



NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Item	Page
Headmistress's Message	1
Role Playing in Kindergarten	1
Year 1 Class Assembly	2
Animal Art.....	2
Human Number Line	3
Green Tree Schools Awards.....	3
Social Networking.....	3
Pizza Express Trip	4
Year 2 Shape the School	4
Learning about Butterflies	4
Paris Fashion Week for Year 8	4
Operation Sock It Up	5
Seniors Improving Academic Performance Workshop	5
Loughton Young Artists Exhibition	5
Oak-Tree Group Art Festival	6
News from the Art Department	6
7B Class Assembly on Resilience	6
Inter House Gardening Project.....	7
Year 10 Careers Fair.....	7
Much Ado About Masks	7
Normanhurst Sports Report	8
Connaught House Assembly.....	9
NSPA.....	10

Headmistress's Message

I hope that all our families are enjoying the Spring term so far. I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Oak-Tree Art Exhibition on Saturday 18 January. Seeing a wide range of art work on display created by children from Kindergarten up to Year 11 showed us all how creative our children are.

It has also been good to spend time with parents at the coffee mornings we have been holding this term. Mr Hagger and I value the opportunity to talk together about school life. Thank you for joining us.

I had the opportunity to meet all of the pupils who sat the Normanhurst 11+ entrance exams last week. What a lovely group of young people they were. I am looking forward to seeing them and their families for the interviews before half term. Mrs Job, the Headmistress from September, also joined us for the day and she too enjoyed meeting the prospective pupils and their families.

As always, this newsletter gives you a snapshot of some of the activities and events the pupils have taken part in since the start of term. I hope you enjoy reading about what they have been doing. May I wish you all a happy half-term break!

Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress

Role Playing in Kindergarten

Across the Early Years department we are using the stories of Julia Donaldson as our theme for the Spring term.

Lower Kindergarten read the story of Zog, a very special dragon who is keen to be the best! The story follows his attempts to learn dragon skills which result in lots of minor injuries that are then treated by a mysterious girl doctor. The children were able to retell and explore the story through role play at a 'hospital' they set up together. Here is Antonia providing much needed care!





NEWSLETTER

Year 1 Class Assembly

The series of Junior class assemblies, which parents are invited to attend, began with Year 1's assembly on the theme of 'Celebrating Reading'. The whole class has been taking part in 'The 50 Books to Read by The End of Year 1' Reading Challenge. This is the first year that Year 1 has taken part and the children have been incredibly enthusiastic about it and many have already received the Silver Award for reading more than 20 books from this list.

The children showed photographs of themselves reading in some of their favourite places around school. Emran likes to read in the playground, Izah in Ms Barnard's office chair and Noah-Hussain in the Heads of House office!



Everyone in Year 1 selected their favourite book and completed a book review in class. They shared this and a picture of their book character in their Assembly.

Emily: "Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown is one of my favourite books. I like the way he caught burglars and he was so flat he could fit inside a letter and go in the post box."

Noah-Hussain: "The Snowman by Raymond Briggs is one of my favourite books. I love it because the little boy saw Santa and the land was covered in snow. It reminds me of my holiday at Christmas to the North Pole."

Kelly: "The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss is one of my favourite books. I loved it when Thing 1 and Thing 2 made a mess and The Cat in the Hat went back home."

James: "The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson is one of my favourite books. I loved the part when the mouse said he wants Gruffalo crumble to eat."

Irina: "The Gigantic Turnip Penka by Alexei Tolstoy is a Russian story. It is one of my favourite books because I like to grow plants and also because it is set in Russia and I am Russian."

Enis: "Funny Bones by Allan Ahlberg is one of my favourite books. I loved the part where the dog skeleton got put back together again in the story."

Next, Year 1 shared a story called 'One Night in the Zoo' written by one of their favourite authors, Judith Kerr. We have looked at many of her books this school year. The children were all an animal in the story and the audience could easily guess which one from their hat and costumes. To finish, the class performed the song 'Never Smile at a Crocodile' directed at Zakariya, who made a fine crocodile in his outfit and crocodile tail.

Animal Art

Years 2 and 3 joined together to create a variety of animals in Art. The children were put into mixed groups with children they would not usually have the opportunity to work with.

Each animal had a different theme to it; one group created a Pop Art cat, another used Kandinsky's concentric circles as the basis for their animal, the third based their work on the 'Delft' style of art, whilst the last group focused on the work of famous Dutch artist, Piet Mondrian.

The children all worked hard to create some beautiful animals.





NEWSLETTER

Human Number Line

Mrs Allen's Year 2 Maths group have been looking at how to predict where numbers go on a number line when there are only a few numbers on it to begin with.

The children went into the playground with whiteboards and were all given a different number. They had to put themselves into the human number line in the right place. This was lots of fun and helped the children to understand how best to predict where numbers should go.



Green Tree Schools Awards

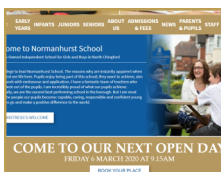
Readers may remember from our December Newsletter that the Junior School has been taking part in the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Awards. Following on from the Bronze Award that we received last month, both staff and pupils have continued to work very hard on the various outdoor activities, so much so that the school has now been awarded both the Silver and Gold Awards!

Each year group was set a task that engaged them with our local environment. We are very lucky to be right next to Epping Forest, and the classes enjoyed engaging in their learning in the forest surrounded by nature. The challenges varied from decorating a tree to taking photos from different perspectives.

Both the children and the staff have enjoyed the tasks and are planning the activities they will be doing to gain the Platinum Award.



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.

NEWSLETTER

Pizza Express Trip

Year 2 went to Pizza Express to learn all about how they make their pizzas. The children learnt about how they make the dough rise, the special recipe tomato sauce they use, and the tasty mozzarella to top their pizza. Each child then made their own pizza, which they brought back to school to eat for lunch! Every child also received their own certificate as they became a 'Junior Pizzaiolo'. Olivia commented "I loved the pizza because I put extra cheese on mine!".

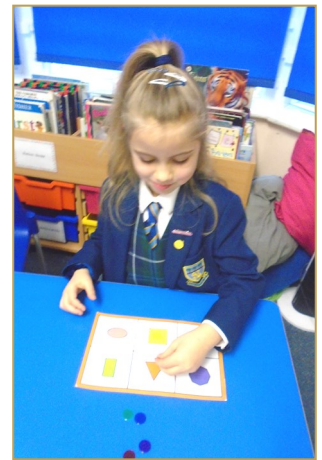


Year 2 Shape the School

Some pupils in Year 2 have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes in their Maths lessons. They have been using their powers of deduction to work out how many sides and vertices each shape has, and then testing each other on the different properties of the shapes.

They also went on a tour of the school to find different 2D shapes around different rooms. Pupils ended the week with some fun Maths games including finding different shapes on a grid and a classic game of Shape Bingo!

The children have really enjoyed learning about shapes and spotting them in real life places!

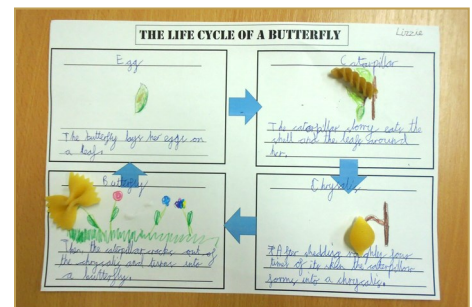


Learning about Butterflies

Year 2 have been learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly in their Science lessons. They created their own version of the lifecycle using different pasta shapes to represent each of the four stages.

The children then created their own butterfly art, including a stained-glass butterfly and a butterfly made by symmetrical painting.

Both classes have really enjoyed learning about this topic, and are looking forward continuing their learning about different animal habitats.



Paris Fashion Week for Year 8

"On Thursday 23 January, Year 8J put on a runway show during our French lesson. We were divided into groups and we nominated one person from each group to be dressed up, and one person to write on a whiteboard and describe what they were wearing. In total, three people went on the catwalk, they did some poses, moves and even faces. After that we had to write a description of at least one model, and give our opinion on their outfits.

In this lesson we learnt how to say the different items of clothing and describe the clothes we were wearing. We think it was a very fun lesson and we learnt a lot of new things."

Salah and Yusuf, 8J





NEWSLETTER

Operation Sock It Up

Siblings Nicolas (Year 5) and Sofia (3C) have continued their volunteer work with Street Kind UK, which we learnt about in last month's newsletter. During their outreach session on Sunday 19 January, they handed over the socks that the parents from Year 3 and Year 5 generously donated. Despite the zero temperatures, the children worked in great spirits; serving hot drinks and sandwiches, collecting donations from passers-by, and of course handing over the socks to a very appreciative bunch of people in need.



All in all, it was a very rewarding experience for Nicolas and Sofia, meeting other lovely volunteers, being useful offering food and comfort to homeless people, and feeling thankful for the privileged life that they have.

They are already looking forward to their next outreach experience!

Seniors Improving Academic Performance Workshop

On Monday 13 January our Year 10 pupils were treated to an exciting learning workshop hosted at Braeside School with the company 'Learning Performance', to learn about revision strategies, life-long learning, motivation and resilience.



The session gave the pupils an excellent range of strategies to help them revise very effectively, such as fun mnemonics for Physics equations, applying key phrases to everyday objects to create word association, and the power of sketching in note-taking. Overall the pupils had a fantastic time learning how to learn - thank you to Learning Performance!

Loughton Young Artists Exhibition

The Year 11 Art pupils were invited to exhibit their artwork as part of the Loughton Young Artists Exhibition. This is now an annual tradition for Normanhurst and Braeside pupils, giving them the chance to exhibit and receive feedback on their GCSE portfolios. The work from pupils was, once again, diverse, showing a wide variety of individual responses to the themes 'Conceal & Reveal' and 'States of Change' with artworks taking the form of expressive sculpture, drypoint print making, mixed media drawing and collage. Year 11 have each developed a strong visual language and produced a high quality body of work. We would like to thank all friends, family and staff who came to see the show on the opening evening and have visited the gallery throughout the exhibition. We would also like to thank the volunteers at the Lopping Hall Gallery for all their hard work and making the exhibition possible.





NEWSLETTER

Oak-Tree Group Art Festival

On Saturday 18 January we were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase the broad range of art and design work being created by pupils at Normanhurst. The pop up exhibition showed printmaking, collage, painting, drawing, sculpture and textiles from pupils from the Early Years' department right up to Year 10. We showed our work alongside the other schools in the Oak-Tree Group, giving teachers and pupils alike the chance to share ideas and inspiration. The Art department would like to thank every single pupil for their energy and enthusiasm producing such an exciting range of artwork, and all the family and friends who attended the exhibition to help us celebrate it.



News from the Art Department

Year 10 Conceal & Reveal Self Portraits Year 10 Art pupils have produced a range of excellent portraits in response to the theme 'Conceal & Reveal' and the range of artists that they have studied, including Lucien Freud, Kathe Kollwitz and their own individual research. The pupils selected an object to represent something about themselves to be included in their drawings. Each pupil is exploring how technique, media and content can communicate concept. These drawings will now be developed into expressive mixed media artworks to further explore the themes.

Year 8 meet Reception! Year 8 have been developing pop-up books as part of their 2D-3D design and technology project. They have explored illustration, graphic design and layout as well as pop-up techniques to create an 8 page, fully illustrated pop-up book in response to the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, the feisty seagull who knew no boundaries to his flying! The Year 8s brought their completed books to share with Reception and introduce the younger pupils to their version of Jonathan.

The Reception class listened intently and actively interacted with the books, asking lots of questions along the way! They were very interested in the different versions of the story that the Year 8 pupils had created, and were particularly impressed with the pop-up mechanisms. When we asked the children their thoughts about the books, most commented on the pictures and the seagulls. Isabel, however, liked "when the Brussel sprouts cleaned up the shells!"



7B Class Assembly on Resilience

On Thursday 23 January Class 7B began the round of class-led senior assemblies by presenting a message aimed at inspiring pupils to be more resilient. In their form periods the class had learned about resilient people like Helen Keller, Beethoven, Henry Ford and Michael Jordan. In their assembly each pupil talked about a person that they admired and who overcame obstacles to be successful. Well done, 7B!



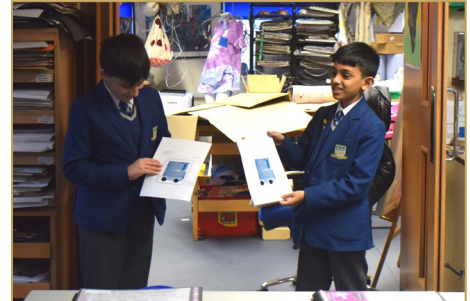


NEWSLETTER

Inter House Gardening Project

An inter house gardening project has been launched, in which the pupils will be designing a range of movable vegetable beds in their design and technology lessons. The pupils will work collectively as house groups to grow a range of vegetables in beds that they have designed and made themselves from found objects and recycled materials.

Pupils have started to research existing products and are looking at what ideas would work for our own beds. They had the opportunity to present their findings to the class. The pupils have shown a lot of enthusiasm for this project and we look forward to harvesting the produce later in the year!



Year 10 Careers Fair

On Thursday 23 January, Year 10 had the exciting opportunity to look into potential future career paths during their visit to the Forest School Careers Fair. Each of the many stalls there represented a different college or university. Year 10 were introduced to the range of opportunities available, and encouraged to think about where they would like to study in the future. They learnt about all the benefits of going on to further education, as well as what they need to achieve in order to be able to get into college.

The range of institutions represented included Royal Holloway University, Brunel University, University of Glasgow, ELAM, Loughborough University, London Metropolitan University, Liverpool Hope University and many more. On almost every stall, pupils were presented with booklets and leaflets providing more information on the university or college. They had the opportunity to look further into their interests and passions, while at the same time thinking about their future.

This was an invaluable experience for our Year 10 pupils in beginning to think about their educational careers beyond Normanthurst. Year 10 would like to thank Mr Botha for organising the visit.



Much Ado About Masks

"This term we are studying Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' in English. To gain a better understanding of the masked ball in the play we made our own masks. We all brought materials for our masks which we made about us and the characters! It was a brilliant activity because it made us see the creative side of English. It was cool to see how we all made our masks and how creative everybody was.

This was a really good activity and it helped us understand what is happening in this very confusing play. I really enjoyed this lesson and found it useful."

Leiya, 8E





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report

Year 3 First Steps Netball The Year 3 girls all took part in the Waltham Forest First Steps netball festival at the Peter May centre. Our girls split into two teams and played in different groups. Each group played five matches against various schools from around the borough. They all improved their understanding and honed their netball skills. Well done everyone!

ISA London North Table Tennis We took a team of U13 boys, U13 girls and U16 boys to the first ever ISA London North Badminton tournament. All six players played extremely well and were a credit to the school, playing a large number of matches throughout the day. The U13 girls played 15 games, winning 7, the U13 boys played 13 games and won 8, and the U16 boys played 12 games, winning 6.

We also came away with three medals, which is a huge achievement. Esta (8E) and Charlie (8J) came away with silver medals in the U13 category, and Malachi (9B) won a bronze medal while playing against boys two years his senior.

U11 ISA Table Tennis This year Kings School in Harpenden hosted the ISA Table Tennis. We took a boys and a girls team to compete in the U11 competition. The standard was extremely high and Normanhurst pupils really held their own against some very strong opposition. Nathan and Kelaiah represented the Y6 boys. There were 20 boys competing from across the London North Area; Nathan finished in 9th position and Kelaiah finished 12th.

In the girls section Poppy, Amber and Alicia represented us in the U11 girls competition. There were 16 girls competing in this event in 2 round robin groups. Alicia reached the quarter finals which she won. In the semi-final, she lost to the eventual winner. Finally she played off for 3/4 position, narrowly missing out and finishing in 4th place. Amber finished 12th and Poppy was 14th.

Well done everyone!

GCSE PE This term the GCSE group has been learning about the Principles of Training. This has involved some very strenuous circuit training sessions in the gym at Connaught. Pupils have designed their own circuit and experimented doing various circuits tailored to the needs of different aspects of fitness and different types of sports. They have used plyometric, weight, Fartlek, interval/HIIT, and continuous training, whilst keeping in mind how to avoid injury and tedium, include progression, and make it specific for an individual or sport. It has been a really interesting topic and the pupils have done very well.

U11 Tag Rugby vs Oaklands School All of our boys in Years 5 and 6 made the short trip to Oaklands for a round robin of tag rugby fixtures. These were our first rugby fixtures of the year and all boys played extremely well with three Normanhurst teams playing against an Oaklands team. We ran out winners in two of the three fixtures which was an excellent result for the boys! We now look forward to working towards contact rugby which will prepare the boys well for future fixtures and tournaments, including the ISA competition.





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report continued

U13 Rugby vs Keble Prep Normanhurst hosted Keble Prep during their Games afternoon down at Peter May in what was our first contact rugby fixture of the year. Our boys put in some huge tackles and fought superbly, playing the game in the right spirit and putting their bodies on the line for one another. We made a slow start before growing into the game and dominating for long periods with excellent carries by the likes of Yusufjan (8E), Diyar (8E), Freddie (8E) and Tim (7W). We lost out by 7 tries to 2 but the score line did not tell the whole story. We play the return fixture against Keble in March when we will all be hoping for a win! Man of the Match went to Freddie for an all-round superb performance and leadership.



U15 Football vs St Nicholas' School On 16 January our U15 boys visited Saint Nicholas School, Old Harlow, for their first football fixture after the Christmas break. Our team came up against strong opposition but, playing against pupils mainly a year older, we fought extremely well on what was a difficult pitch. Despite having some promising periods within the game, we unfortunately lost out to our opponents. We now look forward to our final U15 football fixture of the year against Dwight School, Barnet, in the first week of February where we hope to sign off with a win!



Connaught House Assembly

Members of Connaught House came together for the first time this term. The focus of the assembly was Community and Growing. The assembly was prepared by the two senior house captains, Hannah and Nydia and delivered by Christian (all Year 11 pupils). They talked about being part of a community and something that is greater than an individual. Conversations were launched about how we can be a proactive community not only in school but also outside of it.

Connaught House is growing as a team, and now we would like to see how good we are at growing vegetables! A community garden is being launched to help us continue to grow and work together in a practical, environmentally beneficial way, and details of the inter house gardening project to establish the garden can be found earlier in this newsletter.





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst School Parents' Association



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

Dear Parents

Happy New Year from the NSPA.

We kicked off the new year with a really productive meeting on Monday 13 January, and we are looking forward to arranging lots of different activities to support our children's time at Normanhurst School and to enhance the school community in 2020. You will also notice another theme in our activities as we are going to try to ensure that all we do is sustainable, environmentally friendly, and where possible in support of local suppliers.

The first of our 2020 events is the popular junior disco, for Years 3-6 on Friday 7 February from 6.30 to 8pm. The children's tickets are £5 and include a goody bag; parents will have the opportunity to enjoy watching their children having fun and mingle with other parents. There will be a licenced bar serving wine, beer and snacks.

There is still time to enter the Winter Run, a 10k run for Cancer Research on 9 February. A number of parents have already signed up, and it is a great way to cast away the Christmas excesses. To register visit <https://www.londonwinterrun.co.uk/>.

Following the success of the Welcome Walk last term, we will be organising an Easter Walk on 15 March from 11am to 1pm. Starting at the school hall we will walk through the forest, and again carry out a litter pick as we go round. We will return to the school hall where hot beverages, hot cross buns and sausage rolls will be served.

The Summer BBQ takes place on 27 June and will have the theme of Country and Western. So start polishing your spurs and dust off your Stetson to get into the spirit of this family fun afternoon.

We will be organising an Early Years event and will promote the date as soon as this has been organised. We also still intend to have a uniform sale and a Phil the Bag collection, and we will let you know once these dates have been confirmed.

If you have any questions about the NSPA activities, or would like to get involved, please either contact your class rep or leave a message in the school office, and we will get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you at our NSPA events during 2020.

Best wishes

The NSPA Committee