

Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER

May 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to welcome lighter days and evenings, and see the children with a lease of energy for learning and extracurricular activities organised.

This edition shares times where the pupils continue to think about others. They have created a reading video for The Spinney care home, and have participated in the Captain Tom challenge, fundraising for our charity Young Minds. And on page 12 you can read how one Junior pupil donned fancy dress and running shoes to raise money in support of the National Literacy Trust.

It's also wonderful to share the news of the success of Year 4 pupil Nathaniel in his karate grading, and we commend him for the determination he has shown to achieve this. I continue to be amazed at the pupils' commitment to participate in exciting clubs such as Mechanics, Fencing and Golf.

I hope you enjoy the May edition of the newsletter. It really does continue to show how outstanding Normanhurst pupils and staff are and how determined they are to make every day count.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

April has been another busy month in Kindergarten. This half term we are learning about life under the sea and enjoying lots of 'Commotion in the Ocean'. Many of our learning activities have reflected this theme. Here is our news in pictures ...



Henry discovered how to mix two colours to make a new one, and decorated coral with his finger prints.

Jude-Joseph and his Lower Kindergarten friends painted shiny rainbow fish on tin foil.



Benjamin counted shark teeth and created simple addition sums.



Nathan used starfish and crabs as he thought about number bonds to 5.

On our forest walk, Isabelle and Zara enjoyed a spot of bird watching.



Maddie, Lenna-Mae and Anira playing Letters and Sounds bingo, covering the letters with gold coins and precious gems from the pirates treasure chest.

And finally in our Early Years assembly, we have been thinking about how important it is to share like the rainbow fish. Here is Liana on our sharing chair telling us all what she would share and how lovely it would make her feel.



RECEPTION NEWS



Standing on a T-Rex footprint!

Just before the Easter holiday, the Reception children had a fun-filled week on dinosaurs. We explored the size of different dinosaurs. We thought about the size of a T-Rex foot, and drew this on the floor. We could fit fourteen children on the foot!

We also thought about the tail of a Diplodocus. We got a piece of string measuring the correct length and all held it, we walked through the classrooms and went to the front of the school to see how long it was! We were all amazed, as were other teachers in the School when we explained what we were doing!



A diplodocus had a very long tail



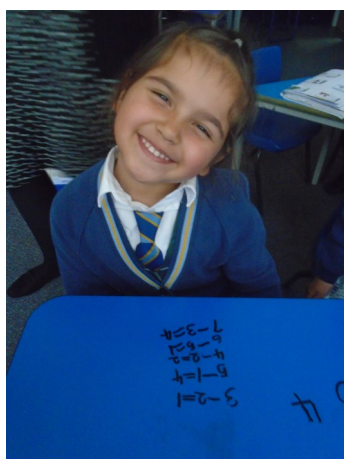
Seascape display

During this half term, Reception have been doing lots of work on 'under the sea' animals. In small groups, they worked together to decorate an 'under the sea' creature using a variety of different resources and methods including watercolours, collage and colours. We now have some beautiful and unique sea creatures decorating our classroom.

Our Science lessons have also reflected the topic of 'under the sea'. The Reception children have been thinking about pollution and have looked at what happens when oil is mixed in with water. They created some pictures in the oil and water. They were fascinated with the way the oil reacted when it was poured in with the water and the way their pictures turned out.



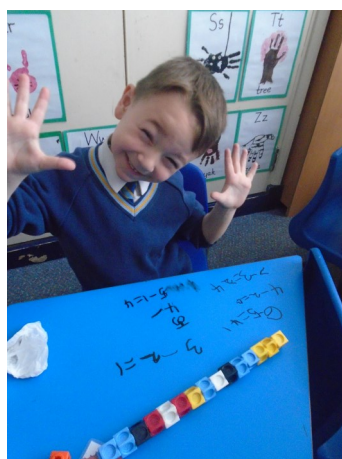
Making oil and water pictures



Zara is pleased with her very neat subtraction

In keeping with our watery theme, the children also used their creative skills to decorate a fish biscuit, with some lovely results!

In Maths, Reception have been learning about subtraction. They have explored this in lots of different ways. They have used physical objects to help them subtract and write number sentences and have also been using number lines to help them complete their subtraction.



Frankie is winning at Maths!



Leah's scrummy underwater scene

MASTER READER CHALLENGE

The Master Reader Challenge is encouraging Normanhurst children to read fifty books in an academic year. Three KS2 children who have passed their twenty-five book milestones were each gifted a book including a personal note from one of the teachers at school.

Children also receive certificates for each ten books they have read. We are extremely happy with the progress our pupils have made so far! There are more books to be gifted to our KS1 pupils this week and even more KS2 ones are on the way.

It is never too late to start with our reading challenge! Just pick up a book and read away! Remember that reading is a life skill and reading more books while in the Juniors will help you with your academic journey in the Seniors and even beyond.



Congratulations to Sofia (Y4), Nicolas and Jasmine (both Y6) for reaching the half way mark in the Master Reader Challenge.

OAK-TREE CHALLENGE

We have had a number of children completing the Oak-Tree Challenge, which involves taking on a variety of challenges in order to achieve either the Bronze, Silver or Gold award.

Aarush in Year 4 has been volunteering at Breakfast Club as part of the Voluntary Service challenge. Aarush helped look after the younger children,



played with them and helped with their breakfast choices. Mrs Fisher said "Aarush worked really hard, especially playing with the younger children."

John in Year 6 really enjoyed completing the Outdoor Pursuits part of the Silver award. He did lots of cycling as well as kayaking. "We would usually cycle around 10km to High Beech and find a place to stay and have a snack."



John enjoying his outdoor pursuits

The Residential part of the challenge was adapted due to current restrictions, and John made a den to sleep in as well as cooking his dinner.

Well done to all the pupils who are undertaking various challenges towards their awards. We look forward to reporting many more successes in the Oak-Tree Challenge.

NATHANIEL'S KARATE SUCCESS

During the Easter holidays, Year 4 pupil Nathaniel passed his Karate grading and is now 3rd Kyu brown belt.

His success is testament to his hard work, determination and perseverance, as well as to the excellent guidance he has had from Sensei Luke. During lockdown, Nathaniel took part in zoom training 2-3 times a week, and he is even happier now that Karate Club has restarted at school.

Well done Nathaniel! Your success is a positive message to us all, and especially to other students who are working towards their grading.



CONNECTING THE BONES IN YEAR 3

This term in Year 3, we are learning all about animals, including humans. We had a lot of fun in a recent science lesson learning all about the human skeleton. We looked at both the common names and the scientific names

for the bones in our bodies, including the cranium, humerus, femur and clavicle. We even had the chance to extend our learning further by completing a practical activity in the playground. We were set the challenge to draw around a member of our group with chalk and then name as many bones as we

could remember. Year 3 enjoyed the lesson recalling the names of their bones and the importance these bones play in the day-to-day functioning of our bodies. We even had the chance to play a game of bones bingo! Our winners were Alex, Lily, Erdogan, Kehanique and Lachlan.



Playing Bone Bingo



Chalking up our bone knowledge

LEARNING ABOUT ANCIENT EGYPT

Year 3 have been learning about Ancient Egyptian myths and have now written their own myth, based on this learning. They thought carefully about who the different characters would be in their myth and what kind of magic could happen.

Once they had written their myth, they then acted it out to the rest of the class, explaining what happened and how this linked to the Ancient Egyptian way of life.

There were lots of fantastic ideas, including a Goddess of Water who creates two Gods, Wet and Damp who are envious of each other, as well as a Goddess of the World who creates other Gods to rule the world with her.



James models his Egyptian necklace



Lachlan and Ethan enact their Egyptian myth

The Year 3 pupils then continued their topic about Ancient Egypt by linking it to their Art lesson. 3P had the opportunity to explore colour mixing and how to dye pasta using food colouring and vinegar. We were particularly impressed with how well the pasta changed colour and how quickly the colour dried.

The children in 3P were set the challenge to create an Egyptian collar necklace using all of their knowledge and learning from their Humanities lessons this term, thinking about the style of the necklaces worn and the patterns that could be found on them. They particularly enjoyed creating their necklaces.

EARTH DAY

On Thursday 22 April, Reception to Year 6 all celebrated Earth Day through a variety of activities. Earth Day is an annual event held on 22 April every year to demonstrate support for environmental protection, and this year's theme is 'Restore the Earth'. The children had great fun learning all about Earth Day and the way in which we can support our earth and the environment.

Reception children created a world by using cut-out handprints which they enjoyed very much.



Year 1 learnt that the earth is in our hands



Izah showing her love for our planet

Year 1 had lots of fun learning ways to be less wasteful and have each committed to do one thing to help the earth. They wrote about this in their Art activity. Poyraz commits to "not cut down all the trees on Earth because then we will not have fresh air, and not hurt the earth". Shalini commits to "not use that much water and to not use that much paper". Elise commits to "use less plastic and paper because we have only one Earth and I promise to recycle". Finally Maya commits to "take care of the world because there is only one Earth".

In Year 2, the children found out about why Earth Day is celebrated and how long it has been celebrated for. We discussed four particular issues that the Earth is facing: plastic pollution, deforestation, pollution and global warming. In their pairs, the children then identified ways that we can help reduce the impact of the four problems. Later on, the children enjoyed a craft activity in which they created their own Earth using a paper plate and tissue paper.

Year 3 completed a series of activities throughout the afternoon in Maths, Science and Art, all linked to Earth Day. They started their afternoon by looking at a presentation that explained the importance of Earth Day and why it should be recognised and celebrated. They also learnt all about renewable energy, climate change and how to reduce/reuse/recycle. Many of the children have said they will try to reuse items like lunch boxes and water bottles.

Year 3 all created a piece of artwork to represent the reasons why they love planet Earth and ways to protect the earth. They really enjoyed this activity as it gave them the opportunity to carefully think about how they feel towards the earth.

Year 3 were also given the challenge to solve an Earth day riddle, 'Why did the leaf go to the doctor?'. They had lots of fun using their mathematical knowledge of the four operations to crack a code that gave them the answer, 'Because it was feeling green'!.



Lily finds lots of reasons to appreciate Planet Earth



Year 4 spent their afternoon creating artwork and writing poems for a wonderful Earth Day display. The children took their time to think about the importance of Earth Day and why we should work hard to protect the Earth. Like Year 1, we made commitments on how we wish to protect the Earth. Aarush commits to "turn off the lights when the sun rises". Nathaniel commits to "have a meat free day". Elizabeth commits to "shop more sustainably" and Aurora commits to "walk more". We also spent the afternoon writing acrostic poems about Earth Day.

Year 4's wonderful class display

EARTH DAY continued

in Year 5, we watched a video on Earth Day, went through a discussion based PowerPoint and had many debates over how to save the earth. We then created a collaborative art work project to promote the message 'Reduce, Recycle and Reuse', and then we also created acrostic poems.

Year 6 started the afternoon with a presentation about Earth Day and found out more about it. They followed it with a fun word search and decorating their Humanities books. The second task was to write a poem encouraging everyone to leave behind a better planet for future generations! Our third activity was a research task where children were asked to research some animals to find out if they were still alive or extinct. They also were asked to find out two facts about each animal which they recorded on the sheet. We had a very informative day and we found out about different ways that we can help save our planet.



Earth Day research in Year 6



Year 5 proudly display their Earth Day project

Overall the juniors had a really fun-filled, informative afternoon all about Earth Day, and we are already looking forward to celebrating it again next year!

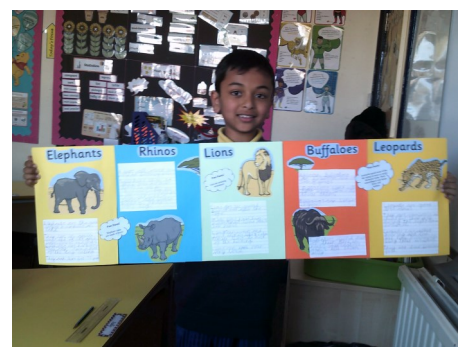
YEAR 2 NEWS



Noah-Hussain investigates the properties of a pipe cleaner

In Science this term, Year 2 have enjoyed investigating how objects made out of different materials can change shape. They had a chance to explore which materials they could stretch, bend, twist and squash with their hands. We also discussed why some objects can be changed more easily than others.

Over the Easter holiday, Year Two pupils created some amazing projects about the 'Big Five' African game animals in preparation for our new Geography topic, "Where shall we go on safari?". The children shared some super interesting facts about the Big Five, including that rhinos' tusks are made out of a material like finger nails, and elephants can use their trunks like a snorkel when they swim.



Emran's 'Big Five' fact file

Linking with the Safari topic, we have also been exploring African Tribal Art. The children enjoyed having a chance to observe and analyse different African patterns, before then creating their own Maasai Tribe necklaces.

Well done for all your brilliant work Year Two, keep it up!

Kelly with her African tribal necklace



YEAR 5 DAY OF REFLECTION

On Tuesday 23 March 2021, one year after the UK went into the initial lockdown, the Marie Curie Charity encouraged people from all over the UK to reflect on the tragic loss of life experienced over the last year and to support those who are grieving. Marie Curie chose to use the colour yellow to show support; landmarks were lit up with yellow lights, people decorated their windows in yellow, wore yellow clothing and tied yellow ribbons on trees and posts in their local area.

Year 5 participated in this national day in the following ways:

- ♦ By observing a one minute silence at 12pm
- ♦ By creating a Lockdown Memory Jar – some shared their thoughts and others chose to keep their reflections private
- ♦ We also watched a Reflective PowerPoint and followed this up with a class discussion. We then worked on a reflective worksheet and wrote answers to questions about our feelings, our gratitude and our memories of the last year.



CAPTAIN TOM 100 CHALLENGE

On Friday 30 April we were delighted to follow in Sir Captain Tom Moore's footsteps by taking on the Captain Tom 100 Challenge, not only to raise money for charity but to continue his message of hope and inspire a new generation of Captain Toms.



Star jumps in the playground



Each part of the school decided on a different challenge. The children in Early Years walked 100 steps in the forest, collected 100 sticks with which they made the number 100.

The juniors each did 100 star jumps and the children were all asked to bring in 100 pennies.

Years 5 and 6 went down to Chingford Plains to complete their challenge. The pupils worked in teams of five to complete 100 star jumps, 100 walking laps and throwing for 100 seconds. They all had great fun and thought it was a brilliant way to celebrate Captain Tom's birthday and to remember him.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped to raise £61.50. This will go towards Young Minds, one of our chosen charities.



Early Years taking the 100 Challenge



Preparing for the challenge on Chingford Plains

PREHISTORIC TRIOPS

Year 5 are studying Life Cycles in Science this term and have been given the opportunity to study the life cycle of a prehistoric aquatic animal in great detail. The pupils have set up a tank in the classroom for Triops (pronounced "Try-ops") to live in. Triops are a small crustacean and are considered living fossils, dating back to around 300 million years ago. The Year 5's are responsible for keeping the tank aerated and clean and also feeding the Triops their food. The Triops have already hatched out of their eggs and are growing every day!

The children have been fascinated by their new class 'pets'. Bella commented, 'At first, I did not know what they were, but now I am happy because they hatched after one day and they just keep growing bigger! They are cooler than just a normal goldfish!'. Felix found the most surprising thing about Triops is that they double in size every day, while William noticed how fast some of them swim.



Introducing our Triops!

ENTERTAINING THE SPINNEY

The School Council and Prefect members of Normanhurst School wanted to share the celebration of World Book Day with the residents of the Spinney Care Home in North Chingford. They recorded a short film of themselves reading an extract from their favourite book, a poem, some jokes or a short story. The residents got back in touch with us and said they have seen the video and they loved seeing all the children and different ages. They were very grateful to everyone who was involved in the video. All the residents have missed the social interaction very much and have said that this virtual experience was special for that reason. They were all so impressed at how well the children read the stories, poems and jokes. Here is a link to the video should you wish to view it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrRPQ6xaMsA>



Florence shares her love of reading virtually with The Spinney residents

LET'S COUNT!

On 21 March 2021, the country completed their Census forms. As a school we took part in the 'Let's Count!' initiative, which was an activity to support Census 2021. Let's Count! was a programme used to help pupils understand why we complete the Census, using the significance of this real-life event as a stimulus to help support Maths and writing skills.

Year 5 completed a tally chart about a variety of different items from colour pens in a room to household objects. William from Year 5 said "I learnt that the Census happens every decade and it was really fun to complete my own census at home to learn how to complete a census and a bit of Maths too!"



Year 5 recorded their very own Census activities

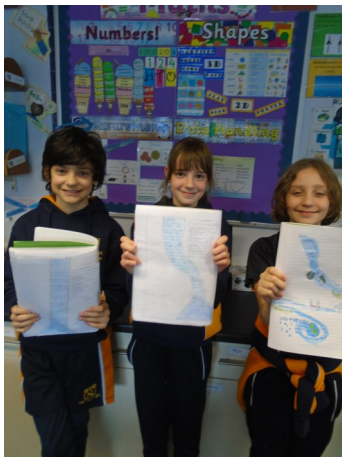
YEAR 5 NEWS

River Presentations Over the Easter break, Year 5 were set a task to research a world famous river and turn their research into a PowerPoint presentation. They were set with the task to find out:

- the location of the river including a map of the country
- how many countries the river flows through
- the length of the river
- if there is any wildlife living in or around the river
- who uses the river and why
- what is it most famous for



William presenting his research on the River Ching



Our 'shape of water' poems

The Year 5's all did a wonderful job and really impressed Miss Stone with their confident presenting skills. They are all very knowledgeable about their chosen rivers, and were respectful when their peers were presenting.

Shape Poems Over the past few weeks, Year 5 have been learning about poetry and linking it to their class text 'Once Upon a Raindrop' by James Carter and Nomoco. The children have been working towards creating their own shape poem with the theme of water. They have all worked incredibly hard to include the poetry features they learnt about, such as, rhyme, onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance, imagery, similes and metaphors. When they had finished writing them, they performed their poems to the class. Miss Stone was very impressed with the quality of poems in the class!



Troy winning at conversion snap

Snapping Up Conversions Year 5 have been learning about converting measurements in Maths this week and to show off their knowledge of converting length, some of the Year 5 pupils had an immense game of snap. The pupils had to find matching pairs of converted measures between mm, cm, m and km. All the pupils did really well, had fun whilst learning and impressed Miss Stone with their knowledge!

LONDON ASSEMBLY (MOCK!) ELECTIONS

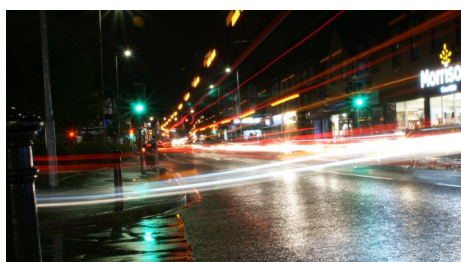
To explore the four main political parties involved in this year's London Assembly elections, four groups of students from Year 9 were allocated a party to research. The student reps for the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party developed their speeches and made slogan placards to try and convince the rest of Years 7, 8 and 9 to vote for them in a special election assembly. Students brought a wide range of topics to discuss and used their most persuasive language to try and win voters! The results were ... in 1st place the Conservative Party, closely followed by the Liberal Democrats in 2nd. Well done to the student reps for their well-researched speeches and excellent presentation of the political ideas.



INTER-HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2021

Another year, another excellent photography competition! It has been lovely to see the whole school community come together to explore this year's themes of Collections, Changes and Dreams, and there have been some truly wonderful entries. All the entries will be available to view online very soon.

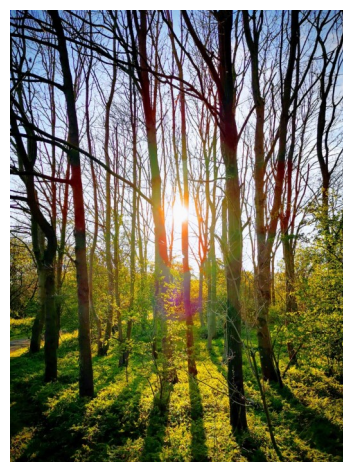
I would like to announce the winners for 2021:



Changes: 1st place for Alex



Dreams: 1st place for Leiya



Staff: Winner Miss Griffin



Collections: 1st place for Nicolas

Collections

1st: Nicolas (Year 6, Connaught)

2nd: John (Year 6, Connaught)

Highly Commended: Gabija (Year 7, Warren)

Changes

1st: Alex (Year 11, Connaught)

2nd: Freddie (Year 9, Warren)

Highly Commended: Sofia (Year 4, Connaught)

Dreams

1st: Leiya (Year 9, Warren)

2nd: Aurora (Year 4, Warren)

Highly commended: Krish (Year 8, Warren)

Parents and Families

Collections: Mrs Bagley

Changes: Dr Fonalleras-Marcos

Dreams: Ms Lutter

Staff

Miss Griffin



**Changes: Parent winner
Dr Fonalleras-Marcos**



Dreams: Parent winner Ms Lutter

Big congratulations to our winners and a huge thank you to everyone who entered!



Collections: Parent winner Mrs Bagley

DIANA'S CHARITY FUN RUN

Diana in Year 3 has supported the National Literacy Trust Charity by taking part in the Where's Wally Fun Run on the weekend of 20/21 March 2021. She ran 10km around Lee Valley and has managed to raise £200 to support the literacy and learning of all children across the UK. She enjoyed the opportunity to raise money for such an important trust, and as a school we are very proud of her efforts. Well done Diana!



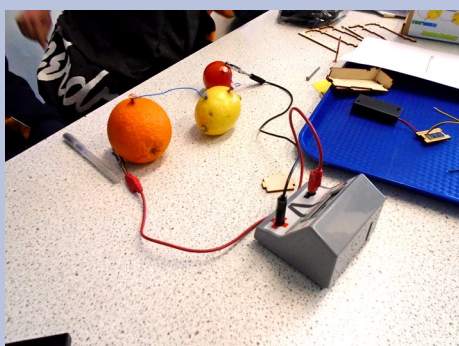
MECHANICS CLUB

A new after school Mechanics Club that was made possible because of funding from the Institute of Physics has been running successfully this term. Open to Key Stage 3 students, the aim of the club is to increase participants' self-confidence, resilience, team-working and critical thinking. Ms Sellen runs the club on Wednesdays in the downstairs science laboratory.

The students themselves have described what they have achieved so far. 'In the first week we made holographic pyramids which project a 3D image of videos played on your device. I found out that a simple see-through plastic pyramid can make a hologram because of the beams of light passing through and bouncing off each other. I thought it was awesome.



Testing our holographic pyramid projectors



In the second session we used tomatoes, lemons and oranges to generate electricity so we could attempt to power a light bulb. It was a challenge, but it was quite fun when we split them in half to test the difference in voltage!

Discovering the power of fruit!



NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

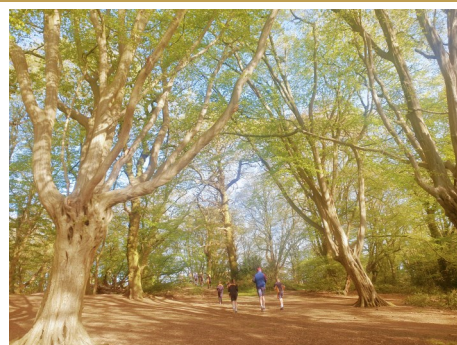


Golf Club

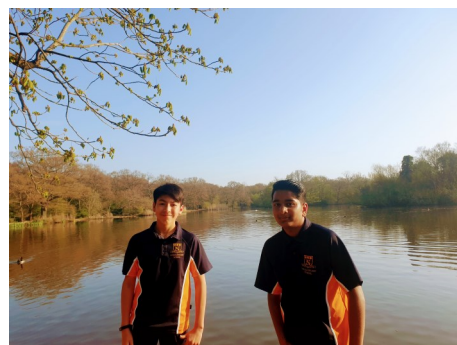
Golf Club We are so glad to be able to resume Golf Club this term. We are visiting Chingford Driving Range until half term and we will hopefully be able to take our skills onto the course after half term for our annual Normanhurst School golf competition.

If your child is interested and you have not yet signed up to Golf Club, there are still a few places available.

Running Clubs Both Junior and Senior pupils have been braving the chilly early mornings to start their day with a run. As you can see, they have been rewarded with sunshine and stunning local views!



Running Clubs



Senior Running Club takes place at 7.45-8.15am on Tuesdays, while the Junior Club is at the same time on Thursdays.



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

NSPA

Dear Parents

The Normanhurst Parents' Association will be holding a Zoom meeting this coming Monday (17 May) to introduce ourselves, talk about what we do

and discuss our plans for the year ahead.

With Covid still impacting on our opportunities to mix freely, we're looking for creative ideas from everyone so please do join us for 1 hour from 7.00pm.

Click on this link:

shorturl.at/hoB05 - Meeting ID: 465 879 4057 - Passcode: NSPA

We look forward to seeing you then.

The NSPA Committee



BOOK YOUR PLACE FOR OUR EARLY YEARS OPEN EVENT ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE