



NEWSLETTER

February 2019

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Headmistress's Message

We have just returned from an amazing ski trip over the half-term break. Austria 2019 was a great success. Pupils from Year 6 up to Year 10 had the opportunity to ski in the stunning Tyrol region of the Alps. I was hugely impressed with the positive attitude of our pupils; they showed real determination and resilience, as well as a great sense of fun on the slopes. For some it was their first time on the slopes, others were already very accomplished skiers. I was proud of them all; they were excellent company for the week. You can read more about it in this newsletter.

Our juniors and seniors have been working hard to prepare for the Drama Showcase, which is taking place this week. Pupils from across the school have been showcasing their talents over three nights to a full audience in the hall.

At the end of half-term, one of our senior artists had the honour of being highly commended in the Loughton Young Artists competition; a huge well done to Ella for her success.

As well as skiing, our pupils have been busy on the sports pitch once again; please do read the sports report. There is much to read about.

As usual, there has been a host of educational trips taking place. You'll have a chance to read about many of them in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy it.

With my best wishes

Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress

Searching for Creepy Crawlies

The children have been learning all about spiders in class, as their focus story was 'The Very Busy Spider' by Eric Carle.

After a week of looking at different aspects of our eight legged friends, the class finished the week off by extending the theme of spiders' webs into a witches potions afternoon. The children enjoyed dressing up and looking for creepy crawlies through the crazy foam!





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Valentine's Day Art

In the week before the half term break, Year 2 worked on a collaborative Art project, which was based on the theme of Valentine's Day. The class had one image that was cut into twenty-four pieces to create one large piece of art work. All the children and the adults completed a piece to create the image. They focused on ensuring all the pieces had lots of different patterns and that they were all unique. It was really interesting to see how all the different patterns worked so well as a whole.

This was a great project and the class are eager to complete more!



Junior Class Assemblies

The Spring Term brings the opportunity for Junior parents to see their children present their class assemblies on a range of topics.

Year 2G decided to do their class assembly about recycling, as this was a topic that they had learnt about in Science and then felt passionate about spreading the message. They read the story of the Messy Magpie and realised how important it was to recycle and not leave rubbish behind. Once they had done more research, the children discovered how simple changes could make a lot of difference to the environment around them. 2G really enjoyed retelling the story and teaching others about the importance of recycling. They have taken this a step further by actively recycling in class all the paper they use, which is quite a lot! The children hope that this will inspire other classes to also begin to recycle.



For their class assembly, Year 3 studied the book 'The Lion Inside', which told the story of a little mouse who wanted to be big and strong, and felt the way to do that was to have a loud roar. He soon realises that it was all about how he felt inside, which would give him the confidence to feel strong. Year 3 practised incredibly hard for their assembly and ended their performance with their own rendition of 'Roar' by Katy Perry. They made Mr Grant very proud with how well they performed!



After discussing different styles of learning in PSHE, Year 4 were inspired to do their assembly based on this. They acted out a story in which a pupil had a deflated attitude towards their learning because they struggled; however once they spoke to someone about it and asked for some help, there was a much more positive outcome. The assembly ended with a key message of trying our best and never giving up. They did a fantastic job of promoting such a positive attitude towards learning through their acting, singing and dancing.



Well done to all the pupils who presented these entertaining and informative assemblies. Class assemblies are continuing in the second half of term.



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Fruit and Veg Journeys

Year 3 visited the local Tesco to investigate where the fruit and vegetables we eat are produced and how far they travel to get to us. They found some cherries that had flown from Chile, avocados from Spain and spring onions from Senegal! The class then were able to use the self-checkouts to buy some of the fruit and vegetables they found. Once they got back to school, the class then plotted all of these items onto a world map to see how far the food had travelled to reach their plates. The class were amazed at how far some foods have to travel so we can buy them!

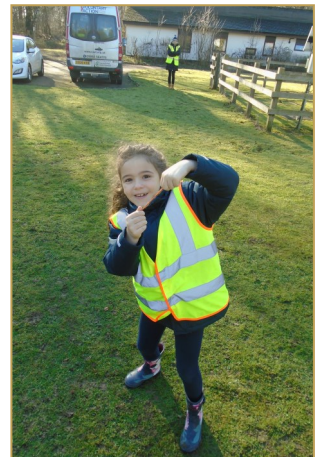


Year 2 Trip to Epping Forest Field Centre

On Monday 11 February all of Year 2 travelled to Epping Forest to extend their learning about 'Living Things and their Habitats', a topic they have been learning about in Science this term. The day began with the children doing some pond dipping. They found some very interesting creatures such as a newt, greater waterboatman, phantom midge larva, dragonfly nymphs and many more. They learnt about how these animals live in the water and how they are especially adapted to live in that environment.

Year 2 also played a great drama game that involved recreating the different creatures in groups, it was quite funny. After lunch the children continued their mini-beast search by focusing on the forest, and again were able to find lots of different creatures such as a millipede, slugs, worms and a golden beetle. They then played another game where the group leader, Hannah, described a mini-beast and everyone had to run to the correct habitat. Lastly Year 2 did some work on food chains.

It was a really lovely day!



Uniform Bill in Year 6

In a recent Year 6 PSHE lesson, the class looked at how a bill is composed and what stages it goes through in order to be considered as the law.

In class, pupils prepared the various stages through which the bill had to pass, such as being debated in Parliament and going before the Queen.

The bill was about the freedom of uniform and, after extremely heated debates at different stages, the Queen agreed to give her Royal Assent if some changes were to be made.

Luke commented that it was a very stressful job to be a government minister looking after a bill's progress and he would not consider this as a career!



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Stories from Other Cultures

Years 3 and 4 have started their English topic of 'Stories from another culture'. They will be writing their own Caribbean style story with references from a chosen Caribbean island! To start the topic off, the children listened to a Chinese New Year story, 'Dragons in the City', and then acted out parts of the story by using freeze frames. The children thought about how to encapsulate key moments from the story and produced some lovely freeze frames.



Mayan Learning in Year 5

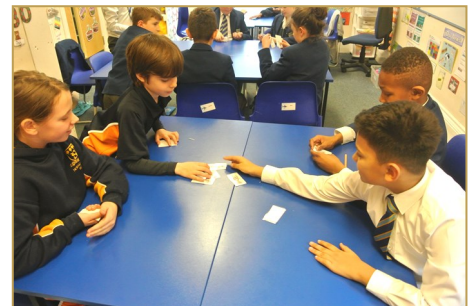
The Year 5 pupils have been learning about how the Mayan civilisation was ruled and its social hierarchy. The children had a comprehension style task about the Mayan laws and ruling during this time. After this they then played 'Mayan Top Trumps'. They had cards with all the different roles/jobs that were around in the Mayan times, these were equivalent to different points that linked to their social status. Hear what the four winners of the 'Mayan Top Trumps' have to say about their learning in this lesson:

Adam – "I really liked the game and I learnt who were the rulers of the Mayan times."

Sevan – "I learnt how the level of the Mayans go from the slave to the farmers to high priests and kings."

Charlie T – "I learnt that only some Mayan people were ruled by kings."

Alicia – "I learnt the order of kings right down to slaves and it was really fun to play the game!"



Kian Leads Fizz Free Feb

Kian in Year 6 has decided to boost a healthy February among his peers by promoting the 'Fizz Free Feb' campaign in the Juniors. He did this by preparing and delivering a presentation in different year groups.

Kian also designed and made a display about the amount of sugar in drinks that children and young adults may be drinking regularly. This ranged from water to flavoured milk and also included some regular brands of fizzy drinks.

Many adults were shocked to see how much sugar there is in different drinks which they consume daily!

Kian explained his idea. "I wanted to show children how much sugar they were consuming with these drinks because they do not really realise this. You wouldn't really think that a carton of flavoured milk, which says "school compliant" on the packaging, includes 19.4g of sugar! I'm hoping to help children realise how much sugar they are drinking and help them save their precious teeth and health!"





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Iain Duncan Smith MP Visits School Council

On Friday 8 February Iain Duncan Smith MP came to see the school council. He was a very friendly man and I think we could all understand why he got chosen to be our local MP. He told us how he was in cabinet and used to see the Queen, but then our time with him came to an end so he had to leave.

I enjoyed this hour and I hope to get to see him again.

By Sophie, Year 6



Young Voices 2019

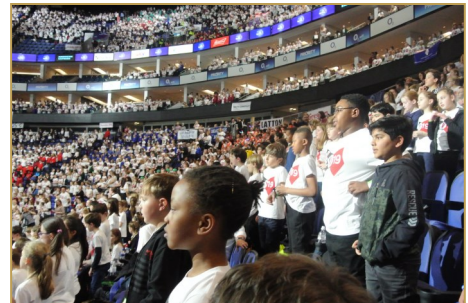
It was a great honour to take part in Young Voices 2019 and it really was one of the best events I've been to with Normanhurst School.

Young Voices is one of the largest school choir concerts in the world and there were so many people there from many schools. We travelled to the O2 by bus where it was held, which was fun and nearly all my class attended. We had been practising the songs for weeks. Some of my favourite songs were included in the concert like 'Moana mashup', 'I'm on top of the world' and many others.

It was great that Tony Hadley (ex-Spandau Ballet) performed on the evening and sung 'GOLD' which I am sure lots of the parents knew. That was one of the best parts of the evening. Other parts I enjoyed were when the dance teacher from the videos was there and when Charlene appeared.

Thank you to all the teachers who took us, especially Miss Stone who helped us learn the songs.

By Charlie T, Year 5



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 Normanhurst 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.



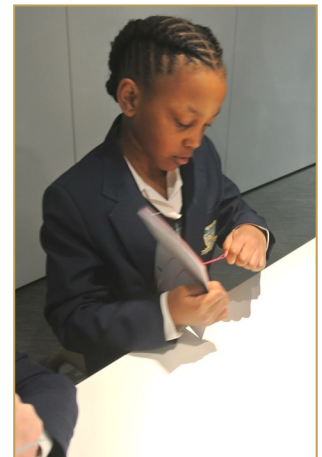
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Year 5 Trip to British Library

On Friday 15 January, Year 5 went to the British Library to make a book. We went by train from Chingford Station near our school. We only had two stops to get to our destination and a little walk.

It was gigantic and not that quiet. Then a lady called Helen (a worker at the British Library) sat us down and told us about the type of books they have there: for example, scrolls or books with locks. Half way through, she gave us a sheet which had numbers on it. Then she took us to a very quiet section where we could fill in most of our sheets. Helen told us the areas we could and could not go. After that, we were put into groups of four to make it easier for us to do the Treasure Hunt questions. We did not have much time because we had to make our books. So, Helen led us to the section where we were going to make the book.

When we sat down, Helen spoke to us about what they do in the arts room. Then it was time to start making our books. First, we had to fold the sheet of paper from earlier several times till number 1 was facing us. Next, we had to choose what designed paper we wanted around our book. Then, we had to choose what coloured card we wanted to go over the designed paper. After that, we had to make three holes so that we could put the needle and thread through. Helen showed us how to do it so that we wouldn't make a mistake. We first had to go through the middle hole then the top hole then the bottom hole. We did that twice. Then we had to do a double knot and then cut off around 3 to 4cm. Finally, we could decorate our front covers with different materials. We had to leave eventually so we couldn't finish them. We all collected our coats and bags, then we were gone.



By Alicia, Year 5

We are now on YouTube!

Keep up to date about what is going on at Normanhurst School by following us on our YouTube page, which is filling up with videos from school events.





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Year 6 Trip to Tate Modern

We went to Tate Modern so that we could see Bridget Riley's work. Her work was our focus during our Art lessons.

First of all, I enjoyed looking at all of the artwork. I enjoyed especially the fact that all of them were unique. Each one told a story. They each showed the emotions of their creator. I saw a painting which gave me the idea that the painter wanted to impress a girl but was afraid that she might judge him by his looks. The man in the painting had his ribs in unusual places and the girl in the painting was looking away from him.

My second favourite part of the day was the lunch break because we were allowed to run and slip on a specially painted slippery surface. There were different school children playing on it, too.

Best thing about the trip was figuring out what I'm good at. I figured out that I was good at drawing still objects, rather than drawing people. I 'magpied' things from other paintings and put them into mine. I drew a front hall of a house and it was really good. Next time, when I have a choice in what I'm drawing, I'm going to practise drawing a room with no people in it.

If you ever need to go somewhere for inspiration, go to Tate Modern! I would rate it 4.5 out of 5!

By Finley, Year 6

On Wednesday 30 January 2019, Year 6 went to Tate Modern for a school trip.

At Tate Modern, the thing I enjoyed the most was the Bridget Riley exhibit. I recommend everyone to go and take a look at it because it is great and free! I enjoyed this exhibit because the artwork we looked at were not very complicated and they were very inspiring. Bridget Riley is an amazing artist and her art is extremely easy to try.

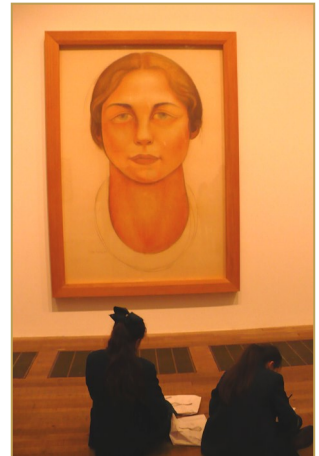
The second thing I found enjoyable was the man-made slip and slide floor on the bottom floor of the building. This was fun: after a lot of walking in the galleries, you could slide around with your friends on this floor.

Another thing I enjoyed was the train journey due to the fact that I was able to play 'I spy' and talk to my friends.

One thing I didn't like at Tate was that there were only three Bridget Riley paintings; personally, I think there should have been more. I hope there will be in the future.

Overall, the day was fantastic; I recommend that you go and enjoy Tate Modern.

By Chioke, Year 6





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Ski Trip to Innsbruck

During the February half term, forty children from Braeside and Normanhurst went on an incredible ski trip. All the children and teachers enjoyed a week of skiing in Innsbruck. Most of the children who went on the trip had very little experience of skiing, but that did not stop any pupils having a fantastic time. As early as day two all of the children were able to stand on their skis.

Pupils were very lucky to have had excellent skiing conditions. With beautiful blue skies, the children were able to enjoy their skiing lessons every day. The ski school instructors were pleased with our children's endurance and all the children made quick progress and found themselves on the blue and red slopes within days.

As well as skiing the children also had two evenings out on the trip. The first was a trip in to Innsbruck, the capital of Austria's western state of Tyrol, a city in the Alps that has long been a destination for winter sports. Innsbruck is also known for its imperial and modern architecture. The second outing was to have delicious pizza in the nearby town.

During the other evenings the children enjoyed spending time together playing cards. The teachers were all very entertained by the creativity of the children to win the 'room check competition' every night. A big shout out to the Year 9 boys for providing snacks and relaxation music during the room inspections. Not forgetting the Year 10 boys finding a Hoover to present a clean room to the teachers.

Diyar, in Year 7, describes his experiences of the trip:

"As a student I have been on a lot of school trips all around the world but this was my favourite trip by far! Everyone had a very memorable holiday. In my opinion we all tried our hardest and showed a lot of courage and determination. On the first day, most of the children couldn't stand with their skis on, but by the third day we were all up on the mountain. We might have been scared, but that didn't stop us! By the end of the trip, most of us could change speed and stop but most importantly we all used the ski lift.

Everyone had a lot fun, the teachers were like parents. They looked after us and found all the things we kept on losing! The teachers made sure that we didn't give up when we were tired or struggling to get it right. This is one trip that I will never forget.

A great big thank you to all the staff who gave up their half term to make this trip possible."





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Globe Theatre Trip

Year 7 went to the Globe for the day to immerse themselves in the world of Shakespeare. The day started with a tour of the iconic theatre before the pupils got to look backstage at the tiring house. They then headed to the stage itself to deliver that famous line from their studied play 'The Tempest', "Thou most lying slave!". Pupils went to the Globe's education centre for a workshop on playing Shakespeare's characters, and a few even gave a quick performance! Thankfully no one broke a leg...



Science in Practice

Year 10 have been studying the topic of Photosynthesis in their Biology GCSE lessons. As part of this topic, they were expected to complete a practical investigating starch stores in leaves. They used Iodine to test variegated leaves for evidence of leaves storing glucose in the form of starch. Pupils have also been carrying out required practicals this term, including investigating 'The Effects of Light Intensity on the rate of Photosynthesis'.

Also this term, pupils in Year 8 have been studying the Chemistry topic of 'Reactions'. They have carried out many practicals where they have had the opportunity to investigate different types of reaction. One practical lesson saw them investigate the combustion of different fuels. Pupils were able to compare the rate of combustion between ethanol, propanol and a small candle. Year 8 were measuring the temperature change in the water to compare the efficiency of these fuels.



7E Assembly on Kindness

"The impact of one person being kind affects the whole society. Kindness is contagious."

7E presented an assembly to the seniors on the theme of 'Random Acts of Kindness.' The form group had researched the impact of being kind, not just on themselves as individuals, but also on their friends, families and communities. They found that through being regularly kind you can build up your kindness and compassion, like a muscle! They created an engaging assembly that included acting, public speaking and presentation of 'thank you awards' to teachers to share their findings.





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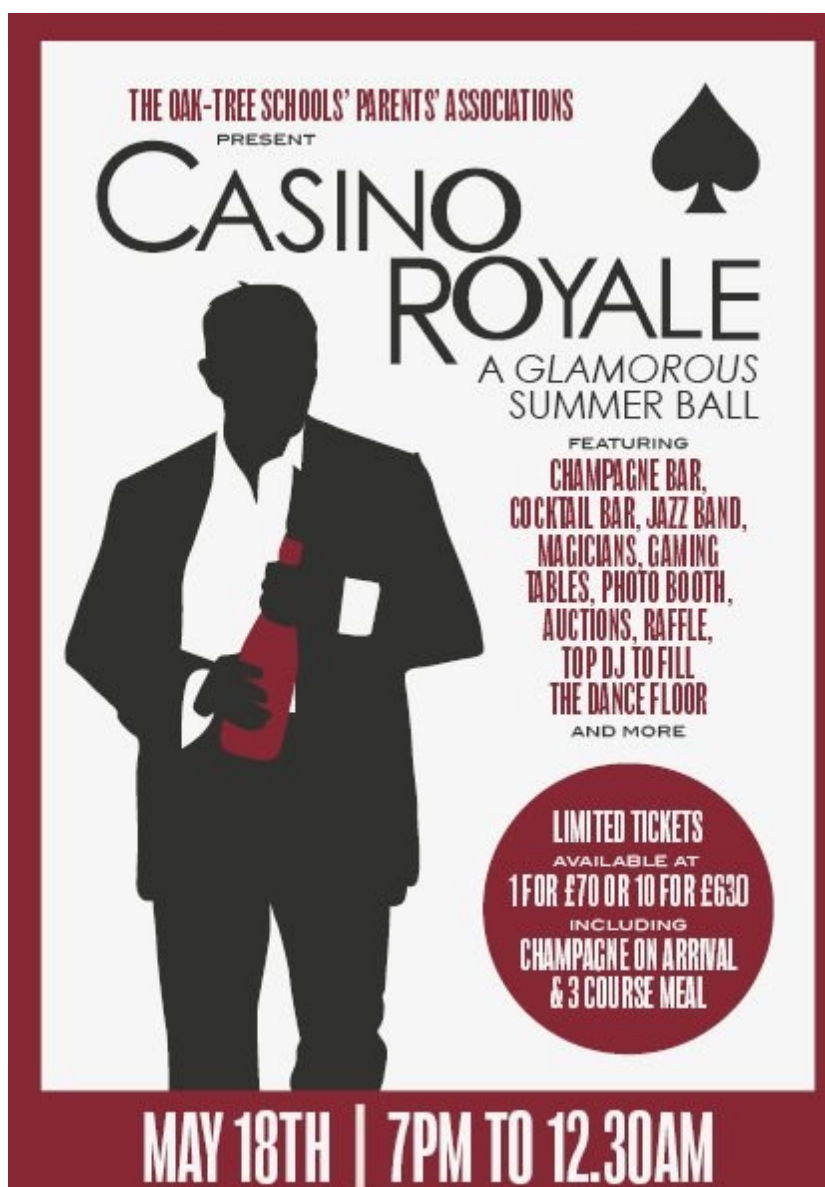
Oak-Tree Summer Ball

Our Parents' Associations from Braeside, Coopersale Hall, Norman Hurst and Oaklands have joined together to organise what promises to be a fantastic evening for us all on **Saturday 18 May 2019** in the large marquee at Chigwell Hall (Metropolitan Police Club).

The theme this year will be James Bond's Casino Royale, with a range of entertainment to suit the occasion and keep us going into the early hours.

The cost per ticket is £70 and includes:

- Champagne Reception on arrival
- Three course meal including half a bottle of wine per person and coffee
- Jazz band performing at the start of the evening and during the meal
- 'Close Up' magicians performing sleight of hand tricks throughout the evening
- Several fun casino tables after the meal to play for tokens
- The opportunity to bid in the main fund raising auction for some excellent prizes
- Silent auction and raffle prizes
- Top quality DJ to keep us on the dance floor
- Professional photographer throughout the evening
- Well-stocked cash bar



The Summer Ball is a major event in our school calendars and tickets usually sell very quickly. This is a fantastic opportunity for all four sets of parents, staff and friends of the schools to socialise and have some fun whilst raising money.

All profits from the evening (from ticket sales, auctions, raffles etc) will go back to each school's Parents' Association to benefit the children.

The booking form can be found on the Oak-Tree website.



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Year 8 Sculptures

Year 8 pupils have been developing sculptural vessels in response to their theme of 'Surface and Pattern'. They have been researching and responding to the work of two contemporary ceramists, Phoebe Cummings and Anne Castrano. Pupils have had the opportunity to explore how to refine and develop their two dimensional designs into three dimensional sculptural forms.



Year 9 Bag Designs

For their textile design brief in DT this term Year 9 had to 'Design and make a bag to be sold in a gallery shop, inspired by the artist Yayoi Kusama'. Pupils researched the artist and made visual responses to help them develop an understanding of the artist's aesthetic. They considered the products that galleries sold, and why they sold them. Year 9 then used this research to help them design their bags, using a range of key textile techniques, including tie-dye, appliqué and pattern cutting.



Normanhurst Sports Report

Borough U11 Hockey Our Years 5 and 6 hockey team made their annual visit to the borough Quicksticks hockey event, this year held at Ive Farm, Leyton. The team played very well in what was a really tough group and came away with 2 draws and 2 narrow defeats. We then proceeded to play some friendly matches after the lunchbreak against some of the schools who had qualified from their groups but had then been knocked out. In these games we beat a strong Davies Lane A side 3-2, Handsworth School 2-1 and Chingford C of E 3-2 with some great hockey being played. A massive well done to all those involved but especially to Charlie T (Year 5) for excellent control and Ella (Year 6) for some excellent goal scoring.



Tag Rugby Eight boys from Year 5 and 6 took the short trip to Woodford Wells to play a tag rugby fixture against Avon House School in preparation for the ISA Regional tournament after half-term. The boys started slowly and conceded an early try against the run of play after keeping the ball well for the first couple of minutes. There were some excellent mazy runs by Tim and Jan and an excellent solo score by Chioke who ran past the whole Avon House team! The boys improved hugely from the start to the end of the game and narrowly lost by 14 tries to 10. Well done to all those who played!





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report

Senior Football On Wednesday 13 February, the Year 9 boys took a trip to Saint Nicholas School in Old Harlow for what proved to be a haven for the attackers. The balance of the game went one way then the other with goals flowing freely at both ends on a difficult pitch. Eric excelled in the centre of midfield with some mazy runs and great passing while Mario was a rock in the centre of defence. The boys narrowly lost out 6-5 in a game that could really have gone either way, but showed excellent fighting spirit to come back from 2 goals down on two occasions so well done to them!

Senior Netball On Wednesday 13 February Normanhurst Years 8 and 9 played a netball match against St Nicholas School. The team was very optimistic and they all supported each other. Chelsea in Year 8 was awarded 'Woman of the Match' for her excellent defending and all round play. The girls won 11-1 and were very pleased with themselves. **By Crystal, 9T**



ISA Netball This year at the Under 13 and Under 11 ISA netball competition, Normanhurst and Braeside combined forces to enable us to put the best team possible into the competition. Prior to the competition, girls were invited to four combined training sessions to fully prepare for the day.

The team was selected and everyone was excited to play well on the day. The opposition was tough, as ever. Schools came from all across the London North region; schools in our groups included St Andrews, St James, Mill Hill, Howe Green and Kings.



The U11 team made amazing progress throughout the morning. They began converting their chances and scored some crucial goals to win two games. The U13s did not have their shooting boots on and they were unable to convert their opportunities, losing all their group matches by just a few goals. Well done to everyone who came to training and practised in their lessons. The U13s have the borough netball rally after half term and the ISA was excellent practice.

High 5 Netball Before half term the Years 5/6 'High 5' netball team played in the borough competition. The format of this competition is a mixed team of boys and girls who rotate positions each game. There were two leagues and each league played a round robin. The winners of each league would go through to the finals day. The overall winner would represent Waltham Forest at the London Youth Games. There were seven teams in our group including the local schools Yardley, Lonshaw and Chingford C of E. Normanhurst were very competitive and scored lots of goals in their matches. They won 4, drew 1 and lost 2 games (both only by 1 goal!). This left them in third place in their group. They really improved over the course of the day and there were very strong performances from Jan playing in his first netball competition, and from Alicia who always found space away from her marker. I would also like to thank Poppy for stepping in to play after another pupil was ill and not able to attend. You all showed fantastic team spirit. Well done to everyone who played!





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

The NSPA 2019 calendar of activities kicked off with the Kindergarten to Year 3 Disco on the 8 February, and it was really well attended by excited children having fun; parents were able to enjoy watching their children and get involved with some of the fun and games.



One of the biggest events the NSPA has the pleasure of helping to organise is the Oak-Tree Summer Ball, and this event will be taking place on the 18 May 2019 at Chigwell Hall. With the theme of Casino Royale the evening promises to be glamorous, sophisticated and fun. Parents from all four schools and their guests will enjoy a champagne reception, a three course dinner with wine, cash bar that will also serve cocktails and champagne, have a flutter on the casino game tables, marvel at the table-to-table entertainment, and dance the night away to DJ Steve Muntzer. There will be silent auctions and raffles to raise money for all four schools. Tickets are £70 per seat or £630 for a table for ten people. The booking form can be found [HERE](#). Make sure you book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

There are many other events being organised and we always welcome any parents who would like to get involved with the work of the NSPA. Here are some dates for your diary.

11 March 2019 - NSPA meeting

24 March 2019 - Easter Walk

1 May 2019 - NSPA meeting

10 May 2019 - Film Night for Years 3 to 6

18 May -2019 - Summer Ball

10 June - NSPA meeting

22 June 2019 - BBQ, 4pm-8pm.

15 September 2019 - Welcome Walk.

We look forward to seeing you at a NSPA event this year.

The NSPA Committee



Open Morning

Friday 8 March at

9.15am