

Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER



September 2021 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

It seems incredible that we have been back at school for almost four weeks. We have had an encouraging start to the new school year. Our new pupils are settling into school life extremely well, whether they have joined Kindergarten, the Juniors or the Seniors. It has been lovely to see them settle into the school community.

As you will see from the newsletter, September has already been a very busy month. All the children have worked incredibly hard both inside and outside the classroom. This newsletter gives you an insight into some of the activities that the pupils have experienced. This term promises to be a busy one full of rich learning experiences.

Please read more about our activities and events in this newsletter and do remember to check the website for forthcoming events.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

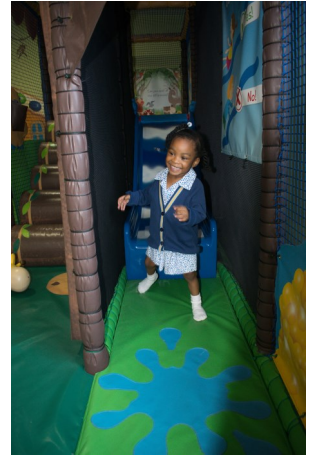
LOWER KINDERGARTEN TRIP



The children from Lower Kindergarten took a walk along Station Road to the 'Safari Soft Play'. It was a lovely, safe and secure area where they could enjoy lots of physical activity such as climbing, jumping and sliding. We were very proud of their behaviour as they walked along Station Road and at the soft play area.

Everyone had great fun on the trip, which was arranged as a 'thank you' from Miss Buggins and Mrs Fisher to the children for settling into Lower Kindergarten so well.

Konur's and Issaiah's smiles show how much fun was had at Soft Play!



RECEPTION NEWS



Angel enjoyed baking cupcakes

Reception enjoyed a fun-filled first week which included baking some cupcakes. The children have practised their culinary skills further by preparing the class snack in small groups each week, which they have really enjoyed.

There is a big focus on comprehension in the new Early Years framework so Reception have been engaging in a group guided reading session every week, where they read a different story, answer questions based on this and complete some activities to build on their understanding.

The children really enjoyed the story *Owl Babies*. One question asked was 'What is special about owls?' and Angel said "When it is dark, the owls come", and Aaron said "The eyes".



Learning about Owl Babies

After reading the story, we created our own owls using a peg, a pom pom and some paint to create the fur effect. We also learnt an interesting fact: owls' eyes are fixed so they have to move their heads to look in a different direction.

In Maths, we have had a big focus on 'matching, same, different and sorting'. We had lots of socks which the children enjoyed matching and sorting. They then had the challenge to create a pair of matching socks using a selection of resources. Ezriella explained how she did this, "I made my socks matching the same as they are. I put tape and tape and star and star."



Emma and Cem show off their matching socks

OAK-TREE GROUP YEAR 3 CAMP

On 9 September, Year 3 had a fantastic time camping overnight with children from the other Oak-Tree schools on the fields of Oaklands! The children developed a range of camping skills, such as setting up their own tents, building natural shelters and coping with torrential rain! The pupils also had to complete a range of group activities, like treasure hunts, to practise their teamwork and leadership skills.



The camping trip was a great opportunity for the children to become more independent; the children did their own washing up and were very brave to be spending (for some of them) their first night away from home.

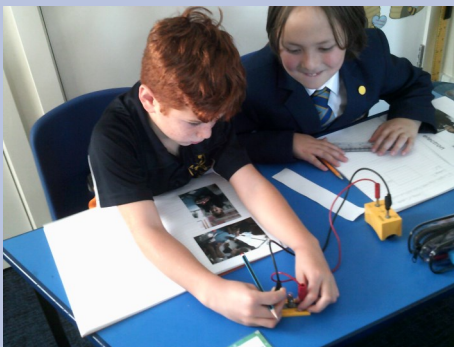
Emily said, "My favourite part of the camp was roasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate by the fire pit", while Noah's favourite thing was sharing a tent with his friend. Kelly could not pick out one favourite part; she simply enjoyed everything about the camping trip!

Sylvie, Emily and Kelly enjoyed learning new outdoor skills



Along with Mrs Job, Enis and Emran gave the camp a big 'thumbs up'!

YEAR 4 NEWS



Francesco and Lachlan succeed in lighting a bulb

Year 4 have made a great start to their learning in Science, focussing on the topic of Electricity. We have undertaken practical experiments with circuits, making light bulbs glow, motors spin, and buzzers buzz! The children have enjoyed this, working very hard.

This half of term Year 4 has been focusing on Greek plate and vase designs in their Art lessons. The children have sketched fabulous designs and translated them into final plate artworks. Well done Year 4!



Francesca's Greek plate

NEW MACS FOR ART & DESIGN

Year 10 Graphic Communications pupils were delighted to be the first group to use the brand new equipment for Art & Design. They even had the privilege of taking off the plastic wrapping! The new Macs, equipped with full Adobe suite will give the students the opportunity to learn industry standard skills and develop their own design work using professional equipment. We are looking forward to seeing their already fantastic design work become even more amazing!



Unwrapping the brand new Macs!

YEAR 6 SUMMER PROJECTS



Leo presents his WWII powerpoint

Over the summer, Year 6 have been busy researching their new Humanities topic of World War Two. They have been very creative in the ways they have shown their research. There have been dioramas, art works, 3D models, PowerPoint presentations and very personalised projects presented in the Year 6 classroom.



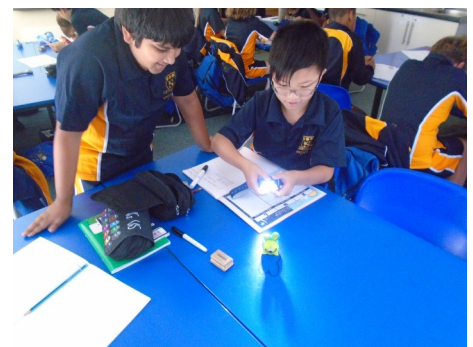
Troy took an artistic approach to the project

It has been wonderful to see what the Year 6 pupils have learnt about the war and the all the different areas they have decided to focus on. Miss Stone was very impressed with the effort made, and lots of teachers keep popping in to have a look at their work too! Well done Year 6!

YEAR 6 SCIENCE

Year 6 are learning about Light and Dark as their Science topic this term. They have been experimenting with shadows in the classroom, working out what size and shape the shadow of the opaque object would be. They had fun drawing the predicted shadow on the table and then using a torch to test their predictions.

The pupils enjoy this practical way of learning. Pablo commented, "I felt like the sun as I was creating shadows!" Shay explained that he learnt shadows can change size when the torch is in different positions.



Shay and Pablo check their predictions

GCSE ART & GRAPHICS TRIP



Seeking inspiration at the gallery

Fine Art and Graphic Communications GCSE students had the opportunity to visit The Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate to develop their individual work for their portfolios. Students had to investigate a range of ideas presented by the artist and artworks including how artists respond to a changing landscape. The exhibition centre-piece was a new work by the artist Ellen Harvey called *The Disappointed Tourist*, comprising over 200 paintings of sites that have disappeared. Students have made connections to their own projects and design briefs, and will use their work created in the gallery to inspire their Art and Design work.



Beside the seaside at Margate

After lunch on the sea front, students participated in some 'en plein air' drawing exercises to record the landscape in the style of the artist. It was a wonderful day taking in the last of the summer sun!

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

U11 Forest Football Tournament On a hot and sunny Saturday morning our U11 football team took part in the annual Open Day tournament at Forest School. We battled well throughout, drawing with Avon House and suffering narrow defeats to Forest and Loyola. Our boys showed some great play throughout with a huge well done to Benjamin (Year 5) who made a plethora of unbelievable saves in goal, gaining the admiration of the staff from all of the schools that we played against. This team's attention now turns to a fixture against Avon House in early October where we will be hoping for a win!



Facing the opposition at the Forest Tournament



Some excellent performances at Chigwell

U15 Football vs Chigwell We took the short trip to Chigwell School for our first fixture against them in many years. Normanhurst's boys stood up to the challenge very well but unfortunately lost 6-1 to their A team, a very respectable score considering Chigwell's reputation as an excellent football school. There were great contributions from Archy and Charlie (Y10) who were excellent throughout but a massive well done to Josh (Y8) who played two years up and scored our only goal, a 30 yard lob of the keeper. Boys from this fixture now turn their attention to our U14 National Cup fixture against Ibstock Place School and our U15 fixture against Mount House. We also look forward to a return fixture against Chigwell later in the year!



Years 5 and 6 enjoying a team activity at Orienteering

Years 3-9 Orienteering This year we have been working on our Outdoor Adventure Activity (OAA) skills. Pupils in Years 3 to 9 have been working on their orienteering and teamwork skills through various tasks involving sporting knowledge, skill and their ability to work together to solve problems. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the module and we are looking forward to improving our provision of this next year!



Morning Mile

Morning Mile This term we have offered pupils the opportunity to take part in a sponsored Daily Mile event. In the lead-up to the London Marathon to be held on the 3 October 2021, in which Mrs Botha and Mrs Taylor will be taking part, pupils have been logging their runs and are attempting to complete the challenging 26 miles. Pupils are encouraged to get sponsored and once they have completed the challenge, they can donate their money to Samaritans Purse, the school's chosen charity.

Both Mrs Botha and Mrs Taylor have been really impressed with the commitment and determination of our pupils each morning, which they will use as inspiration during their marathon runs.

It is not too late to come along and join in the Morning Mile. Everyone is welcome from Year 1 to Year 11, from 8am in the playground.

The school community would like to wish Mrs Taylor and Mrs Botha the best of luck for the London Marathon on Saturday! Here is the link for those wishing to sponsor Team Normanhurst:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teamnormanhurst>



Good luck to our staff marathon runners

YEAR 7 INDUCTION DAY

Year 7 had the opportunity to return to school a little earlier this term, to familiarise themselves with their new classmates and teachers. The day included a range of taster lessons in PSHE, Art and Science.

In the afternoon students participated in a forest school lesson where they were challenged to design and make a kite that could fly! Supported by the fantastic Year 11 prefects, the Year 7 groups worked hard in their teams, with each group successfully creating a kite, each with its own individual design and quirks!

The students got to know each other and to start building the friendships that will support them through their secondary school journey.



Making the kite



Flying the kite



Teamwork!



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

NSPA

Dear Parents

Welcome to all our new parents and pupils and welcome back to everyone else! We are delighted to introduce the Normanhurst School Parents Association, which you may have seen abbreviated to NSPA around the school. NSPA's aim is to arrange events that bring parents and teachers together, and to create opportunities to socialise and raise money for the school.

As such, this is an exciting time for the NSPA as we start planning the activities and events for the coming year that will enrich our children's time at Normanhurst, and enable parents to meet each other in a social setting. These opportunities have been impacted by Covid the last 18 months but we are hoping that this year we can turn this around, and start raising funds again for the extras that makes school so much more fun!

Our first event, the Welcome Walk and Litter Pick, took place on 26 September, and we were very pleased to see so many parents, pupils from all years, and even dogs taking part. As usual, the children were super keen to litter pick and did a great job of clearing the route to Connaught Waters of litter. At the end of the walk, we returned to sausage rolls, teas and hot chocolates. A great way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday!

Going forward, there is a second hand uniform sale on Tuesday 12 October 4 - 5pm in the school hall (the same day as junior parents evening). We are also hoping to be able to resurrect the big NSPA Christmas event: the music bingo and fish and chip night. This is always a fun family evening, and is planned for the week beginning 1 November. The specific date will be confirmed soon.

In the meantime, the date for our next meeting is Monday 4 October at 7pm. Hopefully this will be our first non-Zoom, face to face, meeting in the school hall for a long time, and is open to anyone to attend.

We look forward to meeting you at the NSPA future events. If you have any questions, please leave a message in the school office and we will get back to you.

Best wishes

The NSPA Team



The litter picking crew

A photograph of three students in school uniforms (blue blazers, white shirts, and striped ties) working in a science laboratory. The student on the left is looking down at a piece of equipment. The student in the middle is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The student on the right is looking down at a piece of equipment. In the background, there is a blue storage unit with red drawers and a wooden shelf with various items.

NORMANHURST SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021 - INFANTS, JUNIORS AND SENIORS - 6PM
FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER 2021 - EARLY YEARS - 9.15AM