



# NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Item	Page
Headmistress's Message .....	1
Balloon Fun in Kindergarten .....	1
Cookery Club .....	2
Kindergarten News .....	2
Life in Reception .....	2
Lego Club .....	3
iPad Research .....	3
Material Experiment in Year 2 .....	3
Learning about Chingford .....	3
Pupil News .....	4
Oak-Tree Schools Year 3 Camp .....	5
Hamma Beads Club .....	5
iPads in High Demand .....	5
Going Digital in Year 5 .....	6
Settling into Year 7 .....	6
Bringing Legends to Life .....	7
Welcome to Connaught House! .....	7
Paw Patrol is on a Roll! .....	7
School Council Assembly .....	8
Normanhurst Sports Report .....	8
NSPA .....	10
Social Networking .....	10

## Headmistress's Message

Welcome to the September edition of the Normanhurst Newsletter. We have had an encouraging and positive start to the year; in class, on the sports pitch, in our extra-curricular clubs and on school trips, which include an overnight camp for Year 3.

I have been delighted to see how well our new pupils are settling into life at Normanhurst so far this term. It has been lovely to speak to our new Year 7 pupils and to hear about their first few weeks in the seniors.

We introduced some uniform changes in September, and I have been very impressed with how smart our youngest pupils look in their shirts and ties, as well as all the pupils in the juniors. Pupils and parents seem to like the smart new look. The new design sports tracksuit has also proved popular.

Last year, the Parents' Association (NSPA) bought 34 iPads for the school. These are already being well used in both the juniors and seniors. I have seen a senior science lesson where the iPads were used to create presentations, and junior lessons where they have been used for research on invertebrates. It is great to see the positive impact they are having on the learning.

One of our school foci this year is innovation and creativity, as well as independent learning. The iPads are already contributing to that.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Claire Osborn**  
Headmistress

## Balloon Fun in Kindergarten

The topic this half term in Early Years is 'Up, Up and Away', and in Lower Kindergarten we have been focussing on the story 'The Blue Balloon'. The children recently went on a short walk to buy assorted coloured balloons.



They then brought the balloons back to class, where they enjoyed pulling the strings to make the balloons bob up and down. A really lovely morning for Lower Kindergarten.



# NEWSLETTER

## Cookery Club

The after school Cookery Club, run by Mrs Prior, is up and running for pupils from Years 3 to 7 this term. Our young cooks have been sporting the very smart personalised aprons and using the colourful table coverings that have been purchased for the club.

The first session was all about making scones, and after all the rubbing, mixing and baking, all the children took home four hot scones for tea! Always popular and fun, Cookery Club also gives pupils an opportunity to learn valuable life skills.



## Kindergarten News

The children from Lower Kindergarten had lots of fun making cupcakes for their friends to enjoy at Friday afternoon tea. They are really enjoying the start to the new term and have embraced all the activities on offer, including a walk to the forest with their friends from Upper Kindergarten and Reception. At the forest the children looked for early signs of Autumn. They noticed some of the trees had conkers and acorns on them and that the leaves are changing colour. On their next trip, pupils will collect lots of materials from the forest to use in their creative work in the classroom.



## Life in Reception

Reception have thoroughly enjoyed their first few weeks at Normanhurst School and have all adapted well to school life. The children complete a wide range of activities that support their learning and are linked to the different areas of learning including Mathematics, Literacy, understanding the world, communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, physical development and expressive arts and design. The children were asked about their favourite thing at school and we would like to share some of their comments with you.

"I like Music because we get to play musical instruments." – **Georgia**

"I like going on forest walks because we got to fly a kite!" – **Stella**

"I like doing Maths because I like learning about numbers." – **Maya**

"I like doing Read, Write Inc because we get to learn how to write letters." – **Elise**

"I like going on forest walks because I like holding hands with my friends." – **Clementine**





# NEWSLETTER

## Lego Club

Children from all ages from Reception to Year 6 have enjoyed a fantastic start to Lego Club this year. They have used their creative skills to build their own Lego inventions, including using our Lego Boost sets which will come alive in the next few weeks when we code them using the school's new iPads.

Lego Club is a great way for children to work on their fine motor skills, as well as to let their creativity run wild!



## iPad Research

Year 2 used our new iPads for the first time last week to research different countries that were competing in the Rugby World Cup. Children were allocated a country and, working in pairs, had five questions to answer about their country. They had to use their research and computing skills learnt with Mrs Prior in ICT lessons to find the information and complete the sheet.

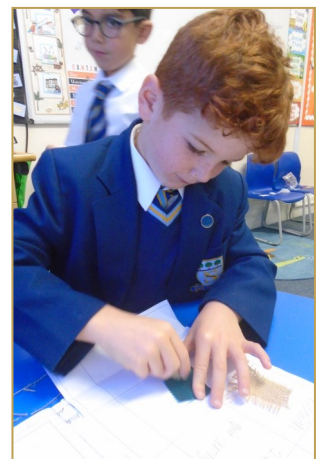
Both classes had a great time using the iPads and we are looking forward to being able to use them throughout the year!



## Material Experiment in Year 2

Year 2 pupils have been learning about the uses of everyday materials in their Science lessons. In previous lessons, they have learned about the kinds of materials used to build a house and have now completed an experiment to find the best materials to create a pair of children's dungarees. They tested six different materials by rubbing a rock across each material for one minute to see how strong they were.

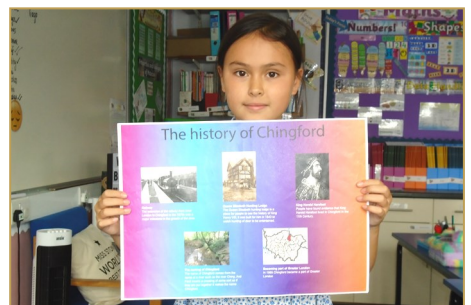
The children then wrote their own conclusions for which material they thought was the best material to use. Francesco said 'It was really fun as we got to test six different materials!'.



## Learning about Chingford

Year 5 worked hard over the Summer researching the history of Chingford. Each pupil presented their project to the rest of the class. Using powerpoints, print outs, hand written and decorated projects – one of which included a photographic report of a tour of our town – the pupils proudly showcased their work clearly and confidently. We heard about famous local people, historical figures, transport and different eras in time, and saw pictures and photographs of local landmarks and examples of important local history.

Well done Year 5 on producing such wonderful Summer Projects!







# NEWSLETTER

## Pupil News

Without a doubt, our new Year 5 class has swept the board with their fantastic achievements over the summer.

**Nicolas's Viola Success** Back in June of this year, Nicolas in Year 5 completed his grade 3 Viola exam and received a Merit. This is what Nicolas had to say about his experience.

"I have been playing Viola since I was four so I was not nervous. I played a few scales and three songs that were two pages long. I was expecting to get a Merit so I was pleased. I am looking forward to my grade 4 exam so I can go back to Trinity College."



**Karate Success** Current Year 5 pupils Imogen and Nicolas (who is featuring quite a lot here!) were both awarded their blue belts in Karate over the summer holiday.

This was a great achievement as they underwent a formal grading lasting one and a half hours, over which they had to demonstrate knowledge of a large number of individual moves (and their complex Japanese names!), complete a series of 'pair techniques' together, perform another set sequence of moves individually ('kata') and finally demonstrate their fighting techniques against each other ('kumite').

Both the children's parents and the school are very proud of them and their journey since starting karate aged five at Norman Hurst, and would like to thank Sensei Luke of United Karate Association for all his fantastic teaching and inspiration.

**Dylan's Theatrical Summer** Year 5 pupil Dylan attended the prestigious Sylvia Young Theatre School this summer which was an amazing experience for him. In just five days, a group of 9-12 year olds who had never met before (some coming from abroad) had to learn eleven songs, dialogues and dance routines and compete for parts in a production of Grease! It was such a fun experience to work



with professional directors and choreographers and to put out a show in such a short period of time!



Dylan scored a great part playing Eugene, the naive, goofy and studious boy in the gang, delivering some great lines and solo parts in various songs! Well done, Dylan!

**Dancing to the Top!** Jasmine shared her dance rosettes with the Year 5 class. She was examined by the IDTA and has demonstrated proficiency in Quick Waltz, Tango, Quickstep, Foxtrot, Salsa, Cha Cha Cha, Rumba Samba and the Slow Waltz! What an amazing achievement!

Jasmine is now working on her routine for the Paso Doble. Well done Jasmine!



# NEWSLETTER

## Oak-Tree Schools Year 3 Camp

Our Year 3 pupils had the most amazing time when they joined the Year 3 children from all the Oak-Tree schools at the annual overnight camping trip. The day got off to an adventurous start when we were shown how to put up our own tents; the children then completed this task independently and found it a lot of fun.

The rest of the day was full of team games and activities, which allowed pupils the opportunity to bond with children from the other schools and develop their problem solving skills. These exciting activities were followed by lunch, which the pupils were required to make themselves.

The highlight of our trip was toasting delicious marshmallows around the campfire with a mug of hot chocolate, whilst listening to evening stories and riddles. We then settled down for a night of well-deserved rest!

The pupils and teachers had the best time. We are very proud of the children for all their hard work and excellent behaviour

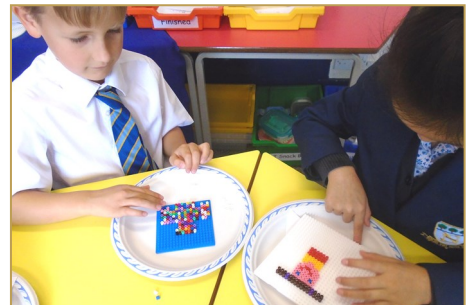
Thank you to our Year 3 parents for supporting this venture to promote the children's confidence and independence skills.

**Miss Collings and Miss Prebble**  
**Year 3 Class Teachers**



## Hamma Beads Club

Monday lunchtimes in Mrs Taylor's classroom is a busy time. Fourteen children enjoy designing and making intricate patterns using hamma beads. Some children design, make and complete a hamma bead pattern each week and others choose to make a more detailed pattern over several weeks. Whatever the choice the end result is always amazing and makes a colourful keepsake or gift.



## iPads in High Demand

Year 6 pupils were very excited to be using the recently purchased iPads for the first time in a recent Science lesson. Their science research about invertebrates enabled them to learn their features and the different types. The class had already been learning classification skills to help them sort living things into groups, and these skills became very useful during the research lesson as pupils prepared a presentation using the KeyNote app. They also learnt shortcuts on different skills with the iPads to make them more productive, like how to switch between apps quickly.

The children are looking forward to presenting their work to their peers in the coming lessons.







# NEWSLETTER

## Going Digital in Year 5

It was with great excitement that Year 5 became the first class at Normanhurst School to use the brand new iPads donated by the NSPA. The class felt very lucky to have been given enough iPads to be able to use one each, and quickly put them straight to great use. Using Google they researched the Greek gods to discover facts in preparation for their upcoming topic of 'Myths and Legends' in English.

Thank you to our wonderful NSPA for all their hard work and generosity.



## Settling into Year 7

Our Year 7 classes, with a mix of new starters and last year's Normanhurst Year 6, have made an impressive start to life in the senior school. In a recent survey, the Year 7 pupils were asked to say what they were enjoying about school; many of them commented on how they liked making new friends, or walking around the school to classes, and the tuck shop was also very popular!

Here is a representative sample of the comments that were returned in the survey.

"What I really enjoy about the school is all the subjects and the friends I have made. My friends are really kind and the subjects are really fun." **Vraj, 7B**

"I enjoy how they make normal lessons fun by letting us do work as a class. I also like how they teach the subjects and how the teachers always help people in need." **Margarida, 7B**

"What I enjoy about school is Maths class because Maths helps me concentrate, and I also like playing table tennis with my friends. I also like the tuck shop." **Hudson, 7B**

"I like the teachers, and I have made lots of friends. It's a really friendly school filled with great opportunities. I love the tuck shop!" **Anna, 7W**

"I like the fact that I feel more independent." **Ayaan, 7W**

"What I enjoy in school is that we move around in the school, and we go to PE by a road trip." **Awn, 7B**

"I enjoy the community of the school and love all the lessons this school offers to learn. I also enjoy the kind people that always help me." **Ella, 7B**

"I have enjoyed the PE lessons and playing table tennis with my friends. I like how there is a tuck shop at break." **Farrell, 7B**





# NEWSLETTER

## Bringing Legends to Life

In English lessons, Year 6 have been studying Robin Hood and pupils are preparing for their character descriptions. In order to see the differences between our antagonist and protagonist more clearly, Year 6 brought them to life in their classroom! The children acted as Robin or Guy of Gisborne to see how differently each character would react to a situation. There were devious acts from Guy of Gisborne and rather generous yet brazen acts from Robin!

Thinking and laughter occurred in equal measure, as pupils used the experience to feed our vocabulary bank in the classroom. They now cannot wait to write their descriptions of these two clashing characters!



## Welcome to Connaught House!

On Tuesday 10 September, Connaught House welcomed all new members in a special assembly. The Reception children were invited to the front of the hall to receive their blue badges from the Junior Heads of House Charlie and Amber. They can now proudly wear their house colours on their blazers! It was also an opportunity to introduce the new prefect team and all the new pupils starting in Years 7, 8 and 9. With all the new members, Connaught House looks forward to an exciting year, starting with the House Music Competition on Monday 14 October.



## Paw Patrol is on a Roll!

Monday 16 September 2019 was an important date in the school career of the children in Reception who have been selected to join Warren House. On this day, the old Warren bulldogs (Year 11) presented the new pups (Reception) with their shiny yellow badges, making them official members of Warren House.

Warren House Captains Beth and Sienna explained to the Reception class that they should wear their badges with pride because they now belong to an elite house that is rich with traditions. They also invited the Reception class to the next Warren House Assembly, where they will be formally introduced to the rest of the house.

Mr Botha reminded the Reception children to always do their best and to help the other members of the wider school community, just like Ryder and the Paw Patrol.

Miss Greenin thanked the Year 11's on behalf of the Reception children who were very excited by their new Warren status.

The Bulldog/Puppy badge ceremony is a tradition in Warren House that was instigated by the Year 11 group of 2016/17 and has become one of the flagship traditions of Warren House. It is part of a whole school effort to bring the older and younger children at Normanhurst closer together, which includes other initiatives like the Reading Buddies scheme where senior school pupils read with their Key State 1 counterparts.







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## School Council Assembly

On Wednesday 18 September our Prefect School Council lead, Tanisha, led a Junior Assembly to officially launch the School Council for this year. The children had the opportunity to learn about the British Parliament and how it helps to develop our country, as well as how our school council can help to make the life of Normanhurst children even better within school.

Each class will now hold hustings and elections, and we are looking forward to seeing who is elected to join the new School Council for 2019/20!



## Normanhurst Sports Report

**U11 A&B Football vs Forest** Tuesday 17 September saw our first football fixture of the year away at Forest School, involving boys from Years 5 and 6. The A team played extremely well and ran out 3-1 winners while our B's, mostly made up of Year 5 pupils making their first appearance at this level, succumbed to a defeat despite some promising performances. Well done to all who played!

**U13A Football vs Northbridge House** On Wednesday 18 September, we made the trip to scenic Regent's Park to play against Northbridge House with our new look U13 football team. The team, mostly made up of Year 7s, dominated the game for long periods but just could not find the net until late in the second half. Unfortunately the boys succumbed to a 3-1 defeat despite being the better team for the most part. Well done to all of the boys that took part and good luck to the Year 7s who are soon to be taking part in the English Small Schools Cup against Leighton Park School, Reading in the coming weeks.

**U15A Football vs The King's School** On Thursday 19 September our U15 boys football team made the long trip to the King's School in Hertfordshire for a repeat of a game that ended 5-5 last year! This game looked like it might have gone the same way as Normanhurst went 1-0 up and 2-1 up before being pegged back to 2-2. After this, however, our boys turned on the style and played some excellent football on the way to an 8-2 victory which stands us in good stead for our English Small Schools Cup fixture against Kew House School on the 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**U11 Forest Tournament** Our U11 football team joined up with Oaklands School on Saturday 21 September for the annual Forest Tournament. We found the group stage of the competition tough and despite dominating most games, just could not put the ball into the back of the net. This meant that we dropped out of the main competition and into the plate competition. Here we played the Woodford Green Prep B team in the semi-final and ran out 4-0 winners after which we came up against Daiglen in the final. This game ended 1-1 and then went to penalties where we came out on top 3-1 meaning we came away as winners of the plate! Thank you to all those boys who gave up their Saturday!







# NEWSLETTER

## Normanhurst Sports Report continued

**Thursday Morning Mile** Congratulation to everyone in Years 1-3 who has completed their first Thursday mile! We had such a good turnout for our inaugural mile. Many parents stayed to watch and lots of staff joined in too! There will be a pop-up tea and coffee stall on Thursday mornings to keep you warm as the winter draws in for parents who would like to come and watch. It is run by Mr Grant and Mrs Prior and funds will be used to provide enrichment activities for Inter-House events.

If you have not yet been, you can just turn up any Thursday at 8.15-8.30am, sign the register and start collecting house points and a fantastic sense of achievement each time you finish a mile. There are so many benefits of increasing children's physical stamina. Most importantly it can help them focus better and achieve more in the classroom.

**Parkrun** Remember that pupils can double their mile house points by attending their local junior parkrun. Please sign up at [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk) to register and get your barcode.

Junior pupils Lucia, Aurora, Sofia, Nicolas and James earned themselves five house points by attending a local junior park run last weekend. Well done to them

**Half Marathon Parkrun Success** Junior pupils James and Ewan have completed eleven junior park runs which add up to a half marathon! The boys were awarded their half marathon certificates in Junior Assembly. Well done James and Ewan!

**School Sports Clubs** Here is a summary of the extra-curricular sports clubs running during the Autumn Term.



Day	First half term	Second half term
<b>Monday</b>	Madrid Tour Football	Boys Rugby Y4-6 Netball Club Y7/8
<b>Tuesday</b>	Various sports fixtures/matches	Various sports fixtures/matches
<b>Wednesday</b>	Multi Sports Rec-Y2* Junior Netball Club Y3-6	Multi Sports Rec-Y2* Junior Netball Club Y3-6
<b>Thursday</b>	Morning Mile Y1-3 (8.15am) Morning Running Club Y4-11 (7.45am) Various senior fixtures/matches Girls netball training Y9/10	Various sports fixtures/matches Girls netball/football training Y9/10 Senior boys football training
<b>Friday</b>	Karate*	Karate*

\*Chargeable club

Golf, badminton and gymnastics will be included in our Spring Term clubs.

Athletics, cricket, tennis and rounders will be back in the Summer Term.



# NEWSLETTER

## Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

Welcome to all our new parents and pupils and welcome back to everyone else. We are delighted to introduce the Normanhurst School Parents Association, which you may have seen abbreviated to NSPA around the school. The beginning of the school year is a really exciting time for the NSPA, as we start thinking about the

activities and events that will enrich our children's time at school as well as create opportunities for parents and teachers to socialise and raise money for those extras that makes school so much more fun!



Our first event for pupils and parents, the Welcome Walk around Connaught Waters, took place on 15 September and we were very pleased to see so many parents, pupils from all years, and even dogs take part in this free event.

Our next big event is our annual AGM, an informal get together on the 30 September from 7pm in the school hall, where you can hear about our successes, meet parents actively involved in the work of the NSPA and find out how you can get involved. There will be drinks, including wine and nibbles on offer, so this is a great opportunity to socialise with other parents and teachers.

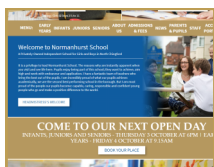
One of the most popular evenings that we arrange is the Family Bingo Night, which is on the evening of 15 November. We have decided to change the format into a bingo mash up combining the traditional bingo and inventive rock and roll bingo. If you have not taken part before, this is such fun and really challenges your popular music knowledge! Food is included in the ticket price, so make a diary note and look out for the publicity leaflet and booking form.

We are also going to arrange social events for children, including an Early Years Christmas disco, a games and contests evening, and a relax and pamper evening for the older pupils. Details will follow.

We look forward to meeting you at the NSPA future events. If you have any questions, please leave a message in the school office and we will get back to you.

Best wishes - **The NSPA Committee**

## Social Networking



### Website

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



### Instagram

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



### App

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



### Twitter

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



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





# NEWSLETTER

## OAK-TREE FIREWORKS

SUNDAY  
10 NOVEMBER  
4.30-6.30PM

OAKLANDS SCHOOL, ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON

TICKETS £5 PER CHILD, £10 PER ADULT OR £25 FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN). TICKETS INCLUDE HOT DOG AND ADDITIONAL TREATS FOR CHILDREN.

GLOW TOYS AND REFRESHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE, INCLUDING MULLED WINE, BEER AND HOT DRINKS. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE OAK-TREE SCHOOLS' PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION [WWW.OAKTREESCHOOLS.CO.UK](http://WWW.OAKTREESCHOOLS.CO.UK)