



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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November 2019

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break and are looking forward to the forthcoming few weeks until Christmas.

Sports and Cultural Tour to Madrid

I spent the first week of the holiday with 60 pupils and five other teachers in Madrid for the first Normanhurst Sports Tour. We had an excellent week, both with the football and with the cultural tour. Pupils were outstanding ambassadors for the school, and it was a pleasure to spend the week with them. Do look out for our articles in the next edition of the newsletter. The pupils had a superb experience training with Real Madrid coaches, touring the Bernabeu Stadium, playing matches against local sides and seeing a Europa League international match in Madrid.

Winter Uniform Reminders

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school, and as we return to wintery weather I would like to remind you of the school's uniform expectations. From November all pupils should be wearing the winter uniform. Juniors from Reception class upwards are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop; please do not wear alternative coats.

Seniors must wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat. Coats should not have design features and should be appropriate for school. All seniors hang up their coats in school and I suggest coats should be practical and not expensive.

Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, plain black or navy scarf or gloves are to be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves. Please be aware that seniors will have non-uniform items confiscated and these will need to be collected from the school office.

Boots are not a part of school uniform in any part of the school, including the Early Years classes, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes through the winter. When it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

Christmas Card Competition

Ms Parrott will be holding the annual Christmas card design competition this a junior and senior winning entry to be the official school Christmas card. We welcome entries from pupils of any age.

Please encourage your sons and daughters to take part, by designing and submitting an original design by Monday 18 November for judging. We will display the entries in the hall so that families and friends can see them.

February 2021: Ski Trip to Madonna di Campiglio

I am delighted that we will be having our next ski trip to Italy in February 2021 in the half-term break. We can take up to about 30 pupils on the trip and places will be offered on a first come first served basis. It promises to be an excellent trip.

We are using the same specialist school sports company that we used for the Madrid sports tour, Inspire Sports. The tour company have provisionally arranged to come into school on **Monday 11 November** at 5.30pm in the school hall, to give a presentation to any pupils and parents who are interested in finding out more. The office will confirm the details this week.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Every year we support the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, with a target of collecting 100 boxes to send overseas to children who would not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas. We have a House Competition this year to see which House collects the most boxes.

The project is a lovely way of reminding children in very difficult circumstances around the world that they are not forgotten and that they are special. Pupils will be hearing more about the project over the next week.

The aim is simple: pupils choose whether to make a box for a boy or a girl. They fill a shoe box with simple gifts: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and some toys, hair bands, colouring pencils and pens, colouring books, toys and so on. Some items are not suitable: anything sharp, anything with a fighting or war connection, toys requiring batteries, books (as the children are in non-English speaking countries). The first step is to wrap an empty shoe box in wrapping paper, although it is possible to buy a ready-prepared one provided by the charity from the school office for 50p, which can then be filled in the normal way. The deadline for boxes to be given to Mrs Prior is Friday 15 November. Please do contact the office, or your child's form teacher, if you need any more information about how to take part.

Armistice Day and the Poppy Appeal

Every year in school we remember those who have died in wars by supporting the poppy day appeal. Remembrance Poppies will be on sale in school this week and the Charity Committee will be going round to form rooms during morning registrations. Poppies will also be available from the school office. We will have a minute's silence in assembly on Thursday and outside school to remember.

ISA Autumn Conference

Miss Barnard and I are attending the Independent Schools Association autumn conference on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 November, which this year addresses important current educational issues about preparing our children for the future, including looking at new technology, evidence based education and what makes effective assessment.

The Normanhurst School Parents' Association (NSPA)

The NSPA held its Annual General Meeting before half-term and I am delighted that we have a new Committee in place. The new Co-Chairs are Sinead Greenaway and Martin Bisiker, Mrs Macdonald remains our Treasurer, and Mrs Pitney-Hall our Secretary. We are hugely grateful to our retiring Committee officers; Mrs Lothington and Mrs Chisholm.

The NSPA aims to help parents to get to know each other, support the school and to have opportunities to socialise. However, they recognise that parents are busy and it is hard for some to find time to connect. I know the committee very much values the contributions our parents can make, however small or large. They are setting up parent reps for each year group in school to facilitate our communication about events.

The NSPA meetings are always informal, friendly and focused on how we can provide fun events for families and support the children having an enriching set of experiences at school. They meet in the school hall and any parent is welcome to come along.

The NSPA holds an event each term. Look out for the events this term, details of which are at the end of this letter.

Celebrating Christmas Together

December is busy as usual with a number of seasonal highlights: the Infant Christmas performances are on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December, with a dress rehearsal on the Monday.

The junior pantomime trip is on Thursday 5 December. The Early Years Christmas theatre trip is on Friday 6 December.

The Christmas Carol service is on Tuesday 10 December at 2.00pm at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on the Green in Chingford. Parents and relatives are warmly invited to join us for the Carol Service, to which pupils contribute in music, singing, readings and drama.

Christmas Lunches are on Wednesday 11 December, with the junior Christmas party in the afternoon.

Coffee Mornings for Parents

Matthew Hagger and I are holding our annual parent coffee mornings after Christmas on Monday mornings from 8.45 – 9.45am. This provides an informal opportunity for you to chat to us about school life. As last year, we will meet in the library and parents can come into school via the centre gate.

Monday 13 January	Kindergarten parents
Monday 20 January	Reception parents
Monday 27 January	Y1 parents
Monday 2 February	Y2 parents
Monday 10 February	Y3 parents
Monday 24 February	Y4 parents
Monday 2 March	Y5 parents
Monday 9 March	Y6 parents
Monday 16 March	Y7-9 parents
Monday 23 March	Y10-11 parents

Dates for the Diary this Term

Wed 6 Nov	11:00 – 15:15	Rec trip to Trampoline Park Enfield
Thu 7 Nov	09:00 – 17:00	Y9 Imperial War Museum trip
Sun 10 Nov	16:30 – 18:30	Oak-Tree Fireworks Night
Mon 11 Nov	17:30 – 18:30	Ski Trip meeting
Tue 12 Nov	19:15 – 20:30	NSPA meeting (hall)
Fri 15 Nov		Rec-Y6 Flu Spray
	09:30 – 15:45	Y10 Imperial War Museum trip
	18:00 – 22:00	NSPA Bingo Mash-up
Mon 18 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Y2 Gunpowder Mills trip
	17:30 – 18:00	Y5&6 York Residential trip - parent meeting
Tue 19 Nov	17:00 – 18:30	Y9 Options Evening
Wed 20 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Y1T Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood trip
Thu 21 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Y5&6 Museum of London – Anglo-Saxons Workshop
Fri 22 Nov	08:30 – 09:00	Rec-Y6 Parents' Drop In
	16:00 – 18:00	7B Christmas Meal
Thu 28 Nov-Mon 9 Dec		Y11 Mock GCSE Exams
Fri 29 Nov	09:00 – 16:00	Y11 Poetry Live Apollo Theatre trip
Tue 3 Dec	11:00 – 16:00	Y7 Dickens Museum trip
	14:00 – 15:00	EYFS and Infant Nativity Play
	16:00 – 18:30	Y9 Parents' Evening

Wed 4 Dec	09:00 – 10:00	EYFS and Infant Nativity Play
Thu 5 Dec	12:30 – 16:00	Junior School Pantomime
Fri 6 Dec	10:00 – 13:00	EYFS Chicken Shed 'Christmas Tales' Theatre trip
Sun 8 Dec	11:00 – 13:00	NSPA Winter Walk
Tue 10 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Carol Service
Wed 11 Dec	14:00 – 15:15	Junior Christmas Party
Thu 12 Dec	12:00	Last day of term

I hope to see you at some of the events taking place over the next few weeks and I wish you and your children a happy and productive second half of term.

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise with the school, please contact your child's form teacher, a member of the Leadership Team or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment. We are always happy to meet with you.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress



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BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

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GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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