



NEWSLETTER

November 2020

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Headmistress's Message

I hope you and your families had an enjoyable half-term break and are looking forward to the next few weeks leading up to Christmas. As you read the November newsletter, I am sure you will see how busy the pupils have been over the last few weeks of school. You will see the wide range of experiences that make up the Normanhurst School experience. My hope is that our pupils continue to have a rich and diverse range of opportunities at school and I think the newsletter shows that many of them are making the most of all that is on offer.

We have enjoyed the House Music competition, Harvest Festival and we have celebrated Diwali. This month we have seen two of our pupils become winners in the ISA National Art competition. This is a great individual accomplishment and a wonderful achievement for the school community.

Thank you to the pupils and families who have been busy working on the Shoebox Appeal. We have so far made 115 boxes which will make many children happy during the festive period. Can I also thank you for all the donations made towards the Poppy Appeal. These challenging times have not stopped us raising £172 which is a great success.

The preparations have already begun for Christmas performances and we look forward to sharing these with you very soon. The Charity Committee will also soon be selling Normanhurst School Advent Calendars to continue our successful fundraising.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

Virtual Harvest Festival

Instead of our usual Harvest Festival celebrations, Normanhurst pupils did things a little differently this year. Different year groups recorded themselves singing, acting, reading and showing off their work which was then put together into a wonderful, virtual Harvest Festival, which you can see [HERE](#). A huge thank you for all your donations, they are sure to make a huge difference.





Early Years News

Construction Workers This half term, the children in Early Years have been learning about the Countryside. They turned the garden area into a huge construction site and took ideas from their book of the week, *The Three Little Pigs*, to design and create their own buildings from a variety of media. The children spent time designing and planning their building before they got busy. Once everyone had finished, the children wondered if they would be able to blow them down like the Big Bad Wolf! Despite lots of huffing and puffing they found it was an impossible task. The children had great fun whilst learning about materials for building through role play.



Forest Walks Every Friday, Early Years pupils like to put on their wellie boots and head to the forest. Recently, they have been learning all about hibernating animals, dens and, their favourite topic, the hedgehog! During the forest walk, Reception created a giant hedgehog picture with natural materials. When they made it back to class, the pupils were surprised to find a lovely roaring fire and a super hedgehog snack for their afternoon treat! The children in Kindergarten also created a den and loved pretending to be hedgehogs hiding in it.



Fireworks Pupils enjoyed a creative afternoon in the garden area where they all worked as a team to make a giant fireworks picture, using lots of different coloured paint. They then became fireworks as they danced around with their ribbon sticks and enjoyed taking part in a firework action rhyme. Well done Early Years!



Wedding Celebrations Linking to their Autumn term theme of The Countryside, the children in Reception, Upper and Lower Kindergarten have explored life on the farm. One particular book, *'The Scarecrow's Wedding'*, proved very popular. The children created scarecrows with collage and paint, had fun playing games and dancing as *'Dingle Dangle Scarecrows'*, but the most fun was had at the Early Years wedding.



After creating lists in their literacy lesson, pupils took a walk along Station Road to source all the things needed for a wedding, and then returned back to school to celebrate. They made flapjacks using one of the crops from the scarecrow's field. There was lots of preparation and with all the children and staff taking a role in the ceremony, the fun could begin! The ceremony took place in front of a beautiful stained glass window, with the table center being a three tier 3D wedding cake created by the children. There was lots of dancing and a lovely afternoon tea to end the day. All the children had a fantastic time!





Remembrance Day 2020

EYFS Festival of Remembrance We have been very busy finding ways to foster the children's understanding of the Festival of Remembrance. There have been a variety of craft activities across the department like making poppies in a range of ways including collage and dough. However, the highlight of our week was when all of the children joined with their teachers for a very poignant two minutes of silence on Wednesday morning. You will see we stood around our very own tribute created by laying items of red and black on our large poppy representing how people lay wreaths at memorials. The Reception children walked to the Chingford war memorial to complete this week's learning.



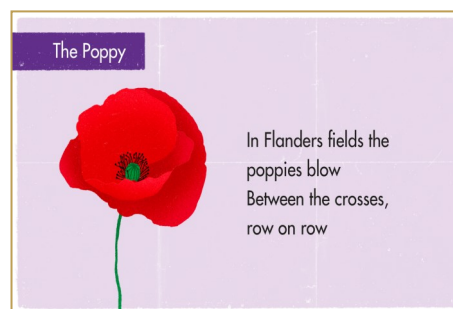
Junior School At Normanhurst this year, the Juniors celebrated Remembrance Day in a slightly different way to usual due to the unprecedented circumstances that we find ourselves in. Many celebrations and activities were held around the school across the year groups incorporating beautiful art work, creative writing and even some yummy baking.



During the assemblies that were held, the pupils were reminded that Remembrance Day is not just about World Wars I and II but in fact about all wars and conflicts that have happened over the past hundred years. Year 1 drew their own poppies and decorated them with tissue and crepe paper, and also built on their learning of Remembrance Day through guided reading. Years 2 and 3 have been working together to create some beautiful work that has been displayed outside of their classrooms and on their windows for the community to see. They enjoyed creating their poppies from paper plates and biscuits and wrote some beautiful poems of thanks. Year 4 have enjoyed a lot of creative activities, making their own poppy wreath and creating a display looking at the history of why we celebrate Remembrance Day, and linking it to our future for which the children wrote their own wishes. They also completed a reading comprehension building on their knowledge and understanding. Year 5 have been studying the poem 'In Flanders Fields' and have sketched their own pictures to resemble an individual line from the poem. Year 6 have been learning about the significance of Remembrance Day and what it represents. They held their festival of remembrance in class whilst watching the live ceremony and showing their respect with a two minute silence. Year 6 are now planning their non-chronological reports about Armistice Day.

All of the classes made beautiful artwork to symbolise the wars and celebrate the unsung heroes, which Years 2, 3 and 4 proudly held outside the front of the school while observing the two minute silence to remember all of those who fought in the wars.

Senior School To help commemorate Armistice Day on Wednesday 11 November, Normanhurst held a two minute silence observed by all across the school. Students had been reminded of the sacrifices made by past generations in conflicts and emergencies (as well as current front line health and emergency services confronting the pandemic) through prior lessons. Students in the Senior School also watched a poignant PowerPoint presentation about the day's significance and importance, both historically and at the present time. The response from students has been both respectful and heartfelt. Our Poppy appeal to date has raised £172 this year. Thanks to donations from staff, students and parents, which will be gratefully received by the Royal British Legion charities.



SPECIAL FEATURE: Black History Month

October saw Black History Month marked throughout the school with a range of lessons aimed at recognising the achievements and historical contributions made by black people. Here are just some of the activities that took place.

Early Years For Black History Month, Early Years were given the inventor of the traffic light, Garrett Morgan, to research and find out about.

They found lots of creative ways to make traffic lights and link the learning to colours and sequencing. Pupils made a tasty afternoon snack using red, amber and green vegetables, explored the sequence of the lights and then went on to use them in a road role play game with the ride on cars. The youngest children also sorted bears into three colours.

Early Years were able to think about road safety and read a story called 'Orange', where the children were introduced to Stop, Go and Get ready! It was an opportunity to find out the meaning of the different coloured lights. They learnt that there are different lights for drivers and pedestrians but that everyone must obey the rules to keep safe. Pupils then played games in the garden area where they carefully followed the Stop! Get ready! Go! instructions.

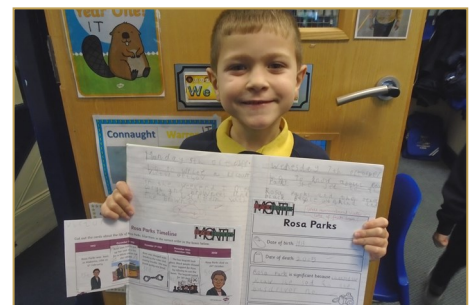
Pupils enjoyed a walk along Station Road to find the traffic lights. They watched the sequence carefully and how the traffic was controlled by the lights.

Back at school, pupils used the remote control cars along a road to see what happens with and without the traffic lights to help them. Early Years had a lot of fun during their learning and learnt lots! Well done everyone!

Year 1 Year 1 were very engaged and enthusiastic about all the activities they took part in for Black History month. They enjoyed recognising and watching black athletes compete in a special assembly.

The class found the story of Sarah Boone's life fascinating and completed biographies packed with interesting details. Sarah was a nineteenth century black American dressmaker who was awarded a patent for her improved ironing board, and a class highlight was using creative flair to decorate printed ironing boards using collage.

Year 1 debated the key issues in the case of Rosa Parks and decided that she was an extremely brave woman who stood up for her beliefs, and the plan she devised in prison brought about significant change. The class completed a Rosa Parks timeline which helped everyone to remember all the key events.





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SPECIAL FEATURE: Black History Month Continued

Year 3 Year 3 did a lot of learning for Black History Month during October. Using the school iPads to help them research, they wrote a fact file about the American inventor Henry Blair, whose inventions helped farming become more productive. The children then continued using their research skills to find out about a chosen black artist for their homework. Their choices included Stormzy, Emeli Sande, Sir Lenny Henry and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Pupils completed a reading comprehension all about Usain Bolt and his achievements over the years. They also learned all about Rosa Parks and the phenomenal impact she had on black segregation in America.

Year 3 even had the chance to crack a maths code breaker using their column addition knowledge, which led them to finding out about another black American inventor, Garrett Morgan, whose many inventions include the traffic light system that is still in use today.

Year 4 Showing that Black History Month can be a cross-curricular learning tool, pupils in Year 4 completed an exciting addition lesson in Maths. Each time they completed a column addition, a letter of the alphabet was generated. Once all the letters had been found, they revealed the name of the famous black inventor, Garrett Morgan, who invented an improved traffic signal system.

The children then used iPads and books to research inspirational people from the black community. They created bullet points about their chosen person and then moved into the ICT suite to create PowerPoints. We had a variety of people, from footballers such as Lindy Delapenha to actors like Will Smith and musicians such as Louis Armstrong. From the information they gathered during their research, pupils then designed a 'Who am I?' poster of the person they had learnt about.

Year 5 During Black History Month, Year 5 studied Dr. Mae C Jemison. They learnt a lot about her life by watching and reading through biographies and interviews with her, and then created their own posters about her too. Pupils also learnt about Rosa Parks' life in Maths and answered questions about a timeline of her life events. Alongside this, through the many assemblies, Newsround clips, loop card activities and class discussions, Year 5 gave a summary of all the things they have learnt in this very important month. Great work Year 5!



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SPECIAL FEATURE: Black History Month Continued

Year 6 Year 6 pupils focussed their learning for Black History Month on Walter Tull, a mixed race English footballer whose career was interrupted by the first world war, in which he became the first black officer to lead white British soldiers into battle. Here are two pupils' accounts of his life.

Walter Tull

Did you know that in 1917, Walter Tull became the first mixed-race officer in the British army? His skills were razor-sharp!

Family Background Walter was born in Kent in 1888. He was seven when his mother (Alice) died of cancer. A year later, his father married his mother's cousin (Clara Palmer). She gave birth to a daughter, Miriam, on the 11th September 1897. After leaving school, he became a priest's apprentice, but his real love was for football. A few months later, his father died so he was raised in a children's home in London. At the age of 21, he became the first mixed-race player. Walter started playing for Clapton FC. He went on to play for Northampton Town.

War Between 28th March – 25th April 1918, he became a soccer soldier! When the war was declared, Walter joined the footballers' Battalion. He was sent to France and took part in many battles.

Death In 1918, the Germans made their last push to win the war (the Spring Offensive). On 25th March, Walter led an attack across no man's land. He was hit and unfortunately killed in action. However, Walter is always remembered by his football clubs. He was also awarded the 1914-15 Star and the War and Victory medals after his bravery.

By Olivia , Year 6

The Unknown Life of Walter Tull,

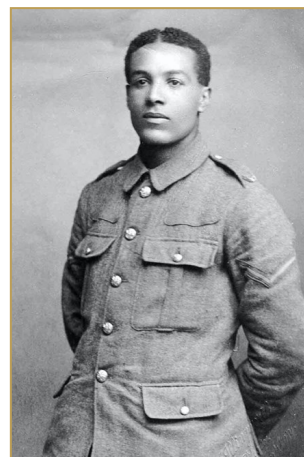
Walter Tull was born on 28th April 1888. He was a football player and an army officer. He is believed to be one of the bravest mixed-race army officers in the UK.

Early Life Walter was born in Folkestone, England and had five other siblings. His parents were Daniel Tull and Alice Palmer. His dad was from Barbados and his mother was from Kent. Alice died of cancer when Walter was only seven years old. A year later, Daniel married Alice's cousin Clara. Three months later, Walter's father died of heart disease, so Walter had to live with his stepmother. Clara couldn't handle all the children at once, so she sent Walter and his brother Edward to an orphanage where they became separated. Edward was adopted and moved to Scotland while Walter was adopted and moved to London.

Adult Life Walter started his journey of becoming a professional football player in 1908 and played for Clapton FC for a year. He also played for Tottenham Hotspur for two years and Northampton Town for three years. In August 1914, he stopped his career due to the break out of World War 1. Walter became a British army officer and was the first Northampton player to join the army.

Death During World War I, Walter was sent to Favrevil, Pas-de-Calais, France. He was killed at the age of twenty-nine. He died on the 25th March 1918 and he was a great soldier.

By Matias, Year 6



SPECIAL FEATURE: Black History Month Continued

Year 7 The Year 7 students enjoyed creating a Black History Month Monopoly board. They used all the Maths methods that they had learnt throughout this half term to solve the questions and win some money, while learning about inspirational people from the black communities.

Key Stage 3 History Over the half term holiday Years 7, 8 and 9 completed a research project based around Black History Month, culminating in the design of a poster to decorate the History classroom at Normanhurst. We wanted to make our display a truly British display and so the students were given a selection of Black Britons and significant events for Black Britons to research.

We were delighted with the effort that most of the students made and were pleased to hear that they were surprised by what they had learned during the task. For example, many of the Year 9 students researched the 1963 Bristol Bus Boycott, and also John Edmontson who was the 19th century Edinburgh University teacher to a young Charles Darwin.

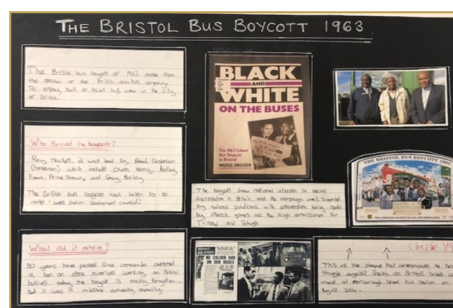
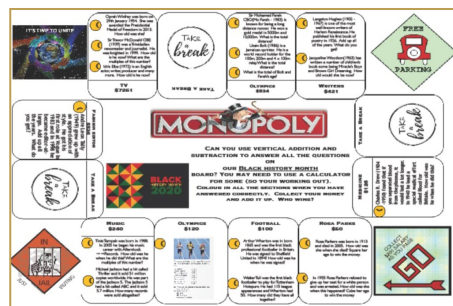
Well done the Key Stage 3 for embracing this opportunity to learn about lesser known aspects of our history!

Senior French To celebrate Black History Month in French speaking countries, Year 10 and Year 11 French pupils translated the poem *A Mon Frère Blanc* by Senegalese author Léopold Sedar Senghor. They learned about the poet's background and his biography. They then completed some language tasks based on the lyrics of the song *Sur Ma Route* by French-Guinean rapper Black M, and analysed the meaning of the text.

For homework, pupils were asked to undertake independent research about a person from the French speaking world who has made an impact culturally, politically or artistically and has helped fight racism, then write a poem or create a poster about la diversité.

Senior Spanish In Spanish in KS4, pupils analysed two songs in Spanish, the first of which was *Clandestino* by Manu Chao. This song confronts immigration in a global context where people from developing countries looking for a better life end up trapped between their hopes and the discrimination they suffer in a place far from home.

The second song was *Latinoamerica (Calle 13)* with historical, social and political themes linking back to colonisation/Conquista. Students were asked to look for information about conquistadores and to write about one of them in Spanish, adding what they would have done in their place.





SPECIAL FEATURE: Black History Month Continued

Assemblies Black History Month is traditionally a time to shine a light on our shared British history and tell the whole story from the perspective of all cultures. It is also a time to look forward and celebrate the here and now – and the future possibilities. In the past, October has been the only time of year when the UK talks about the achievements of Black people in Britain.

In the UK education system and particularly in Normanhurst School, whilst we celebrate during October, we also take pride in being diverse and inclusive throughout all subject areas and in renewing and reviewing our curriculum to continue to reflect the multicultural society of London.

This year in both juniors and seniors we celebrated BHM in assemblies and lessons, and focused on less well publicised figures from black history and culture, including scientists, inventors, sporting heroes and artists. [This PowerPoint](#) gives a small taste of what has been taught to our students.



Junior Certificates

Every week in the Junior Assemblies, children receive awards for excellent behaviour, attitude or academic work. During the past few weeks we have had some additional and extra special awards to give out to some of the children.

Firstly, we have given out Bronze Reading Certificates for reading a total of ten books to a number of children across the Junior School, as they work towards the Fifty Book Reading Challenge. As well as those, we have given out Bronze and Silver Oak Tree Challenge awards for the children who have successfully completed each level. Well done to all of the successful pupils.



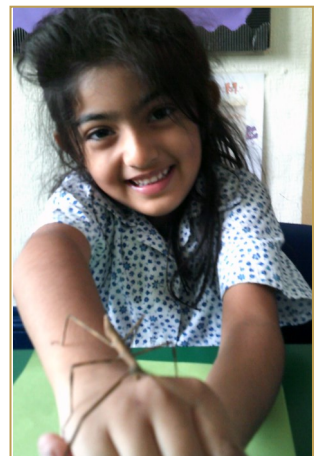
There is still the opportunity to participate in both of these challenges. Children who would like to work their way through the reading challenge should contact Mr Dograr. Those who would like to look into completing the Oak Tree Challenge should speak to Mrs Allen. We look forward to seeing lots more opportunities to celebrate the children's achievements as the year goes on.

Year 2 Class Pets

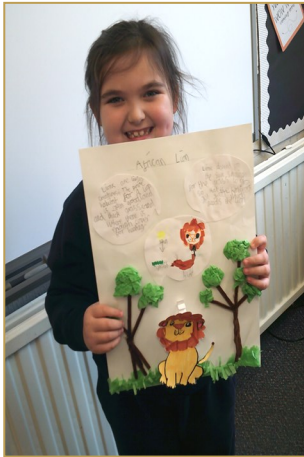
Miss Sainsbury is not the only new arrival in Year 2, along with her came five stick insects that have quickly become ensconced as the class pets! The children have named the insects Mr Dash, Mr Sticky, Sonic, Donut and David, and have enjoyed holding and getting to know them.

The insects have proved particularly useful when the class have looked at adaptations and habitats. The children have learnt that there are two different species of stick insect (the Common and the Sungaya), they eat brambles and privet leaves, and they shed their skin as they grow.

With winter almost upon us, Mr Dash et al are not in school at the moment as it is too cold to transport them between school and Miss Sainsbury's home. They will be back in the classroom when the weather is warmer.

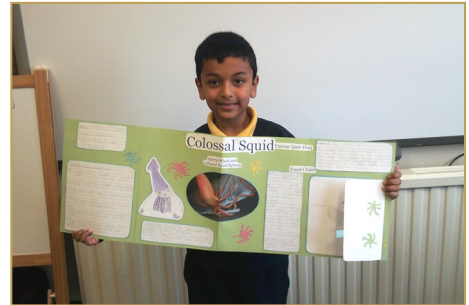


Year 2 Science



During the first half of term, Year 2's Science topic was Adaptations and Habitats. Over the October half term, pupils were given a task to prepare a poster about how various creatures have adapted to their habitat.

The children created some amazing posters and then shared all of the information that they had discovered with the class. They enjoyed finding out more about a range of creatures, including hedgehogs, tortoises, and even the colossal squid!



Year 3 News

Diwa Lamps In RE this term, Year 3 have been learning about Hinduism, specifically learning about the festival of Diwali and how Hindus celebrate it. The children have created their own Diwa Lamp which Hindus use during the festival of Diwali as a way to guide home Goddess Lakshmi. They created their lamps out of clay by learning a technique called 'coiling' where the lamp was built up step-by-step by using coiled pieces of clay. Once dry, the children then painted their own designs on the lamps using bright colours.

Magnets Year 3 have been focussing on the topic of Forces and Magnets this half term. They have taken part in lots of different experiments testing different magnets, the strengths of the magnets and their properties. This has included completing different challenges to experiment how magnets work and how magnets attract and repel as well as testing different magnetic surfaces.

One of the experiments they took part in was to see how strong a horseshoe magnet was by testing how many pieces of paper could be held onto the whiteboard. The classes predicted that the magnet would hold 4 pieces of paper, however, the magnet actually held 7! Francesca and Kuzey said 'We couldn't believe how much paper the magnet could hold!'. Another experiment they completed was testing how far a paper clip could jump. They predicted that the paperclip would jump only 3cm; however, using a bar magnet, the paperclip actually could jump over 5cm!

Skara Brae During their History lessons, Year 3 have been learning about The Stone Age. They have been doing lots of research about the time period and have been investigating the village of Skara Brae, a preserved Stone Age village found on the Orkney Islands. Pupils used the iPads to research some facts about the village and to draw their own version of the houses found at Skara Brae. In addition to this, they have created their own cave paintings based on images of real versions that were used by Stone Age people to communicate.



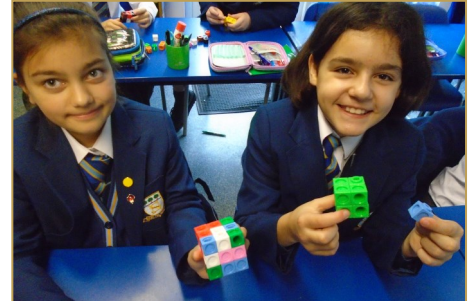


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Year 5 News

Here is a round up of just a few of the learning opportunities that Year 5 have been enjoying since our last newsletter.

Maths Year 5 have been studying multiplication and division in their Maths lessons recently. After learning about square and cube numbers, pupils used multilink cubes to build up cube numbers. They were able to build all the way up to 5 cubed before they ran out of cubes! Pupils really enjoyed this practical Maths lesson, great work Year 5.



History "On the 1st October 2020, Year 5 went to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge in Chingford. We looked around the outside and through the windows as unfortunately due to the current situation it is closed to visitors.

Our teacher, Miss Stone, told us lots of information about the hunting lodge and asked us questions about it and the time period it was built in. Did you know that they ate weird meats like pig head? Also on the second floor of the Hunting Lodge you can try on old fashioned clothes and it is also said that Queen Elizabeth once rode a horse up through the hunting lodge and up the stairs to the top floor!



We enjoyed our trip to the hunting lodge and hope we can return when it opens again!"

By Bella and Felix

Science "In our Science lesson we learnt about what materials are attracted or repelled by magnets. We went outside into the playground and we tried to place a magnet on different materials to see what happened. We made a table of the things that worked and were attracted or things that did not work and repelled. We also explored magnetism in the classroom. It was a fun lesson because we did not know what things would be magnetic and we had fun being able to explore the playground too."

By Shay and Felix

Art To finish their Art topic studying William Morris, a local designer, Year 5 created their own tiling patterns in his style. Over the duration of three lessons, the pupils created a tile design and used the printing press to create an image which they then used to press onto a tile.

The class enjoyed the opportunity to have their Art lessons in the Art Room with Ms Parrott and use the printing press to create their designs. Year 5 created amazing finished pieces and had an excellent experience whilst doing so!



Books Books Books!

Following on from our report in September's newsletter, both pupils and staff have continued to support the birthday book scheme by contributing a copy of their favourite book to the school library on their birthday.

Mrs Prior found it too difficult to choose between two much-loved children's books, so she donated a copy of both! She explains here the reasons for her choices.

"I chose 'Young, Gifted and Black' because it is Black History Month and because I enjoyed sharing this book with the children in Year 4 when Tahan brought it to school.

'George Speaks' is one of my favourite stories. I have read numerous times to children in Normanhurst and my own copy is falling apart! It is about a baby who can speak when he is born and only talks to his big brother with his demands."



We wished Tahan in Year 4 many happy returns for his October birthday, and thank him for his contribution of The Guinness World Records 2020, which as always is packed full of amazing facts and feats.

Inspired by the birthday book scheme to think about the library, a couple of junior children have donated a range of books for their fellow pupils to share, despite the fact that their birthdays are not until next year. Thank you to Lucy in Year 4 and to Jasmine in Year 6 for their very generous donations.

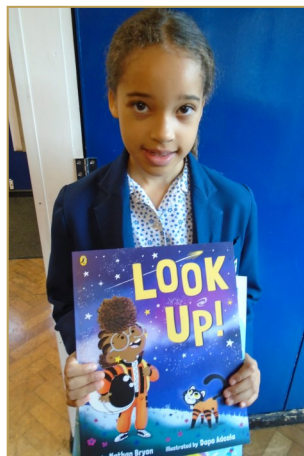
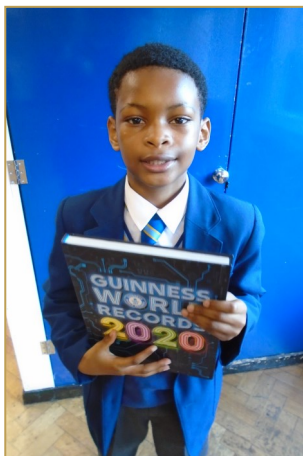
Here Jasmine tells us what led her to give over a hundred books to the school.

"When I did a spring clean in my room and looked through my old books, I thought they could be very useful for younger children. They were the books that I had collected over the years and had already read. I looked after them well and they are all in good condition, so I wanted them to be read by more children. It is my first book donation to my school. I usually share my books with my friends and family and sometimes I give them to charity shops. This time, I thought it would be a good idea to share my books with the children of Normanhurst.

I'm feeling very proud because I know that children will enjoy the books that I had enjoyed reading. I really hope that they find them interesting and fun to read.

I would encourage other children to share their old books so that more and more children can enjoy all the stories."

Well done, Jasmine, that's a great suggestion!



Year 6 News

Year 6 pupils have continued to be busy in the classroom this term.

Art Year 6 worked on their 'Movement' themed art work. They designed their silhouettes in various action poses to capture motion. They carefully thought how the bodies and limbs would be depicted to represent movement. Some children chose to design silhouettes of animals and some worked on humans such as footballers and dancers.

First, they drafted their rough ideas and trialled different designs on paper. Then, they cut out their silhouettes using card. Using BluTack very strategically to block out any paint from going under their silhouettes, they stuck their designs on paper before painting them with water colours. Once peeled, their designs will reveal a plain patch amongst the sea of vivid colours. Children used various brushing techniques and are looking forward to revealing their final designs once they are ready to be peeled off.

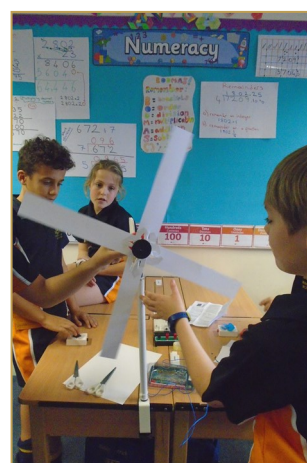
Science To bring their Science unit to an end, Year 6 had a 'circuits afternoon' where children experimented with different circuit components to make propellers fly, to build door alarms and complete many other creative designs. They used their knowledge of circuits and sources of power in order to make their designs work seamlessly. They tried various variables in order to make the propeller to go as high as possible and tested it outdoors.

One group worked on their windmill in order to generate power to make a buzzer and a bulb work. Although their design needed extra work due to some missing components, with their creativity, they managed to make both components work by generating enough power.

Humanities Having learnt about the evacuation in their Humanities lessons, Year 6 pupils had a rare opportunity to hear the story of Mr Brencher who was a 4-year-old evacuee when World War II started.

Mr Brencher, who lives locally, joined via a video call to tell his story. The six years that he spent away from his family home during the war were full of events that helped the children understand the difficulties Britain had to endure for years, and how it was especially hard for the young individuals who had to leave their families behind to live with foster families away from London.

Year 6 asked a lot of questions to find out more about Mr Brencher's life in the countryside during the war and took a lot of notes. Later on, using their notes, they wrote a very detailed recount of how Mr Brencher left London to live in Southampton and Oxford with his sister and his foster family. It was such an informative session and helped the children to develop a better understanding of life in Britain during World War II.





Environmental Challenge Winners

Before lockdown, last year's Junior School Council entered a competition that required them to produce a poster to inspire their local community to protect the environment. Their posters were gratefully received by The Action Pack who run the challenge, so much so that they were successful in winning the top prize!

As a result we now have some seeds to plant around school to encourage wildlife to come to our school, and some lovely story books promoting looking after the world around us. We are so lucky and proud of our school councillors.

You can also see the Action Pack's favourite entries [here](#).



Dyslexia Awareness Day

On Thursday 8 October, Normanhurst Juniors celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Day. By wearing red and making a donation we managed to raise £89.00 for the British Dyslexia Association.

Dyslexia is a literacy based learning difficulty that has many strengths associated with it. On this day, the juniors learnt a lot about the many attributes to dyslexia and found out about many of the unknown things linked to it. The pupils participated in circle times, reading poetry, role play, solving riddles and created a piece of art that every child in the juniors contributed to.

A great day was had by all. Thank you to all the children for their hard work and for supporting a great cause.



Cake Sale Report

We are very proud of some of our pupils who held a front garden cake sale to raise money for charity.

"26th October, the day that we had excitedly been planning for, had finally arrived: we were going to hold a front garden Halloween charity cake sale, along with Jasmine (Year 6), Nina (Year 3) and Elizabeth (Year 4). It was touch-and-go for a while whether we could hold our charity event with all of the Covid restrictions and the extremely poor weather, but luck was on our side. For the last few days we had been slaving away to bake and decorate. Now at last we could decorate the front garden with bunting and balloons to make it look exciting to passers by and, even though it was cold, the weather was dry so we were hopeful that the cakes would all be sold. There were delicious cupcakes, wonderful cookies, yummy banana bread and, the most popular, lemon drizzle. The cake sale was to raise money for 'Young Minds', a charity that supports children and young adults with their mental health and give them strength during Covid-19. After two hours of selling, we were really glad to see that we had made an exceptional £203! It was heart-warming to see all the customers' happy faces." **By Dylan and John, Year 6**

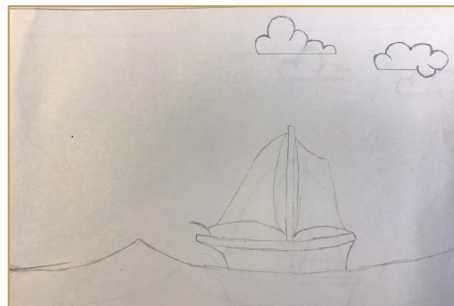




News from the Art & Design Department

ISA Film and Digital Art National Winners We were delighted to hear that two of our Art students were successful in the Animation category at the National ISA awards ceremony.

This is the second year in a row that Sam, Year 11, has won an award for his animations. Sam's attention to detail was clear in his beautifully understated hand-drawn animation and he was awarded second place in the Key Stage 4 category. Watch Sam's animation [HERE](#).



Sydney, Year 9, was awarded first place in the Key Stage 3 category for his animation "The Crow and the Deer". Sydney made this animation in lockdown in response to a cross curricular project with Art, DT, Music and Drama. The judges said "This beautiful hand-painted animation was an absolute delight to watch; I thought the rendering of the characters (especially the wolf) was really powerful, and it told a simple yet satisfying story really well. I also loved the choice of music! I hope to see many more films from this fantastically talented filmmaker!" Watch Sydney's animation [HERE](#).



Congratulations to both pupils!

Year 8 Exploration of Abstraction and Cultural Representation in Art

Year 8 are working hard on the production of their artwork to complete their first Art project of the year on 'Culture, Surface and Pattern'. The students have explored the work of artists from around the world to see how they communicate to the audience about culture and environment. Students undertook some visual research of their own, collecting colours, patterns and shapes from their own environments, and are now using this to create their very own abstract paintings.



This projects gives students the opportunity to explore not only concepts and communication through art but also develop skills and techniques in painting, composition and colour.

Year 9 Pattern Cutting Year 9 have been working hard on their DT design brief to 'Research, design and make a bag that can be sold in a gallery shop for a contemporary exhibition'. The chosen exhibition this year was 'Radical Figures' which was on at the Whitechapel Gallery until September 2020. The exhibition showcased the work of artists from a range of cultures who explore how the figure is used in art. Although pupils could not visit the exhibition this year they took a virtual tour using the iPads in class.



With all of their initial research and experimentation completed, students are now turning their hand to pattern cutting! Each student is making their own version of either a tote or draw string bag, each with their own measurements and specific features. Watch this space for completed products by the end of the term!

NEWSLETTER

News from the Art & Design Department Continued

Year 10 Graphics Research and Development The current Year 10 Graphic Communications students have embraced the GCSE standard exceptionally well. Each student is researching and exploring their individual ideas in response to the design brief 'Research, Design and Make Promotional Material for a New Band'. Through the exploration of genre aesthetics, artists, designers and the music industry, students are starting to formulate their independent responses, generating some very exciting initial design ideas for their final products.

Year 10 Fine Art Lino Printing Year 10 Art students have been exploring how an initial still life drawing can be used to develop a range of different artworks. The experimentation has taken them to mono and lino printing. These techniques give students the opportunity to explore the theme 'Conceal and Reveal' by challenging them to make decisions about composition and how colour and mark making can be used to hide or bring focus to certain areas of the image. The two colour reduction prints produced by the students were fantastic!

Year 11 Fine Art Independent Work At this stage in the GCSE Fine Art course students have really developed their own individual artistic voice. It is always exciting to see how students develop their projects and the areas of study they focus on. This year, students have been working across large scale fabric sculpture, casting in alginate, mixed media painting, animation, drawing with a sewing machine and the always beautiful pencil drawing.

From their initial starting point of 'States of Change' students are now making their work about concepts as diverse as the BLM protest movement, reflection and distortion, illusion, repair and reconstruction.

Year 11 Photomontage Exploration Year 11 Graphic Communication students made work in response to a Photomontage workshop to add to their GCSE portfolio. The session invited students to use found imagery to deconstruct and reconstruct so that they could create their own images in response to their individual areas of study. Photomontage is often a fun and playful technique, introducing elements of the absurd into the everyday, which the students definitely embraced! The results could be used by the students to create graphics for their individual packaging projects which range from packaging for a new fragrance, graphics for a museum cafe and packaging for a take-away restaurant.

Christmas Card Competition Last week, the whole school Christmas card competition closed. It is lovely to see winter and Christmas themed images from the very youngest pupils in Lower Kindergarten to the eldest pupils in Year 11. As always the diversity of images, techniques and compositions is fantastic to see. This year there will be an online exhibition of the entries so keep a lookout on the school website!





House Matters

Senior (Virtual) House Music With all of the changes in school this year one thing remained (almost) the same ... HOUSE MUSIC! The first battle between Warren and Connaught Houses took place this term, it was just a little different. With the current restrictions on singing in groups, the students worked in their key stage bubbles to rehearse their lip-syncing to 'Hall of Fame', a song chosen by the Year 11 Head of Music prefects. Whilst initially camera shy, it didn't take long for them to relax into filming and performing for each other! The house videos were edited together by students; Alexa for Warren and Olivia for Connaught both did a truly excellent job.



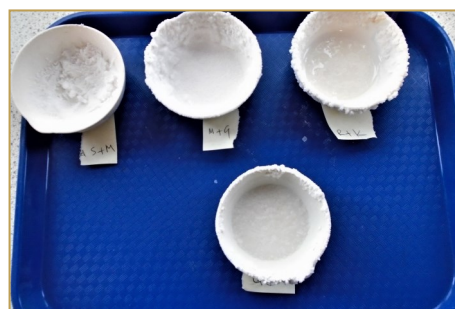
Students were also invited to submit a recording of themselves performing a song of their choice individually. As always we were blown away by the talent and ambition of our students. The awards for this year went to Warren for the whole house song and Connaught for the individual entries. Well done everyone!

House Assembly - Anti Bullying Week Mr Botha and Mrs Parrott took the opportunity presented by Anti-Bullying Week to deliver a joint house assembly. Throughout the week students had been looking at a range of information relating to Anti-Bullying Week. The Heads of the two houses reminded students of some of the people they can talk to within the house system at school, about any issues or concerns they may have. The Houses continue to be a strong support for students and offer a range of opportunities to work together and build a strong community.

In school your Houses are a good place to go to for support.
You can talk to your heads of house or your house prefect team.
You can talk to us if you are worried about a friend or yourself.
You can talk to us if you are a victim or if you are concerned about your own behaviour.

News from the Senior Science Department

Year 7 Year 7 students utilised their skills and knowledge on mixtures and solutions to carry out a filtration and evaporation experiment. They put their filtrations skills to excellent use by successfully separating a mixture of water, salt and sand using filter paper. Once the sand had been filtered out the students used an evaporating basin to evaporate the remaining salt water solution to obtain a pure sample of salt. As is evident from the photograph all students were able to obtain a very high yield of salt!



Year 11 Triple Science The Year 11 Triple Biology students cemented their learning about Natural Selection and Specialisation by doing a practical activity that modelled the 'survival of the fittest'. They did so by using various implements to model beaks to see which 'adaptation' was the most successful at picking up a given 'food source' over 30 seconds. Winners of each heat then competed with each other until an overall winner prevailed.

As always, students enjoyed the practical demonstration of a scientific principle.





News from the Senior Science Department Continued

Year 11 The Year 11 Chemistry students learnt about the products of combustion of hydrocarbons by doing a methane bubble experiment that literally went up in flames! The students really enjoyed taking turns to do the activity while encouraging each other to make the biggest fireball. Of course, all appropriate measures were in place to ensure that the lesson could take place safely, but for many students this is the kind of activity that makes Science so enjoyable.



Bags of Kindness

Well done to siblings Nicolás (Year 6) and Sofía (Year 4) who have been busy caring for others. With the help of neighbours and classmates, they have managed to collect sixty advent calendars for a local charity called 'Bags of Kindness'. Bags of Kindness works with victims of domestic violence and will be able to give the advent calendars to spread some Christmas joy. Both Nicolás and Sofía are very pleased with the amount of advent calendars they managed to collect and as a school we are very proud of them!



Normanhurst Sports Report

Running Club and Morning Mile Well done to all the runners who attend our weekly Years 4, 5 and 6 Running Club. The mornings are getting colder but the runners are equally as enthusiastic as in the summer months!

The Morning Mile has also returned for pupils from Year 1-3, with its first few sessions having 20+ children completing one mile before school. The event is hosted within our school playground and overseen by the PE department. Every pupil who participates earns house points, and the runs are accumulated towards the overall borough competition and initiative to increase physical activity and participation at school.

Congratulations to Mrs Botha and Mrs Allen who both completed the virtual London marathon on Sunday 4 October 2020. Mrs Allen also participated in the Centurion South Downs 50 miles ultra-marathon. She completed this gruelling race in a time of 9 hours and 45 minutes - a personal best for her. Such a great achievement!

Athletics Challenge Due to the lockdown we have not been able to use the Peter May Sports Centre for our usual Autumn Term PE schedule. Fortunately Lee Valley Athletics track has been able to remain open for us to use.

As a result, we have decided to run a multi-event challenge for all pupils from Years 3-8. In the first three weeks of this half term, pupils have been practising the events, in preparation to take part in a competition. The events will include 60m sprint, 600m, long jump and a howler throw. Prizes will be awarded for individual winners in each event for both girls and boys. There will also be an overall winner in each year group.

Good luck to all our athletes!





NEWSLETTER

Clean Air Day

On Friday 9 October, the Juniors took part in Clean Air Day 2020. Led by Global Action Plan, Clean Air Day brings together communities, businesses, schools and the health sector to improve public understanding of air pollution, build awareness of how air pollution affects our health, and explain the easy actions we can all do to tackle air pollution, helping to protect the environment and our health.



Throughout the day, classes took part in activities relating to protecting our environment, including creating their own clean-air superheroes and then using their superheroes in a comic strip story.

Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

'Zooming into Christmas' will be the NSPA's first community event of the new school year and takes place on Wednesday 2 December at 18.30. This really is a quiz with a difference which will offer the whole family the chance to get involved with some fun and cryptic tasks around the comfort of your home. More information will follow but please do save the date.



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

This year the remit of our parents' association is to see how we can bring the community of the school together whilst we're apart. Not being able to see the always entertaining Christmas Nativity play would be an obvious loss to many parents. To overcome this we are pleased to report that we have dipped into our financial reserves to buy the school a camera tripod and microphone. This will enable the school to record our children in action and, who knows, it may help to create the next Spielberg!

In addition we're helping the Year 10/11 students with some 'outside the box' thinking to help them in the year ahead. Everyone in the school has had a difficult year but perhaps those taking exams are most affected. We think that a multisensory active learning experience by the 'Positively Mad' team will help. And not to be left out, the Year 4's will experience Romeo and Juliet up close and personal in January when the Young Shakespeare Company come to the school to put on a performance that we're sure will captivate.

And lastly, for those parents and pupils who want an excuse to get outdoors, we're going to set-up some sporting challenges to help raise funds for the school's chosen charities. Think Joe Wicks in the fresh air! More details to follow on this but feel free to contribute ideas to any of the NSPA committee, or better still join us on a Zoom call on 23 November at 19.00 when we'll be fleshing out ideas.

Until then, stay safe and stay sane.

Best wishes

The NSPA Committee

Getting Social

