



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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Friday 28 May 2021

Dear Parents

Re: **Headmistress's Letter**

It is wonderful to welcome lighter days and evenings, and see the children with renewed energy for learning and extracurricular activities organised. The Summer term has been welcomed with open arms, even if the weather is as unpredictable as ever. The pupils continue to work hard to demonstrate their learning and understanding in all subjects.

I apologise in advance for the length of this Head's letter, however this term will be a busy term, full of wonderful summer celebrations, and opportunities to celebrate the children's successes for this academic year. As we move through the summer term and restrictions begin to change, we look forward to hosting year group celebrations to acknowledge and recognise the children's achievements throughout such a challenging year. This unfortunately, will not be the normal annual prize-giving event, however I do hope to recognise the tremendous effort that the pupils have made this year towards their learning.

Fundraising Efforts

Congratulations to all of the junior pupils who participated in either 100 jumps jumping jacks or star jumps in celebration of Sir Captain Tom's birthday. The pupils on this occasion managed to raise £85 which has been donated to the charity Young Minds, who continue to support young people growing up and experiencing challenges.

ISA Digital Lockdown Competition

During the Spring term we entered the Independent Schools Association digital competition, which aims to recognise the efforts that staff and pupils have made throughout the pandemic. I'm pleased to say that the Year 5 video entitled Acts of kindness was recognised by the ISA and received a highly commended certificate. We are incredibly proud that this has been recognised and, more importantly, with the message that the video sends. If you would like to see this video again, please see the following link: <https://youtu.be/Db-sxy4YU-Q>

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

This has been an incredibly busy term and I would like to congratulate the pupils who have completed and been recognised with a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. These pupils demonstrated a number of skills including volunteering and taking responsibility for planning routes, assembling tents and learning how to survive and navigate themselves during the residential. This is a huge achievement and deserves to be recognised. The young people have grown as individuals and shown commendable leadership skills in order to achieve this award. Congratulations to all pupils who participated.

Pupil Heads of School and Prefect Interviews

The time has come in the school year when the Leadership Team and staff consider which pupils will be the next Head Boy, Head Girl and Heads of House and Senior Prefect team. We also select House Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects for Year 6 from the current Year 5 pupils. The process of recruiting new pupil leadership teams for next year will begin after half term. Pupils will need to apply for these positions and the interviews will take place in school, with the new teams announced in the End-of-Year Celebrations. They will be presented with their badges and prefect ties.

Junior Moving Up Day and Year 7 Induction - Wednesday 23 June

Junior pupils will spend the whole day in school with their new teacher on Moving Up Day. We are also inviting the new pupils who will be joining us in September so that they can meet their classmates. Each class teacher will host a Zoom meeting for introductions so that parents can meet their child's teacher for next year.

Pupils who will be moving into the Seniors in September have a Year 7 Induction Day on the same day. Current Year 6 pupils will meet the new pupils who are joining us from other schools and there will be a special programme of activities for the day including spending the afternoon at Lambourne End Outdoor Activity Centre. Our current Year 6 parents and new parents are invited to join us at 5pm for a Zoom meeting and a short talk about life in the seniors, as detailed in the letter from Mr Clair.

There will also be an NSPA nearly new Uniform Sale in the afternoon from 3.15pm to 4.15pm at the front of the school.

Year 10 Parents Evening - Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 June

The Year 10 Parents Evening is happening over a series of two evenings via Zoom. This time you will have the opportunity to meet with individual subject teaching staff for academic feedback. Parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers for core and option subjects. Mrs Coates will be writing to you very soon with further details.

Year 10 Careers Education - Friday 2 July

On 2 July, we look forward to hosting our annual Careers Day for Year 10 pupils. Although we are unable to participate in our usual week of Work Experience this year, Mr Botha has put together a fantastic programme of talks from a number of professionals during the morning, as well as mock interviews in the afternoon. Year 10 pupils come into school in business attire on that day.

We hope Year 10 will enjoy these experiences and gain much from them as they look ahead to their futures beyond school.

Sports Day - Wednesday 7 July

I have pleasure in saying that our annual Sports day is back, on Wednesday 7 July at Lee Valley Athletics Track and Field. All pupils will be involved and will compete, while representing their houses, Connaught or Warren.

The senior pupils will come to school as normal in their PE kits and they will be taken to Lee Valley for a 9:15am start. All pupils will compete in individual track and field events until 12:15pm and they will then return to school to have lunch and participate in lessons.

The junior sports day will take place from 12:30pm until 3.30pm. All junior pupils will participate in relay races, throws, jumps and obstacle runs. They will complete at the following times:

- Years 3 to 6 12:30 - 2:30 pm
- Early Years to Year 2 - 2.30- 3.30pm

Please note that these are approximate times and may vary slightly on the day. DE Photos will be taking photographs of events, as they have done for many years, and you will be able to purchase a photo as a memento of the day if they would like to.

We will be aiming for parents to be able to come and join us to spectate during the day, but this will of course depend on Department for Education clearance in conjunction with the Government's planned easing of lockdown from 21 June 2021. If this is possible, we will publish a Sports Day program in advance so you can see which events your child will be participating in for their House.

Finally, the day will finish with our annual parent races and medals and certificates being awarded to pupils.

Whole School Sponsored Walk - Thursday 8 July

We are hoping to be able to hold our charity walk again this year in the afternoon of Thursday 8 July. The children from Early Years to Year 1 will be walking to Connaught Waters. The rest of the school from Year 2 up to Year 10 will walk to the Bikers' Hut in High Beech.

All children are to come to school that day wearing their PE kit and to bring a bottle of water and a healthy snack. We have made the difficult decision to not invite parents this year, in order to preserve our bubbles. We do hope to invite parents to join us once again next year.

Extra-curricular Activities for the Autumn Term 2021

The school office has organised the clubs and activities booking sheet for the Autumn Term so that we can organise the programme and ensure that staffing ratios are appropriate. We will continue with clubs such as Art Club, Knitting, Lego and Multi-sports. As fencing this term has proved to be very popular, there will be two clubs in the Autumn Term. We also welcome some exciting new clubs such as Yoga, Debating and Cooking.

There is a limit to the number of pupils on some of the clubs, which may mean that we have to operate a waiting list. Please would you complete and return your requests to the office as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We will then be able to confirm the places before the summer break.

Final Year 11 Assembly - Friday 18 June and the Year 11 Prom

The Year 11's last day in lessons will be Friday 11 June. The following week from Monday to Thursday is set aside for individual meetings with subject teachers to review the work being used to assess their GCSE grades.

On Friday 18 June we will celebrate their time at Normanhurst with a leaving assembly at 9.30am. We are also aiming for the Year 11 Prom to take place at the Kings Oak Hotel year on Tuesday 6 July. This will be an occasion to celebrate the end of Key stage 4 and we are delighted that The Normanhurst School Parents Association has supported the school to enable this event to happen.

Year 11 Book Return - Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 June

Text books or library books issued to Year 11 pupils need to be returned before pupils leave school. There are two days on which pupils can do this. They need to bring all of their GCSE text books, for every subject, to school in a labelled carrier bag. They may also have library books or text books from earlier in their school career, which have not yet been returned. These can all be brought back to school at the same time. Mr Clair will collect the books and has a checklist of books issued to each student. He will inform them about where to bring their book bags.

End-of-Year Celebration Assemblies

Celebrating the pupils' hard work and success at Normanhurst has been a strength over the years. Speech Day is unable to go ahead, but we are hoping to invite parents into school to attend smaller year group celebrations if permitted by the Department for Education. These will be just as important and will celebrate the achievements of our pupils over the course of the year.

Do come and join us if you can. Our marketing team will be present at each of the events and they will share photographs and video footage with you afterwards.

The schedule will be as follows:

Monday 21 June

- 9am to 9.30am Year 4 Celebration of the Year Assembly
- 10.30am to 11am Year 5 Celebration of the Year Assembly

Thursday 24 June

- 9am to 9.30am Kindergarten and Reception Celebration of the Year Assembly
- 10.30am to 11am Year 1 Celebration of the Year Assembly
- 2.30pm to 3pm Year 2 Celebration of the Year Assembly

Monday 28 June

- 9am to 9.30am Year 6 Celebration of the Year Assembly
- 10.30am to 11am Years 7, 8 and 9 Celebration of the Year Assembly (to be filmed for parents)
- 2.30pm to 3pm Year 3 Celebration of the Year Assembly

Monday 5 July

- 9am to 9.30am Year 10 Celebration of the Year Assembly

Please note that all Early Years children are welcome to join their celebration assembly, even if they would not normally attend school on a Thursday. Mrs Fisher will provide details to parents before the day. Miss Low Ten Que will provide further information for the junior celebrations and Mrs Coates will provide further details for the Seniors very soon.

Summer Term Trips

As school trips are now permitted, we have decided to organise local year group outdoor education day trips to Lambourne End, Skreens Park and Wild Forest Centre. We have been fortunate to secure availability to celebrate the pupils hard work, dedication, commitment and success. Every class has a school trip before the end of term and they will be carried out under the Department for Education's strict Covid-safe guidelines with the appropriate risk assessments in place.

Monday 21 June	EYFS and Years 1 – 3	Trip to Mountfichet Castle all day
Thursday 24 June	Years 5 and 6	Trip to Lambourne End all day
Friday 25 June	Year 4	Trip to Skreens Park all day
	Year 10	Trip to Skreens Park all day
Thursday 1 July	Year 8	Trip to Lambourne End all day
Friday 2 July	Year 9	Trip to Skreens Park (afternoon)
Monday 5 July	Year 7	Trip to Lambourne End all day
Wednesday 7 July	Whole School	Sports Day event offsite
Thursday 8 July	Whole School	Sponsored Walk (afternoon)

Staff Update

This year we say goodbye to several members of staff across the school. Mr Banks, Head of PE and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator, who has been inspirational in driving the PE department toward, is moving on to take on a new role at Forest School developing elite athletes. We would like to thank Mr Banks for his hard work and commitment to the students at Normanhurst and wish him the very best of luck for the future. We have appointed Mr Mark Matthews to be Head of PE and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator from September. He joins Normanhurst as an experienced Head of PE, GCSE examiner and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator, from Holland Park School. Mr Matthews will bring his exciting ideas to Normanhurst to continue to move the school sport forward.

We also say goodbye to Mr Grant, Junior Head of House for Warren and Year 3 teacher. Mr Grant will be sadly missed, but is moving on to Nancy Reuben Primary School to become class teacher and After School Clubs Coordinator. Again, we would like to thank Mr Grant for nurturing the talents of so many of our pupils over the years and for coming up with exciting ideas and events for the children. We have appointed Miss Abby-Rose King to be one of our class teachers, who will join us from Pear Tree Mead Academy, Harlow.

Miss Prebble will be relocating and will therefore be leaving us to take up a class teaching post at St Michael's Preparatory School, Leigh on Sea. We are incredibly grateful for the hard work, commitment and energy she has brought to Normanhurst. She has made learning fun and we would like to wish her the best of luck in her new post. We have appointed Miss Rebecca Rudman to join us in September from White Bridge Primary School. She will bring her energy, warmth and fantastic teaching skills to Normanhurst. Both new class teachers will continue to come into school through the Summer Term as part of the handover process.

Finally, we say goodbye to Mrs Bolton, teaching assistant in the seniors. Mrs Bolton will be retiring after 17 years at Normanhurst. Mrs Bolton has been fantastic over the years in supporting pupils across the school and instilling confidence and belief in the children she supports. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the students and wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

From September, Miss Sainsbury will become the Humanities Coordinator for the Juniors and Miss Collings will become the Junior Head of House for Warren. I know they will both do an incredible job in their new roles next year.

Early Years and Junior Class Teachers from September 2021

We are now able to share with parents the class teachers in the juniors for the next school year. The Early Years team from September will continue to be led by Mrs Fisher, who will work across the classes, rather than having a class of her own.

The class teachers are as follows:

- Lower Kindergarten: Miss Buggins, the Lead Keyworker
- Upper Kindergarten: Mrs Papa, the Lead Keyworker
- Reception: Mrs Allen supported by Miss Sulzmann
- Year 1C: Miss Collings
- Year 2G: Miss Griffin
- Year 3K: Miss King
- Year 4R: Miss Rudman
- Year 4S: Miss Sainsbury
- Year 5M: Mr Masters (formerly known as Mr Dograr)
- Year 6S: Miss Stone

The new teachers have all already visited the school and they will be spending the whole day with their classes on Moving Up Day. They are also looking forward to meeting parents via Zoom on Moving Up Day.

Important Dates for the Diary

Mon 31 May – 4 Jun		Half Term holiday
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Jun		Y1-6 InCas Assessments
Mon 7 Jun		Y10 Morrisby Careers Profiling
Thu 10 Jun		Y10 Morrisby Interviews
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Jun		Junior Assessment Week
Mon 14 Jun	16:00 – 18:30	Y10B Parents' Evening
Tue 15 Jun	16:00 – 18:30	Y10C Parents' Evening
Fri 18 Jun		Y11 Final Assembly and last day in school
Mon 21 Jun	09:00 – 13:30	LKG – Y3 end of year trip to Stansted Mountfitchet Castle
Wed 23 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	KG-Y6 Moving Up Day
	13:00 – 13:30	Y6 Transition trip to Lambourne End Activity Centre
Thu 24 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Y5&6 trip to Lambourne End Activity Centre

Fri 25 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Y4 trip to Skreens Park Activity Centre
	09:00 – 15:30	Y10 trip to Skreens Park Activity Centre
Thu 1 Jul	09:00 – 15:30	Y8 trip to Lambourne End Activity Centre
	15:30 – 16:00	Y3 Camp (Current Year 2) Parent meeting (hall)
Fri 2 Jul	09:00 – 15:30	Y10 Careers Day
	13:00 – 15:30	Y9 trip to Skreens Park Activity Centre
Mon 5 Jul	09:00 – 15:30	Y7 trip to Lambourne End Activity Centre
Tue 6 Jul	19:00 – 22:00	Y11 Leavers' Prom
Wed 7 Jul	09:00 – 15:30	Sports Day
Thur 8 Jul	Afternoon	Whole School Sponsored Walk
Fri 9 Jul	12:00	Last Day of Term. School ends at Midday for all pupils

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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