

Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER

July 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

I am very proud of the achievements of all the Normanhurst pupils this year, whether it is in academic work, sport, performance, taking on leadership opportunities, or in being an excellent role model and friend to their peers. I want to thank everyone in our school community for all they have achieved this year.

In particular, I am incredibly proud of the way our pupils and staff have responded to the many challenges this year. This newsletter celebrates some of what has been achieved, but so much more has happened which is not recorded here. There have been multiple acts of kindness, care shown within the Normanhurst community and beyond, and a 'togetherness' that has been remarkable. We have embraced change and had so much ISA success.

I hope our pupils and their families have an enjoyable summer break. I hope that our pupils have time to relax and refresh ready for the new school year in September. I wish all our pupils who are leaving at the end of term the very best in their new schools.

I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 6 September, for another excellent year.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

For several years one of the highlights in Early Years has been our End of Year Celebration. Last year it was cancelled, but on Thursday 24 June 2021 on a lovely, bright and sunny morning we were once again able to enjoy the children from Kindergarten and Reception entertaining their parents and friends in the playground.

Our thanks go to Mrs Job for her warm words of welcome, to Mrs Jones for her support with the music ,and to the Year 4 helpers Dylan and Elizabeth who introduced the children so well.

Kindergarten started by singing 'Under the Sea' from *The Little Mermaid* behind our very own rock pool. Mrs Fisher was tasked with talking about her highlights of the year, and there were so many special memories it was hard for her to choose which to share. Every day there are those wonderful moments of awe and wonder as these very special children just starting on their learning journeys at Normanhurst discover something new.



Christina and Hashim singing 'Under The Sea'

Reception shared their love of learning

Reception told us all about their memories in a specially written song called 'I love learning', which they certainly do!

We celebrated the children's achievements with awards for everyone, and all the children were very proud to receive their gift from Mrs Job and practise their elbow bump.



Ezriella collects her gift from Mrs Job



Florence and Charley enjoying the celebration

The celebration came to an end with everyone joining together in a fun Pirate Sea Shanty with lots of actions. Finally there were bubbles, lots of them, as the children happily went back to their classes and lessons.

Mrs Fisher and the Early Years team would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to all of our Early Years families. We really appreciate your kind words and support, and we hope you enjoyed being able to share this event with us.

YEAR 1 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Year 1 put on a fantastic end of year performance. They learnt two new songs and even showcased their musical abilities, playing the boom whackers to the tune of 'You are my Sunshine'. They reflected upon the highlights of the year, which included Shakespeare Day, Forest Walks, making Challah Bread and growing their own sunflowers.

A big well done to the Year 1 pupils for putting on such a wonderful event; the playground was full of very proud parents and teachers.



Year 1 put on a fantastic show for their parents

RECEPTION NEWS

Reception have been thinking about the story *The Tiny Seed* and have written a class story about where the tiny seed might go to.

"The tiny seed went to the water park and she splashed." - **Nehanda**

"The tiny seed went to the gigantic, wild wood and played with a spider." - **Ozkar**

"The tiny seed went to Africa." - **Ahmet Cemal**



Cooling down and counting in 2s

Along with the class story, they each created a flower picture using water colour and salt to give it a different effect. We have put these altogether to create a lovely class story.

The children also used different fruit and vegetables and (the most important ingredient) their own imagination to make a flower. We had such a range of different flowers and they were all beautiful!



Arabella's fruit and veg flower



Liana is very proud of her monster cookie on Moving Up Day

In Maths, we have been counting in 2s. This has involved various activities like looking at Noah's Ark, and finding socks and counting them into pairs. In the warm weather, we cooled down by splashing in the water and practised counting our feet in 2s - we got all the way to 32!

On Monday 21 June Reception really enjoyed visiting Stansted Mountfitchet Castle. They enjoyed seeing and feeding the animals outside and exploring the castle.

On Moving Up Day, while the current Reception children had a grown up day in Year 1, Upper Kindergarten had a fun day finding out what it is like in Reception. They did some work on the story *The Colour Monster*, creating a monster cookie, painting their own colour monster and writing a sentence about their colour monster. We all had lots of fun!



Eloise feeding a friendly goat at Mountfitchet Castle

SPONSORED WALK

As always, the final week of term has been extremely busy, and with both Sports Day and the Sponsored Walk we have certainly had an active time! The children enjoyed a lovely walk through the forest to Connaught Waters, or to the Bikers Hut for the younger ones. The weather was kind to us, with the rain holding off for the afternoon.

Well done to all the pupils and staff that took part, raising a fantastic £2163.10. This will be split between our three charities, Young Minds, Water Aid and Afasic.

I would like to thank all our families for your support in a year that has been so difficult for charities, and wish you all a lovely summer.

Ms Prior
Charities Coordinator

Miss Stone enjoyed the walk with the Juniors



SPORTS DAY 2021



House spirit!



Roxanne is this year's Vitrix Ludorum



Connaught was victorious



It was great to finally be able to hold our annual Sports Day again after more than a year of restrictions and cancellations. The weather was drier than it had been for many days, and we enjoyed welcoming back parents to cheer their children on.

All the competitors gave of their best, and there was ample sportsmanship on show. Both the Senior and Junior events concluded with very exciting relay races where team spirit was the real winner. Connaught earned a convincing win in the Senior Sports Day. Reiss in Year 10 was awarded Victor Ludorum, while Vitrix Ludorum went to Roxanne in Year 8; congratulations to them both for outstanding performances.

In the Juniors Connaught also won but by the narrowest of margins. Well done to all those who took part, and a special 'thank you' goes to the Year 9 pupils who stayed at the Athletics Centre all afternoon to help with Junior event.

We would also like to thank all the staff who helped to make this year's Sports Day run so smoothly, including all the teachers and teaching assistants for getting the children to each of the events and then timing, scoring, measuring and recording the results, the kitchen staff for providing all the packed lunches, the maintenance team for setting up, the office staff and especially Mrs Lynam for preparing the programmes, the NSPA for providing refreshments, and last but by no means least our two fabulous announcers—Mrs Coates for the Seniors and Miss Stone for the Juniors.

We look forward (hopefully) to a more normal year of sport from September.

The PE Department



Pupils showed great determination

YEAR 2 TRIP

On Monday 21 June, Year 2 had a brilliant day out at Stansted Mountfitchet Castle, despite the drizzle! The children were amazed to learn about the different buildings that were spread out around the Norman Village, including the Grand Hall, the Pottery and the Surgeon's House. As they roamed around the grounds, the children loved having a chance to experience wearing the protective helmet and shield, as well as practising their sword fighting technique! At one point, the class were even locked in the jail! Another highlight of the day was seeing the animals that roam free around the Village; the children were amazed by how many different types of chickens there were! All in all, Year 2 had a lovely time at the Castle.



Irina prepares to joust



It was fun seeing the different animals that live at the Castle



Year 2 loved their time at the Castle

Caitlin – I loved seeing the goats and deer that were wandering around the Castle. I also enjoyed practising how to sword fight. It was a fantastic trip.

Noah-Hussain – I loved going in the Medieval Haunted House – it was really spooky! It was also great to see how the people used to live in the Norman Village.

Harvey – I really enjoyed the Medieval Haunted House. I just loved the trip and different activities because I really enjoy learning about history.

Izah – I enjoyed having a go at sword fighting and going in the jail!



Caitlin is ready for a sword fight!

MOVING UP DAY

On Wednesday 23 June the Junior classes had the opportunity to be a little bit more grown up and spend the day with the teacher they who will be their form teacher in September.

Year 1 pupils were inspired by the beautiful peacocks they saw on their trip to Stansted Mountfitchet Castle on Monday. On their Moving Up Day, they each carefully sketched a peacock and painted it, ready to go on display in their new Year 2 classroom after the summer holidays.



Meanwhile, Year 4 loved the PSHE/Art activity they completed on their Moving Up Day. They made silhouettes of themselves filled with their favourite things that makes each of them uniquely them

Aurora and Aarush display their unique silhouettes



Happy smiles and beautiful peacocks on Moving Up Day

HUMANITIES WEEK



Matilda hand painting in Kindergarten

The week of 28 June to 2 July was Humanities Week in the Early Years and Junior departments. The children enjoyed a variety of activities around the theme of sustainability.

Each class was able to look at two focus books, *Carbon Monster* and *The Not So Green Queen*. The children were amazed to learn that the paper that the books came wrapped in was made out of elephant poo! They watched a video showing how the paper was made, and learnt that an elephant poos between fifteen and twenty times a day! Reception were inspired to make their own paper (without the elephant poo), following instructions to create pulp to which they added coloured paper to make it brighter. They were very impressed with their beautiful finished paper.



Reception making their own paper



Irina's Sustainability Pledge

We were fortunate to have the author of *Carbon Monster* and *The Not So Green Queen*, Katherine Wheatley, join us remotely for interactive workshops with each year group about environmental issues and sustainable living. Both pupils and teachers were shocked to learn that it takes 450 years for plastic to biodegrade, while glass takes around a million years to break down.

The children learnt about the benefits of reusing and recycling, and after reading *Carbon Monster* everyone was able to get creative. Reception reused junk to make something new, such as the washing machine created by Ahmet Cemal. They also made their own monsters out of play dough.



Ahmet Cemal with his washing machine



Workshop with Katherine Wheatley

There was lots more artwork based on the sustainability theme, from the Early Years' Carbon Monster hand paintings using crazy foam, to the nature picture created by Year 2 from materials they found in the forest, to the striking key word collages that Year 6 pupils made from old magazines, newspapers and packaging.



Anaya learns to sort recycling

Other activities linked to our Humanities Week theme included learning how to sort rubbish into different recycling groups, carrying out a survey of recycling habits and turning the results into a bar graph, and studying the importance of trees for the planet's ecosystems.

Many of the Juniors wrote their own sustainability pledges in which they each identified a way they can help to reduce their carbon footprint and save the world. Following a fantastic week of focused learning, our pupils are now keen 'Green Champions'!

YEAR 3 NEWS

PE Mr Grant and Miss Prebble were very excited as they got to take the children to Peter May recently for their PE lesson! The children had lots of fun taking part in different activities, including relay races, ball skills and even parachute games. All the children were very enthused and keen to show off some of their new skills at Sports Day at the end of term!



Erin finds a worm for the wormery

Science Year 3 went out on a Forest Walk to look at how soil is formed, linking to their topic of 'Rock Detectives'. To understand how soil is formed, they have created their own 'wormery' in each classroom, showing how worms translocate the different levels of soil. The children explored the forest, searching for wiggly-worms to put into the wormery, and very carefully looked after them until the wormery was set-up. Once we have taken care of the worms, we will 'release' them back into the forest!



Year 3 have fun with the parachute at PE

MUSICAL MAYANS

Year 5 have been learning about how the Ancient Mayans used music and the different types of instruments that they had. They found out that the Mayans played instruments such as trumpets, flutes, whistles, and drums, and used music to accompany funerals, celebrations, and other rituals.

The pupils were given the task to create their own piece of Mayan music, using items from around the classroom to make their own instruments inspired by the Mayans. The children were focused and used excellent musical and historical knowledge to compose their wonderful pieces.



Making music like the Mayans



Enjoying Mayan snacks!

Continuing with their Ancient Mayan studies in History, the Year 5s have learnt about food from this time period. They learnt all about the kinds of food that the Mayans would have eaten and how they would cook their food. They found out they used the age old method of 'Hunting and Gathering' for their main food source but they also had a God that linked to their food known as the Maize God. The Mayans believed that maize/corn had magical powers and could heal people. They made most of their food from corn and the pupils enjoyed trying some traditional Mayan snacks in their lesson including corn chips and tortillas with an avocado dip. The Year 5s then agreed to go home and try out a traditional Mayan Hot Chocolate recipe that includes chili powder - they are very brave!

IMPERATIVES

Year 5 pupils have learnt about Instruction Texts in English. In one recent lesson they focused on imperative verbs. The children practised giving out commands that included imperative verbs through the use of drama. Each group acted out a scene based on instructions that used imperative verbs, and the rest of the class had to guess what they were doing and find the imperative verbs that were used. They all did incredibly well on this activity.

Felix acts out Bella's imperative command



YEAR 5 MOVING UP DAY

On Moving Up Day, Year 5 were able to experience what it is like to be in Year 6 for the day. They ended their day with a picnic in Epping Forest and participated in some team building games.

The first game they played was a version of an Ancient Mayan game known as Pok-a-Tok; they stuck to the rules as closely as they could, but nobody was sacrificed at the end of the game as they would have traditionally been!



Teamwork by Orson and Shay

They then had to work as a team to complete many different challenges using only certain body parts or movements. They had a lovely time and the sun shined all afternoon. Year 5 were very tired but happy on the walk back, and they cannot wait to be Year 6 from September!



Year 5 enjoyed a picnic in the forest

CHARITY CAKE SALE

On Thursday morning (during the Students vs Teachers netball game and the Junior break), I held a cake sale with many wrapped cakes, biscuits and sweets. We raised £142.55 for the young mental health charity, Young Minds. This money will be used to help children and teenagers suffering with their mental health.

Thank you for all of your support in raising money for Young Minds.

By Kian, 8R

Cake sale
organiser Kian

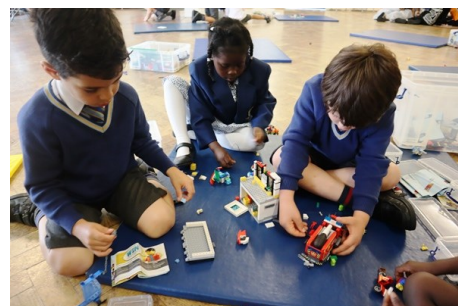


The sale was
very popular
with Junior
pupils

LEGO CLUB

The children who attend Lego Club have had a wonderful term creating some fantastic Lego items. In particular, the older children have been using a 'Lego Boost' set to create an 'electronic cat' which can be controlled via an iPad and coded to be able to do different things. Imogen, Callan and Orson commented 'We have spent a long time creating this cat, and are very excited to see it come to life using the iPad!'. We were very impressed with their creativity and are looking forward to seeing some more items being built! Well done!

Getting
creative at
Lego Club



You can view a
video of this
incredible
remote
controlled
Lego cat [here](#).

LAMBOURNE END ACTIVITY CENTRE



Ready for a day full of activities

On Thursday 24 June, Years 5 and 6 visited Lambourne End Activity Centre for their end of year trip. In groups they completed a ropes course, some of which was over water, and rock climbing. The children were very lucky to visit on such a sunny day, and after many falls into the swampy water they were especially grateful for the warm weather!

All of the children participated in all of the activities and challenges presented. The rock climbing was a great success with many children overcoming their fear of heights. Callan, Caleb, Orson and Bobby were a few of the children to reach the very top of the rock climbing wall.



The climbing wall was a big hit



Falling in the water was all part of the fun

Over on the ropes course, aside from falling into the swampy water, many children completed the 'Tarzan Swing' with great accuracy and balanced on a log in order to reach the other side of the swamp. Saif and Selina were setting records for their speed walking over the log without falling in!

Those children who had managed to remain dry for the whole course were given the option to jump into the water at the end of the day, and most of them were brave/mad enough to do so!

The children were lucky enough to have their lunch break on a wide open field where they could run around and use the various equipment available to keep themselves active. All of the children agreed it was 'one of the best school trips EVER!' They have many funny memories to take away from the day and hope to return to Lambourne End soon.



A great time was had by all!

STAFF VS STUDENTS NETBALL CHALLENGE

Thursday 7 July 2021 saw the annual epic sporting contest of the staff versus students netball matches. This charity event was part of Mrs Botha's and Mrs Taylor's fundraising for the London Marathon. Both teachers are running the marathon for the charity Samaritan's Purse.

Two excellent games were held, with both staff and pupils playing really well. There was exceptional teamwork by the students, with some outstanding shooting skills by the staff.

The staff team was victorious in both the Year 9 and Year 10 matches. Well done to all!



Year 9 and staff teams



Year 10 and staff teams

YEAR 10 CAREERS DAY



Mr Botha organised Careers Day!

Although the current coronavirus restrictions meant our Year 10 pupils were unable to undertake a week of work experience again this year, we could at least offer them the annual Careers and Mock Interview Day on Friday 2 July 2021. The day consisted of two sessions. In the morning, the pupils had the opportunity to listen to seasoned professionals who introduced them

to their respective professions. The speakers were:

Nick Taylor (Investment Banking)

Paul Newman (Journalism)

Han Newman (Sport Psychology)

Sinead Greenaway (Media)

Vinesh Kumar (Business)

Debra Marcos (Medicine)

After the morning sessions, the pupils and the speakers were treated to a drinks reception and lunch, hosted by Mrs Job, Mrs Prior and Mrs Lafferty.

In the afternoon, the pupils attended a 30 minute interview, during which they had to talk about their ambitions, interests and involvement in everyday school life.

The interview panel was very impressed with our pupils and gave them some constructive feedback at the end of the session. The Year 10 group, soon to be in Year 11, has gained valuable experience in how to conduct themselves in a formal interview scenario, an experience that will be extremely useful for the imminent sixth form application process.

The Year 10 pupils would like to thank Mr Botha who organised the day, the guest speakers for their time and expertise, and everybody else who was involved in making this very informative and interesting day possible.



The Year 10 pupils looked very smart in their business attire



Zaeem and Sai during their mock interviews



Guests, pupils and staff enjoyed an excellent lunch

YEAR 7 TRIP TO LAMBOURNE END

We were extremely lucky with the weather, it remained hot and sunny all day. We split into two groups with all the girls in one group and three boys were happy to join them. Team A (the girls + 3) participated in the rock climbing activity in the morning. Everyone took part despite some fears of heights. The stars of the team were Janayd, Kyle and Rosa, who managed to get to the top of the rock wall.



Overcoming fears to conquer the zip wire

Meanwhile, Team B participated in the zip wire activity which was exhilarating for most people, although some found the harness uncomfortable. The first part of the zip wire was a little scary, but everyone enjoyed it once it got going.

After a long, two-hour lunch, during which most of the boys played football non-stop, the team changed activities and the girls

much preferred the zip-wire to the climbing.

By the end of the day, the boys finished off the day with more football, and were exhausted and very hungry by the time we left.

Great fun!

Written by 7M



Scaling the rock climbing wall



Exhausted but happy by the end of the day

YEAR 8 END OF YEAR TRIP



Would everyone make it across without getting wet ... ?

On 1 July Year 8 had the excellent opportunity to go to Lambourne End for a fun-filled day packed with activities. The children were split into three groups, and they all got the opportunity to have a go on some of the centre's most dare-devil activities.

First, they started with an above ground obstacle course that had them working in teams to try and use ropes and tyres to make their way across the course without touching the floor.

Then, they took it to the next level, using those same balancing and concentration skills to make it across water! Several of them made it across safe and dry, but not all!

Finally, they had the opportunity to do indoor abseiling, scaling a tower to face their fears and jump through a hole, before lowering themselves down on a rope.

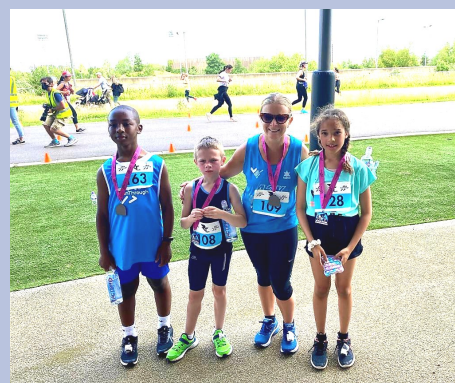
All in all it was a fantastic day for all involved!



Here's the answer ...!

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

Running Congratulations to Year 4 pupils Ewan, Nathaniel and Lucy who competed in a 1.1 mile race at the Olympic Park on Saturday 26 June 2021. In a well attended race organised by RunThrough, Ewan came second and Nathaniel ninth out of all the boys, and Lucy came fifth out of the girls. It was a wonderful achievement in such a large and competitive field of runners. Well done! We are very proud of the members of our Junior running club!



Congratulations to Nathaniel, Ewan and Lucy, pictured here with Mrs Botha

NSPA



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

Dear Parents

It has been a busy end to the term, both for the school and for the parents association team.

We are delighted to have been able to contribute to the seniors leaving prom and wish all of the departing students the very best of luck for their next adventures. The NSPA team have also supported school-wide end of year events including Sports Day and the Sponsored Walk, and look forward to being able to take part in many more school activities in the new year.

As Mrs Job has mentioned, the NSPA are thrilled to be able to contribute to the playground refresh and love that this is something our children have both lobbied for and given their input to in terms of design. We are all really excited to see the results!

Finally, for the first time in a year, we are making plans for the new term. It will be great to see as many of you as possible joining meetings, walks and social events. Here are a few dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 15 September at 7pm - NSPA meeting via Zoom. Details to follow.

Sunday 26 September at 11am – Family forest walk and litter pick. Depart from the school hall and return for refreshments.

Friday 5 November at 7pm – Social event. Details and timings to be confirmed at the start of the new term.

Please contact us at NormanhurstPA@hotmail.com if you would like to join the NSPA team or if you would be interested in supporting any of the events. New ideas are always welcome so please get in touch if you feel inspired.

Wishing you all a really wonderful summer.

The NSPA Team