



Normanhurst School

68-74 Station Road, North Chingford
London E4 7BA

Tel: 020 8529 4307
Fax: 020 8524 7737

HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN MSc., B.A. (HONS), PGCE

E-mail: info@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Website: www.normanhurstschool.co.uk

2 December 2019

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

The Christmas festivities are about to begin at school, and there is a growing sense of anticipation and excitement in school for this special time of year. As you know, we have just under two weeks until the end of term, which finishes at 12 noon on Thursday 12 December, but before we finish there are a number of trips, celebration House Assemblies and other events

Christmas Events

The **Christmas card design competition winners** have been announced and their designs have been printed as the official school Christmas card this year. Congratulations to our winners: Mia Johnson Y9, Leiya Patel Y8, Ruiya Mo Y3 and Aurora Muscat Y3.

The Early Years Festive Fun Day takes place on Monday 2 December. There will be lots of festive celebration for our youngest pupils as they think about seasonal celebrations around the world.

We have the Infant Christmas play to look forward to this week as well. The dress rehearsal is being performed to the juniors on Monday, before the two **Nativity performances** on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. I am sure we are all in for a very special treat when we go to watch them. Please do order your tickets in advance.

On **Thursday the Juniors from Years 1-6 have the annual trip to the pantomime** and on **Friday the Kindergarten and Reception classes have a trip to the Dugdale theatre** for a Christmas performance at the Chicken Shed Theatre.

The NSPA is holding a festive **Winter Walk on Sunday 8 December**. We are meeting at **11.00am** at school. We will go for a walk up to Connaught Waters and then return to school for drinks and festive food. Tickets are available from the school office. Please do come and join us.

The **Carol Service is at 2pm on Tuesday 10 December at the Parish Church on The Green**. All parents, and families are welcome to join us, and it will be lovely to share this festive event with you. Mrs Job, who takes over as Headmistress in September will be joining us for the event. Parents are welcome to come and meet her. Pupils will be reading, performing and taking us through the Christmas story. The whole school community will be taking part. The school day ends at normal time and After School Club will run as usual. Parents may collect their children from the church at the end of the service, or from school at the usual time. Seniors will walk back to school to collect their belongings before going home. They will leave school slightly early at about 3.15pm.

We have **Christmas lunch and the junior Christmas party on Wednesday 11 December** which is a non-uniform Christmas jumper charity day for all pupils, and the juniors can come to school in their party clothes.

The **final day of term is, Thursday 12 December**, when school finishes for everyone at **12 noon** after a final celebration and rewards assembly.

Mobile Phone Trial

In September we introduced a new procedure in the seniors. All pupils hand in their mobile phones at the start of the day and they are handed back at the end of the final lesson. We launched the idea as a trial for the Autumn term. The feedback we have had from staff, parents and pupils has been overwhelmingly positive, and so we will keep the system in place for the foreseeable future.

Staff News

This term we say goodbye to three members of staff. Miss Emily Wren, one of our senior Science teachers is leaving teaching to continue her academic studies, working on a Master's degree and working for a health charity. We are very grateful for the contribution Miss Wren has made in her three years at Normanhurst and we wish her well for the future. Miss Charlotte Sellen joins the Science department in January. She is a highly qualified science teacher with an Honours degree in Biology and a Master's degree in Toxicology.

Two members of our Learning Support team are leaving at the end of term: Mrs Gladwell and Mrs Walledge. We are grateful for all they have done to support learning in school and we wish them well for the future. Miss Elizabeth Godfrey joins us in January as the new Teaching Assistant in Year 1. She is a Psychology graduate with experience working as a mentor and support in school. We are in the process of interviewing for a replacement for Mrs Walledge, with the final round of interviews taking place this week.

We have two additional members of staff in the After School Club: Ms Donalee Fearon and Ms Berin Hall, and we have a new Assistant Caretaker, Mr Anthony Kenney, who will be joining the maintenance team in January.

Spring Term

Coffee Mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn

After the Christmas holidays, Mr Hagger and I would like to invite parents for coffee to provide an opportunity to hear your views and to discuss school life. The coffee mornings take place in the library from 8.45-9.45am on Mondays, beginning with Kindergarten parents on Monday 13 January. Dates for each year group are as follows:

Mon 20 January – Reception	Mon 2 March – Year 5
Mon 27 January – Year 1	Mon 9 March – Year 6
Mon 3 February – Year 2	Mon 16 March – Years 7, 8 and 9
Mon 10 February – Year 3	Mon 23 March – Years 10 and 11
Mon 24 February – Year 4	

Uniform Requirements

More pupils are now wearing trousers as the weather becomes colder. The uniform regulations are quite clear that the trousers for girls and boys must be purchased from Forest Casualwear, our school uniform supplier. No other designs of trouser are appropriate. Please would you ensure that you have the correct trousers ready for the start of term in January. This applies for both juniors and seniors, boys and girls.

Earrings

We only have a three-week holiday at Christmas, which does not provide enough time for you to have your children's ears pierced before we return to school and any earrings have to be removed. As you know, no pupils are allowed to wear earrings for school at Normanhurst. They are not permitted in PE lessons, where they present a health and safety concern, even if taped, nor in the normal school day.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this.

Snow and Wintry Weather

Although a white Christmas is probably unlikely, we usually have snow at some point in the winter period. Our aim is always to stay open, unless there is a health and safety concern in doing so. The maintenance team arrive on site early to clear paths and to make the site safe, and an update will be posted on the website by 7.00am so that parents are informed about arrangements for the day.

Important Dates

Mon 2 Dec		EYFS Festive Fun Day
Tue 3 Dec	11:00 – 16:00	Y7 Charles 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
	19:15 – 20:45	NSPA meeting (hall)
Thu 5 Dec	12:30 – 16:00	Y1-6 Pantomime 'Mother Goose' Millfield Theatre
Fri 6 Dec	10:00 – 13:00	EYFS Chicken Shed 'Christmas Tales' Theatre trip
Sun 8 Dec	11:00 – 13:00	NSPA Winter Walk
Mon 9 Dec		KG-Y6 Reports/Y7-11 Short Reports published
Tue 10 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Carol Service at St Peter's & St Paul's Church
Wed 11 Dec	14:00 – 15:15	Junior Christmas Party
Thu 12 Dec	12:00	Last day of Autumn term
Tue 7 Jan		Start of Spring Term: school begins at normal time 8.40am
Tue 14 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents' Evening
Tue 21 Jan	09:00 – 11:00	Y2 Pizza Express Loughton trip
	09:30 – 13:00	11+ Entrance Exam
	16:00 – 18:30	Y11 Parents' Evening
Thu 23 Jan	13:30 – 16:30	Y10 Forest School Careers Fair
Tue 28 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y8 Parents' Evening
Tue 4 Feb	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Parents' Drop In
	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Parents' Evening
Thu 6 Feb		Y9 DTP Meningitis vaccinations
Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb		Half Term
Tue 17 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. I hope to see you at one of the Christmas events before the end of term. The Spring term begins on Tuesday 7 January at the normal start time, and breakfast club will be running as usual.

With my best wishes

Yours sincerely



Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress



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HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

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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