

Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER



March 2021



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Headmistress's Message

I cannot express how wonderful it has been to welcome all the pupils back to school. It has meant the energy, heart and soul of the school has returned.

I have been incredibly proud of our school community, throughout these challenging times. Together, we have shown resilience, been innovative, overcome barriers and shown determination to keep learning.

The March newsletter demonstrates that pupils have been working extremely hard and they have had the opportunity to enjoy exciting lessons. There has been a school focus on the sciences to coincide with British Science Week, as well as events to celebrate World Book Day, Shakespeare Week, and International Women's Day.

Normanhurst is well known for its outstanding work in art. We are extremely pleased with our recent continued success, winning two 1st places and a 2nd place in the ISA National Art Awards. The work our pupils are currently doing is inspiring.

I hope you enjoy this edition as we return to being the busy, small school with our pupils at the centre of everything we do.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

WORLD TRAVELS WITH KINDERGARTEN



Making pizza dough

Throughout this term the children in Kindergarten have been travelling around the world. We finished our trip in Europe with France, Spain and Italy.

We transformed the home corner into an Italian Pizzeria where our talented chefs made pizzas in cookery. Everyone enjoyed our pizza oven role play and our daily snack had an Italian theme.

We were also visited by Signora Bonbon (aka Mrs Papa!) who has been teaching us lots of Italian words.



Siddhant carefully using the pizza oven!

KINDERGARTEN SCIENTISTS

In Kindergarten, Science Week saw the children taking part in some investigating fun. The simple science experiments included finding out how soap cleans our hands. We used glitter to represent the germs and watched how the soap made the germs quickly move away.



William taking the 'dunking biscuit' challenge

There was a rain cloud made of crazy foam and the children watched as the coloured rain made its way through.

Everyone enjoyed the dunking biscuit challenge: how long can your biscuit stay in the water before breaking up. The children used both warm and cold water and were able to share their thoughts and ideas on the outcomes.

Finally we added food colouring to milk, and the children loved watching the colours swirl and twirl and mix together to create new ones. The surprise came when we added soap and the colours shot to the sides of the tray; as the children commented "It's like magic!".

The highlight of our week was to be asked to visit the science lab where the children watched and took part in a series of experiments led by our senior pupils. We hope we have inspired some budding scientists in Kindergarten.



Making a rain cloud



The magic of soap!

YEAR 2 ART

Year 2 have really enjoyed starting their new Art unit this half term, which is all about silhouettes. The children learned a little bit about the history of silhouettes before creating their own animal silhouette pictures. They explored using various media that they had available at home, including paints, colouring pencils and pastels.



RECEPTION HOME LEARNING NEWS

The Reception children enjoyed their last weeks of home learning.

We did some work on a lovely story on space called *Here We Are*. The children enjoyed learning about and creating constellations using star stickers as well as making fruit rockets.



Rufus's elf shoes



Khalifa carefully measures his magic potion ingredients



Ahmet's Super Water Bottle

We also looked at ways of being kind and showing this even when we can't see each other. We thought about different ways to say hello which included bowing, dancing and winking. One of their favourite activities was to write a letter to someone to tell them they love them. The children were very excited to write letters and take them to the postbox. Some even sent them to friends in the class which was lovely.

We also did some work on a book called *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. The children thought about what they could use to make their own shoes, and then had a go at making them out of various materials including water bottles, kitchen roll and paper.

The elves in the story also had a favourite thing to eat which was chocolate cake, so the children all made mug cakes which they cooked in the microwave. Arabella noticed, "When it came out of the microwave, it was really big and then it shrunk".

In Maths the children have been thinking about the word 'capacity'. They had the challenge to create a magic potion and give it a name. They did very well, some added 'worms' and 'maggots' and others added 'dog snot' to their potions.

Following on from work they had done earlier in the term, the children absolutely loved creating their favourite character from their 'helicopter stories' - Super Water Bottle. We had lots of very creative ideas.



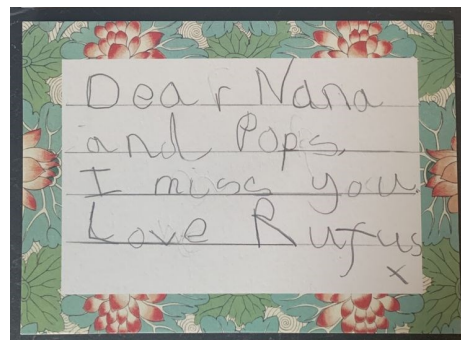
Nehanda's Super Water Bottle



Ozkar and brother with fruit rockets



Arabella's constellation



Rufus posted a letter to his grandparents



Florence's mug cake

RECEPTION HOME LEARNING NEWS continued



**Zara's glamorous
Superworm**

We were very excited to finish the last two days of home learning with World Book Days! We based these days on the story *Superworm* by Julia Donaldson. We did lots of very exciting activities including creating a superworm using a sock, making the front cover of the *Superworm* book based on the work by the artist Matisse, as well as writing a blurb on what the story is about. There were also some fab 'Wanted' posters for the lizard and the crow in the story. We finished by taking part in a really magical Science experiment where the water moved from one cup to another! It was great to watch and all the children enjoyed trying it at home.



Amani's magic science worm

RECEPTION'S RETURN TO SCHOOL

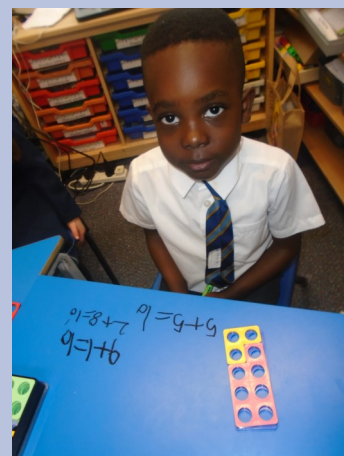


**We missed our forest walks
with our friends!**

Since being back in School, the Reception children have really enjoyed seeing and playing with their classmates. We enjoyed our first forest walk, splashing in all the puddles with our friends and nearly getting blown away in the wind!

We have been doing some work in school on a book called *Spinderella* by Julia Donaldson. The children have loved playing with the creepy crawlies and doing lots of activities involving spiders including making spider biscuits and making spider hats.

In Maths we have been doing lots of work on number bonds to ten and writing number sentences. The children have explored this using Numicon, Lego and hands on paper in order to find out lots of different ways of making ten. They were so excited to write the number sentences onto the tables.



**Learning number bonds
to ten**



**We had fun making
spider biscuits and
spider hats!**



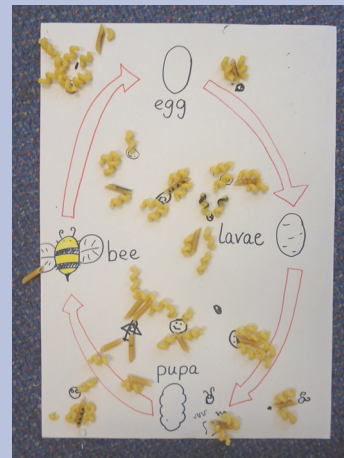
SCIENCE WEEK IN RECEPTION



Bubble fun!

The Reception children completed various science activities during our recent Science Week. We explored what coloured materials they could see the best in the dark and discussed the word 'reflective'. We had lots of fun with bubbles, exploring blowing quickly and blowing slowly to see if we could make bubbles of different sizes, and also trying to catch the bubbles. We were amazed when we watched a video of someone blowing incredibly complicated bubble structures.

We learnt about a Scientist called Eva Crane who studied bees. We talked about the 'life cycle of the bee' and made some bees using pasta.



The life cycle of a bee



Building food structures

One morning the challenge was to create a structure using biscuits, chocolate fingers and melted chocolate as the glue. Everyone was very creative and all structures were different. We enjoyed seeing the melted chocolate turn from a liquid to a solid and to be able to pick up the structures.

We got out a ramp to predict and test which tin cans would roll the furthest. The tin of sweetcorn got the most votes but it was the baked beans that travelled the furthest. We then tested some of our favourite toys to see how far they would travel and enjoyed putting the ramp at different angles to see the difference that made.



Which tin rolled the furthest?

We had the opportunity to explore making music with different sized glasses with different amounts of water. We also built structures using Lego. All in all, we have a fantastic week of science exploration and learnt some new scientific words and ideas.



Making music



Lego structures



AUSTRALIAN ZOOM CALL

Before the February half term break, Year 5 were learning about various features of the Earth in their Humanities lessons, comparing and researching different Human and Physical aspects from different countries around the world.

For their last lesson on this topic, they were learning about Australia and were lucky enough to have a live 'Q & A' zoom with Miss Stone's cousin Katie, who lives there, to find out all the exciting things about Australia. They asked some very interesting questions and found out a lot of information.

Afterwards, the pupils expressed how 'cool' it was to speak to an Australian person and find out about their culture. William commented, "I've always wanted to go to Australia and now, if I do, I know what to look out for!"

Katie (top left) answers Year 5's questions about Australia



CHINESE LANTERNS

This term Year 3 have been studying Art from around the world, looking at lots of different artwork that originates from across the globe. To coincide with the Chinese New Year, the pupils focused on art from China, looking specifically at lanterns which are used in the lantern festival, and important Chinese New Year celebration which was held on 26 February this year.

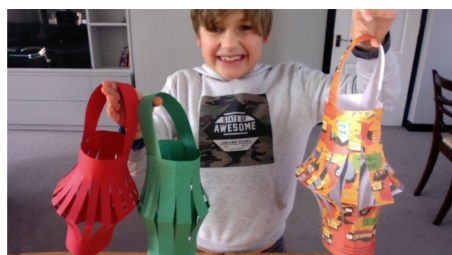
Year 3 enjoyed creating lanterns along with Miss Prebble and Mr Grant in their first Art zoom lesson. Some children even decided to create multiple lanterns, so that they could hang them around their homes. It was wonderful to see all of the different decorations and imaginative ideas that the children had with their Art, including stickers, hand drawn decorations, glitter, pipe cleaners and even googly eyes. During this zoom lesson, the children also had the opportunity to learn a little about the background of the Chinese Lantern Festival that is celebrated every year to mark the final day of the traditional Chinese New Year celebrations, and which happens all across the world.



James



Diana



Freddie



Lachlan

HOT CROSS BUNS!



Year 2 have been learning about the Easter story in RE this half term. We looked at different symbols of Easter, including the Hot Cross Bun. Then, after discussing how the cross on the bun symbolises the crucifix, Year 2 had a chance to try a Hot Cross Bun during snack time. The class was quite evenly divided in their opinions of the buns; around half thought they were yummy while the other half did not enjoy them, with the raisins being the main sticking point!



WORLD BOOK DAY 2021



Nate and Matilda are happy dragons

This year's World Book Day was different to the many other World Book Days that we have had at Normanhurst. Nevertheless, the usual joy and smiles were still there. A lot of children dressed up for the day – at home or in school! Our dressing up theme was 'Homely Creatures' to celebrate various characters from Julia Donaldson and Roald Dahl books. There were big, friendly giants and fierce dragons.

Each year group completed a variety of activities over the two days that we allocated for the World Book Day celebrations. There were class story times, book reviews and many other exciting Live-on-Zoom events.

Throughout Juniors and on the school's social media accounts, we ran Guess the Reader challenges. In one of the challenges, teachers blocked their faces with books, and in another challenge teachers shared their book shelves with some clues dotted around. These certainly made form times interesting as children learnt more about the teachers' favourite books.

It was a great ending to our online learning journey and we all returned school with a 'buzz for books'!



The tigers who came to tea



A very dapper Mr Willy Wonka

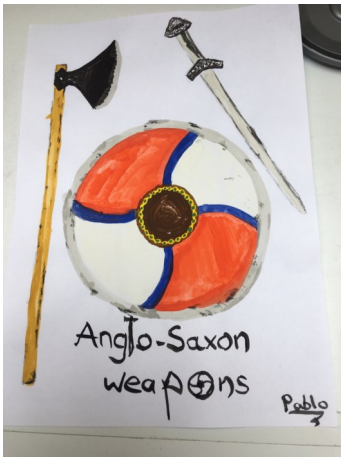


Guess which teacher enjoys reading Matilda



The BFG and his friend the Hulk

ANGLO-SAXON ARTEFACTS



Pablo's weapons illustration

Over half-term, the Year 5 pupils were tasked with a project to create something from the Anglo-Saxon era to get them ready for this term's learning. Year 5 were very creative and did not disappoint; there was an array of weapons, shields, houses and lots of artwork showing what they would look like too. Here are just some of the amazing pieces of work that were produced!



An Anglo-Saxon burial by Felix



Troy's colourful shield

YEAR 1 SHAKESPEARE DAY

Year 1 had a brilliant day and enjoyed completing a wide variety of activities to celebrate this talented playwright. We focused on the comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Year 1 enjoyed exploring this play, which is simultaneously a romance and a fairy story, set primarily over the course of one night in the woods. The class discussed whether they thought this was in fact a dream or not. After learning about the four main plots in the story we did some 'hot-seating' on the four Athenian lovers. Grace showcased terrific acting skills as the character Hermia and Liza excelled as Helena. We also looked at the setting of the play in an enchanted forest full of fairies and sprites with massive oak trees and magical flowers.

To conclude our fun Shakespeare Day, Year 1 spent the afternoon in the Art room and used a variety of techniques to create their very own theatre and stage. The children used oil pastels to draw their scenery comprising three background scenes of grass, trees and sky. Then they painted over their scenery using a paint wash involving mixing primary colours to make their choice of colour. Next, everyone chose a character from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and drew and cut out this character, whilst the paint was drying. When the scenery was dry, the children drew clouds on the sky scenery and then drew and cut out trees and lastly the grass and landscape. When finished, the children could stand their cardboard theatres up and could move their 3D characters around on the stage.

A big thank you to Ms Parrott and Ms Georgie for allowing us the fantastic experience of being in the Art room to create our fabulous theatres. Year 1 loved it!

Creating our theatres in the Art room



YEAR 1 SCIENCE WEEK

Year 1 had a brilliant week and enjoyed working in a variety of different ways and with different pupils. Some of the experiments were done individually, others in mixed groups or with a partner.

All pupils entered the Baylab competition and the standard of entries received was extremely high. All Year 1 pupils were awarded their Crest Awards Passport and certificate for completing an amazing ten experiments.

There were several highlights during the week, one of which was the volcanoes the children made with a partner. The children were able to explain how the baking soda reacted with the vinegar to cause a chemical reaction and that the carbon dioxide was responsible for all the fizzing and bubbling during the 'eruption'.

Another favourite experiment of the week was the paper towel colour mixing experiment. This created the colour purple in the middle of the paper towels once the red colour in one cup joined with the blue coloured water in the second cup.



Making an 'eruption'



Sowing cress seeds

Year 1 also enjoyed growing cress, and many ate their cress at home once it finished growing.

Each year group was assigned a STEM person—in other words someone whose work has had significant impact in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics—to learn about. Year 1's STEM person was Marie Curie. Every child wrote a biography about her life and learned that she won the Nobel Prize for Physics and Scientific Excellence twice.

We went into the forest on one of the windiest days of the year and Charles proved to be particularly expert at using a litter picker. All of Year 1 had an opportunity to help the community by collecting some of the paper and plastic litter in the forest.

To end our week, we had a paper aeroplane competition which was won by Stephanie, and we had fun chasing bubbles and learning about the reason that bubbles maintain a spherical or round shape.

So as you can see, it was a week packed full of learning about the concepts, language and people of Science.



Balancing experiment



Making Smarties lose their colour

BIRTHDAY BOOK DONATIONS

Here are the pupils who have kindly donated copies of their favourite books to our school library on their recent birthdays. Thank you to you all!



Isabelle in Lower Kindergarten donated a copy of *The Bear and the Piano*, because her mummy plays the piano just like the bear in the story.

Diana in 3P I chose *Matilda's How to be a Genius*, because I like reading books, and so does Matilda. This book has all sorts of experiments that you can do. I mostly try 'The Girl Power' experiment, because it is really nice how it ends up. I decided to choose *Why? 1111 Answers to Everything* because it answers most of my questions, especially how to get rid of hiccups. You do this by holding your breath for ten seconds or breathing in a paper bag for twenty seconds.



Freddie in 3P: I chose *Runaway Robot* as I really like robots, because they are really helpful and sometimes they can lift very heavy things for us. I have listened to this book before on an audiobook and I think it is really cool. There are five main characters. One of them is Eric the robot, he is six feet tall and he likes to sing. I hope you enjoy this book too.

Lily in 3P: I donated *Revolting Rhymes* because it is a funny book and it combines two stories into one, and it changes Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk into a different story. I found this book really interesting, I hope you enjoy it too.



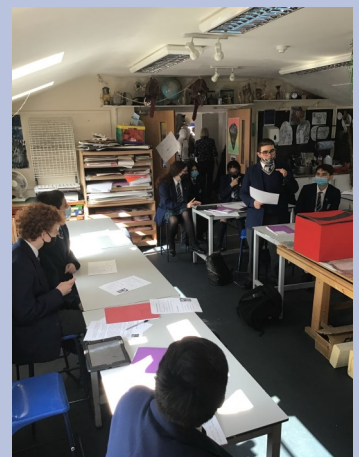
LEARNING HOW TO DEBATE

9E took part in a topical debate on the final Monday of term during PSHE on the topic of whether the British Monarchy should be kept or abolished, after reading and watching the Harry and Meghan interview.

Pupils picked a side to support and used the school iPads to research and elaborate on topics surrounding the Monarchy including money, power and status before taking part in the debate.

Pupils learned how to address one another during a debate and also how to act with the required levels of decorum.

Well done to all and a huge thank you to Ms Parrott for chairing our debate as Madam Speaker!



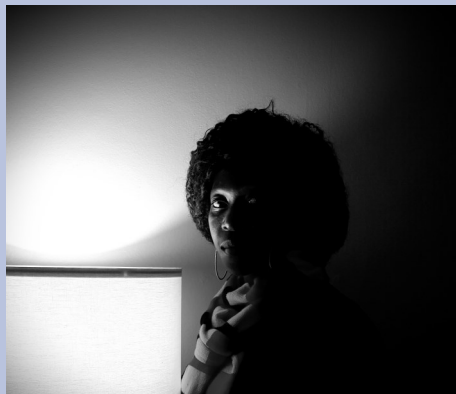
Yusufjan takes his turn to speak

ISA NATIONAL ART AWARDS

We are delighted to announce that we have had success, once again, at the ISA National Arts Awards.



Eva in Year 10 won 1st place in the Key Stage 4 2D Art category



Roxy in Year 8 won 1st place in the Key Stage 3 Photography category



Clementine in Year 1 won 2nd place in the Key Stage 1 Textiles category.

It is fantastic to see the excellent work produced by Normanhurst students being recognised at this level. We are so proud of all of them!

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

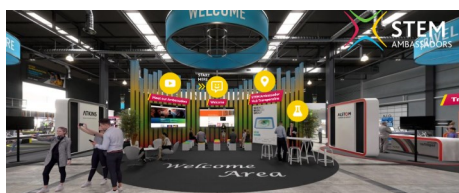
British Science Week this year ran from 8 to 15 March, and so coincided with the week that the students came back in to school. The theme was 'Innovating for the Future', and the students were welcomed back on site with a whole host of activities and competitions.

Online Careers Mentoring Programme for Year 11 Students

The Year 11 students were given the opportunity to sign up for a ten week online careers mentoring programme run by the STEM Ambassadors and Brightside Mentoring. Several students have expressed an interest and are looking forward to attending.

The Bright Knowledge website was also shared with students. If you would like further information, please follow this link: <https://brightknowledge.org/>

Virtual STEM Careers Fair



The senior students also had the opportunity to visit a virtual STEM Careers Fair organised by STEM Learning. Although the event is now finished, the stands and information shared with the students can still be accessed via this link: <https://stem.exhibition.app/> (please note the live chat option is no longer available). The exhibition helped address some common misconceptions and stereotypes that students associate with a career in STEM, with an exposure to diverse employers including Asda, Rolls Royce and the NHS.

Max in 7M commented on his experience visiting the various stalls in the exhibition, saying 'I learnt that having a diverse workforce can increase performance, innovation and better products.'



**STEM
AMBASSADORS
RAISING ASPIRATIONS**
SIGN UP BY 7 MARCH

10 WEEKS MENTORING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-18

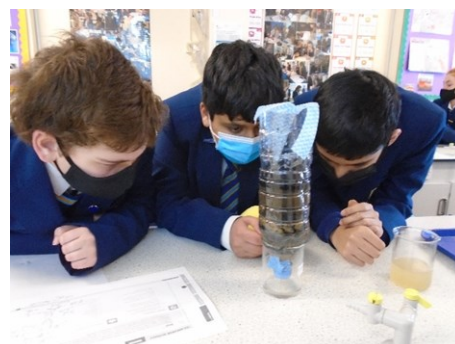
BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK continued

KS3 Science Week Lessons and Competitions

Years 7, 8 and 9 had a series of four Science Week themed lessons where they worked collaboratively towards coming up with an innovation that would help cities in 2050 utilise energy sustainably. They also addressed challenges relating to food supply, pollution and land use during these lessons.

The students all responded admirably to the challenge, coming up with several innovative ideas including solar powered charging cases for technology, self-irrigating roof top gardens, superfood kelp farms and connecting up composting.

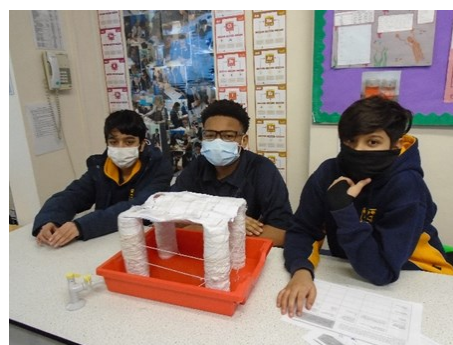
These pictures were taken during ice breaker activities in which the students constructed sturdy platforms for houses built on flood plains, and water filters.



Testing the effectiveness of the water filter



Platforms designed for houses on flood plains



Year 10 Triple Scientist Presentations and Form Time Activities

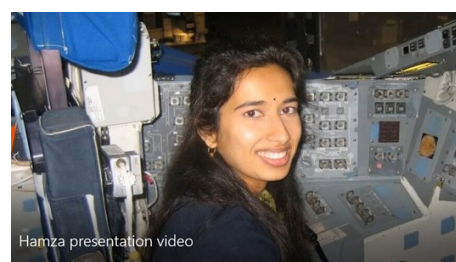
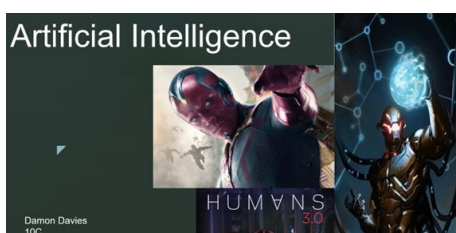
Following this year's theme and in an attempt to smash stereotypes about scientists, the Year 10 Triple Science students Olivia, Damon, Hamza and Malachi all came up with noteworthy presentations about a field of science and scientists whose work inspired them. These were then shared with the senior school during form time along with the fifteen key skills that most scientists need to succeed. The aim of this activity was to prove that all of us have the skills needed to be a good scientist.

The 15 Attributes

Observant	Open-minded	Committed
Creative	Imaginative	Patient
Resilient	Communicator	Passionate
Curious	Self-motivated	Hard-working
Tenacious	Collaborative	Organised



The presentations by Malachi 10B (top left), Olivia 10C (top right), Damon 10C (bottom right), and Hamza 10C (bottom right) dealt with a range of current issues in Science.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK continued

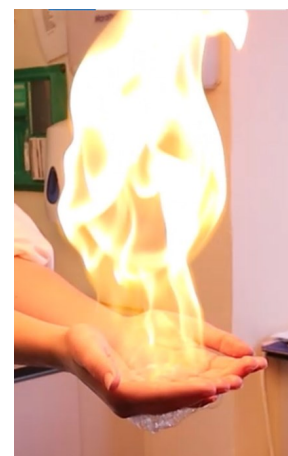
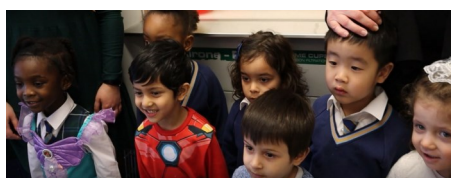
Science Assembly - Science or Magic?

Science Assembly this year, just like everything else, was very different from what students usually expect. Virtual rather than in person, our Year 10 Triple Science 'Innovators of the Future' Lucy and Damon wowed and enthralled our Upper Kindergarten pupils in a video that was then shared with the rest of the school.

The assembly aimed to remind students that science is fun! It does not always need complicated equipment, although sometimes seemingly simple phenomena have complex scientific explanations. The entire video can be accessed via [THIS LINK](#).



Our youngest pupils were enthralled by the 'magic' of science!



NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT



Since returning to school Year 11 have been enjoying some team games. They have had the opportunity to play football, netball and take part in team building games. We have really enjoyed seeing them reconnect with their school friends and taking part in some sports together.

We hope that next term will bring plenty of opportunities for all our pupils to rediscover their love of different activities and their team spirit.

NSPA



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

Just when you get into a routine, along comes another holiday! And much deserved for the teachers who have done so well to adjust to technology, keep our pupils safe, and welcome them back into the classrooms.

Whilst the school has been working flat out, with so many restrictions the NSPA has been dormant over the winter months.

However as spring unfolds, the committee are aware that summer is coming and we have a lot to catch up on.

The third term at Normanhurst is synonymous with change as pupils move up or move away but the Summer BBQ is a stalwart in the diary and we will announce a date early next term. After such a difficult year, and with the roadmap on our side, let's hope that we can go out with style towards the end of June.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

The NSPA Committee