from Normanhurst and Braeside have been training as sports leaders. They have been learning how to run a sports competition and how to manage a group of younger pupils and guide them through the experience. On Friday 30 November they helped run the Oak-Tree Schools Sports Hall Athletics Competition. They were amazing and did a fantastic job, and were a credit to their schools.

Year 9 also had the opportunity to be sports leaders for the Waltham Forest Years 5 and 6 Badminton Festival. All of Year 9 spent the whole day at Peter May and delivered a variety of activities that introduce the skills required to develop the ability to play badminton. They also did an excellent job and they were praised by many of the primary school teachers who attended. Everyone was very grateful for their efforts as they missed their school Christmas lunch to be there. We tried to keep the atmosphere festive and we brought some Christmas crackers to enjoy with the packed lunch!

Uniform Request The PE department would like to remind parents of the following uniform requirements. As all pupils from Years 3-9 will be taking part in **hockey** and **rugby** after Christmas, by the laws of these sports children can only take part with the correct protective equipment. Please provide the following equipment for your child:

- studded boots
- fitted gum shield
- shin pads
- a boot bag
- a full school tracksuit

Please check that all PE kit is names. There is a huge pile of lost, unnamed PE kit in reception. Please pop in and claim any lost kit as it will be recycled at the start of next term.





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report continued

Sports Clubs First Half of Spring Term

Monday Y3-6 Junior Football 3.45-4.30pm Mr Evans/Mr Banks
Y4-11 Golf Club * 3.45-4.45pm Mrs Taylor/Mr Botha

Tuesday Y5-9 Girls Football 3.45-4.45pm Mrs Taylor

Wednesday Y5-11 Tennis Training at Chingford School of Tennis 3.45-5.15pm Mr Banks

Thursday Y5-11 Cricket at Peter May 3.45-5.15pm Mr Evans
Y7-11 Netball ISA Team Training 3.45-5.00pm Mrs Taylor

Friday Y4-11 Running Club 7.45-8.15am Mrs Botha
Karate* 3.45-4.45pm/4.45-5.45pm

* Paid for clubs.

Body Worlds Exhibition

Year 9 and Year 10 enjoyed an engaging and educational trip to the Body Worlds exhibition in Piccadilly Circus. Pupils had the opportunity to further their GCSE curriculum by exploring different plastinates of real dead bodies. The exhibition identified different organ systems in the body including the Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Reproductive and Digestive amongst others. The classes had the opportunity to take their own blood pressures, practise CPR as well as engage with other various interactive activities.



Overall the pupils really enjoyed the experience and were able to come away with a better understanding of the human body and various diseases that can occur.

Christmas Jumper Day

To round off our Christmas celebrations, the children and staff participated in a charity Christmas Jumper Day, raising £131.00 for the school's chosen charities.

Jumpers (and the occasional accessory) ranged from the subtle to the all-flashing and musical, helping to brighten the last morning of term.





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and we thank you for all your support during 2018. It has been a fantastic year, raising money to enrich our children's school experience.

As you know, our main fundraising goal has been to secure iPads for the school, and with the money raised during 2018 we are pleased to let you know we have less than £2,500 to raise to achieve this goal in 2019.

Your support for the NSPA has helped to support the school in many ways, including helping the Drama department, providing end of term treats and most recently, contributing to the children's Christmas presents.

We have made it easier for you to support the NSPA by launching an easily accessible online fundraising tool called Rocketfund. This link will give you instant access and all donations, large or small, are much appreciated:

<https://rocket.fund/p/NSPAIPADFUND/>

We are always looking for new ideas to help the school and have more activities to encourage parents to meet. At a recent coffee morning, some really innovative suggestions came up and we look forward to making these a reality.

The first event for 2019 will be the Junior Disco, which will take place on Friday 8 February. Children from Kindergarten to Year 3 are welcome. Make sure you get your ticket as this is always a sell-out event. Ear defenders are an optional but useful accessory.

The Oak-Tree Summer Ball is on the 18 May. With a Casino Royale theme, it is a glamorous, fun and sociable evening that will support all four schools.

Here are some dates for your 2019 diary.

January 2019—Phil the Bag

21 January 2019—NSPA meeting

11 March 2019—NSPA meeting

24 March 2019—Easter walk

1 May 2019—NSPA meeting

10 May 2019—Film Night Years 3 - 6

18 May 2019—Summer Ball

10 June 2019—NSPA meeting

22 June 2019—Summer BBQ - 4pm-8pm (provisional)

Happy Christmas once again and we look forward to seeing you at an NSPA event in 2019.

The NSPA Committee



**Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year from everyone at
Normanhurst School!**