

NEWSLETTER

November 2021



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

As we adjust to the new normal, we are continuing to do all the exciting and engaging activities in school and outside in a safe way. Pupils have been incredibly enthusiastic to be going on trips to the local area and beyond.

From the trips to Pimp Hall, Kidzania, Museum of London, Mountfitchet Castle and a theatre trip to watch 'The Woman in Black', it has been wonderful to see the pupils excited about learning beyond the classroom.

This year we celebrated Black History Month in conjunction with Dyslexia week, and enjoyed themed lunches, an African Drumming workshop, and the senior pupils exploring the history of Rap music in France. We have also been able to celebrate European Languages Day and UK Parliament week, learning how to articulately debate important topics of interest while understanding the power of democracy. Our pupils have also been learning more about the pressing topic of Climate Change and COP26.

Huge congratulations to Clem in Year 2 who won 1st place in the **Textiles** category of the National ISA Art Competition, and to Olivia in Year 11 who was placed 2nd for the **Photography** category. These were both very well deserved.

We are now working on performances and activities that celebrate the Festive Season. I hope that many of you will be able to attend but look forward to sharing photos in the next newsletter.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS TRIP TO PIMP HALL



Story time in the forest

Even though the weather was damp, it did not spoil the recent Early Years trip to Pimp Hall Nature Reserve. The children enjoyed the playground, the picnic lunch at the 'Lodge', and the games in the forest, ending the trip with a story among the trees.

We also loved the Nature walk where we used all our senses to explore Autumnal changes.

Sannan found an Autumn seed



RECEPTION NEWS



Exploring tastes!

Reception have really enjoyed the topic of 'My Body'. They have explored the skeleton, the different organs of the body and creating a lung using a balloon and a water bottle. The children's interests developed and they continued to investigate red and white blood cells. We explored our senses and tasted salty crisps, lemon, and corn cakes dipped in honey, and labelled them as either sweet, salty or sour. We finished the topic off with exploring x-rays and using 'magic paint' to discover an x-ray of our hands.

To celebrate Bonfire Night Reception have enjoyed exploring fireworks. We looked at different types of firework and created a tally of our favourite type of fireworks - the rocket won! The children loved making sparklers using breadsticks dipped in melted chocolate with sprinkles on. We 'set them alight' (in our imagination) in the playground and wrote our names using them. It was lots of fun!

We have also learnt about Remembrance Day by creating some poppies using cellophane, as well as making some delicious poppy biscuits. Then we went for a walk to the war memorial.



Poppy biscuits



X-ray magic



Lighting our sparklers



Visiting the Chingford War Memorial

KIDZANIA TRIP

On Wednesday 29 September 2021, Years 5 and 6 went on an amazing trip to Kidzania where children had fun and took part in different jobs while earning 'kidzos'. They walked to the station and took the overground to Liverpool Street station and then took the underground and stopped in Shepherd's Bush, got off the train and walked to Westfield where Kidzania was hidden. After a small hold up, we made our way to Kidzania. It may have looked small on the outside but on the inside it was humungous filled with exciting buildings with things to do! Everyone received a bank card with one hundred 'kidzos' to spend. Everyone ran in different directions to do the jobs they wanted to do. After two and a half hours of fun packed activity, Year 5 and 6 reluctantly followed the teachers home. When we arrived at Normanhurst we got our things and headed home with all sorts of exciting things to tell our friends and family.



By Alexandra, Year 6

Packed lunch time is a welcome part of any school trip!



Several pupils wanted to know what it would be like to be in the police

KEHANIQUE'S STAR TRACK SUCCESS

We are always happy to share our pupils' special achievements outside of school. Congratulations to 4S pupil Kehanique who was recently awarded a Star Track certificate at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. Kehanique explains in her own words what she had to do to earn this.

"To achieve the Star Track certificate I had to do a lot of running; we ran 60m, 200m and 400m! I also had to throw the javelin, I threw it all the way up to the net! Finally, I had to complete the long jump. My favourite part was the 60m sprint. I was exhausted after all of the running but I felt so proud because I received a medal and certificate for all of my hard work."

We are very proud of you too, Kehanique!



YEAR 6 EVACUEE VISITOR

On 7 October, Year 6 met a survivor and evacuee from World War II. The lovely gentleman's name was Mr Brencher. He told us all about how he felt during the time he was evacuated and all the adventures he has experienced as an evacuee. Mr Brencher brought in a lot of lovely artefacts from the war to share with us. We even got to dress up like evacuee children. Overall the visit was great and it was very kind of him to take the time to visit us and share his experiences. We are very thankful and all wrote stories about his life to share with him.

By Adam, Year 6



Mr Brencher with two Year 6 'evacuee' pupils

REPORTING THE WEATHER



James, Francesco and Freddie noting the weather

On Friday 5 November, the Year 4 pupils had a fantastic forest walk in the lovely, bright sunshine. They enjoyed having the chance to make observations about the weather that day, noting down the cloud cover, temperature, and wind speed and direction.

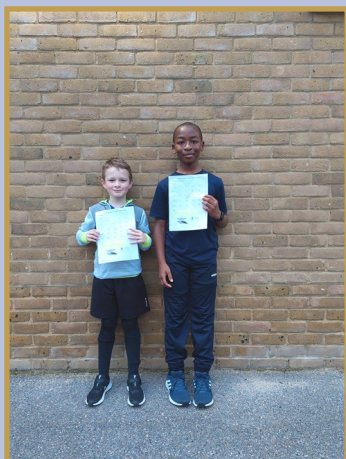
Each of the children had a chance to use the digital anemometer to measure the wind speed and we then discussed how we could use a blade of grass to help us identify the direction the wind was blowing from.

It certainly seems like we have some meteorologists of the future in Year 4!



Poppy using an anemometer

LONDON MARATHON



Nathaniel and Ewan

Congratulations to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Botha who completed the London marathon on Sunday 3 October. Well done to all the pupils who are also running 26 miles to raise funds for one of our school charities, Samaritan's Purse, to fund the provision of clean water for families in desperate need of it.

A special 'well done' goes to Tiago (Year 7) who already raised £40 and Nathaniel (Year 5) who raised £80! You can still donate by clicking on this link:

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

Nathaniel, together with Ewan (Year 5) were rewarded with certificates to show that they had completed their 26 miles marathon challenge during the Morning Mile runs. Congratulations to them both!



Our champion fundraisers!

USING GOOGLE MAPS IN YEAR 5

Year 5 have been studying their local area and they have been learning about various features of maps. In one lesson, they used Google Maps to write a set of instructions for their visit to the William Morris Gallery. They studied various public transport options to plan their visit. Children looked at different timings and routes for buses and trains as well as walking routes to reach their destination. Having completed their instructions, they put together a risk assessment for their visit, which encouraged them to think about various risks they may encounter as well as preventative measures they can take in advance. It was a fun session overall and they thoroughly enjoyed having control over their route choices.



Ibraheem considers the best route to the William Morris Gallery

YEAR 6 HOUSE OF COMMONS

To celebrate UK Parliament Week at the start of November, Year 6 had a debate in the Normanhurst Houses of Parliament. The class were given the question of 'Are the Olympics needed any more?'. The class elected the Speaker, Ilayda, who led the debate. On the proposing side, for the Olympics to continue the speakers were Bella and William, whilst on the opposing side, against the Olympics continuing, Matteo and Alexandra were the speakers.

Using an official planning sheet for the debate, the class wrote facts, arguments and concluding statements to share at the debate. As speaker, Ilayda invited both parties into the Year 6 House of Commons to start the debate. After many interesting debating statements followed by 'hear, hear' and 'aye' the proposers and opposers gave their concluding statements which lead us to the final vote! This showed that the Olympics should go ahead! The Year 6 pupils are looking forward to having more debates in class.



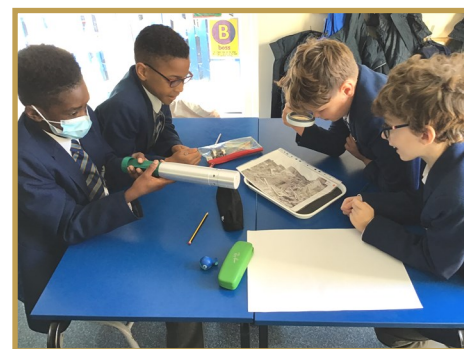
Year 6 become Parliamentarians

ARMISTICE DAY VISIT

On Armistice Day, our Years 5 and 6 pupils were visited by the Museum of London and had an interactive workshop about the Blitz. They experienced life during the Blitz from the eyes of Connie, who was a teenager at the time. They used various resources such as video interviews with Connie, photographs from her childhood and other artefacts to act as detectives to find clues and gather information about Connie and her family.

We were surprised to find out how drastically life was affected by the bombings and how every day was a different struggle; however, the community spirit was never lost and everyone worked together to overcome the difficulties. We were extremely pleased to find out that after all the difficulties she had to endure, Connie found happiness and married a soldier, with whom she spent 70 happy years! Another interesting aspect was that, when the children were shown photographs of rationing queues in London during WWII, they could empathise with those children as we have experienced something similar during our lockdowns!

At the end, they shared their findings with others after each group investigated different aspects of Connie's life. It was a heart-breaking yet very informative session to enhance children's understanding of WWII with an engaging workshop led by a professional from the Museum of London.



Studying artefacts from the Blitz

MUSEUM OF LONDON TRIP

On 13 October, Year 8 were taken to the Museum of London (Barbican) by the History Department to view the amazing re-opened historic galleries and learn more about the city they live in. Highlights included the Roman and Medieval London exhibits and 'War, Plague and Fire'.

The museum offered not only permanent exhibits but also interactive displays which pupils interacted with and were able to independently learn from. Pupils gathered information at various points in the museum to complete their fact finding sheets and improve their knowledge and understanding over the course of an enjoyable day.



Learning about the London suffragette movement

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Across the school, pupils commemorated October's Black History Month in a variety of ways. Here is a small sample of what took place.



Year 4 cinquain poems on travelling

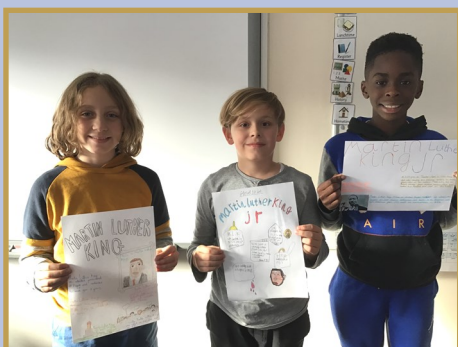
To Be". In their groups, the children shared their posters about why Katherine was "Proud To Be" with the class.

During October, the children in Year 4 read the story "Journey to Jo'Burg" in English and completed various tasks linked to the events in the text. The children wrote some fantastic cinquain poems based on the story.

Further to this, they also researched the mathematician Katherine Johnson and discovered how she was a very important black woman who worked for NASA. The children each created a fact file about Katherine Johnson's life and then in groups discussed why she would have been "Proud



Mathematician Katherine Johnson fits with our 'Proud To Be' learning



Year 6 learnt about Martin Luther King

Year 6 looked in more depth at black history in the UK. They found out about important people such as: Septimus Severus, a Roman Emperor, Mary Seacole, a nurse in the Crimean War, John Archer, the first black mayor in London, and Dianne Abbott, Paul Boateng and Bernie Grant who were all MPs.

In addition to this, they had discussions about the Black History Month Celebratory news stories on Newsround each day and gathered together some research on Martin Luther King. They then produced posters on why they believed Martin Luther King was 'proud to be' who he was. They have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about this special month.



in France. We read about Négritude, which was an anti-colonial cultural and political movement, founded by a group of African and Caribbean students in Paris in the 1930s. Pupils were shown examples of how the movement aimed at reclaiming the values of blackness and African culture. Then we analysed the lyrics of a French rap song, "Blues", by Kery James. It was very interesting to see all pupils engaged, especially in



Senior pupils learnt about the history of rap music in France

asking cross-curricular questions related to history, music, and French!



Year 3 learning African rhythms

On 11 October, as part of our Black History Month celebrations, the children in Years 1-7 and the GCSE Music students at Normanhurst School had a wonderful opportunity to take part in an African Drumming workshop. During the interactive workshop, the students learnt different call and response rhythms, solo pieces and polyrhythms on the traditional djembe drums. All of the students had a smashing time!

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 September, Olivia, Damon, Lucy, Mia and Henry (11B) made a presentation about the European Day of Languages, on behalf of Year 11 languages pupils. Both junior and senior pupils were quizzed about some fun traditions, typical of certain countries of Europe. For example, did you know that "Baby Jumping" is a tradition in Spain? Residents in a small community in Northern Spain take part in baby jumping, called El Colacho, to keep the devil at bay. Men dressed as the devil run between and jump over infants, who are laid on mattresses along the streets.

A Eurovision Song Challenge was also held. Pupils from KS2 and KS3 were given a set of QR codes linked to videos of songs performed in the Eurovision Song Contest. Pupils were tasked with filling in a table in which they answered questions about the country where each song originated. The challenge was a fun way of enabling pupils to learn more about the language and culture of different European countries

At the end of each Assembly, the winners of the Eurovision Song Challenge were selected and rewarded with chocolates and house points. Well done to Diana and Freddie (4R) in the Junior School, and Sophie (9R) and Saif (7P) in the Senior School!



The annual European Day of Languages was a chance to learn about cultural events around Europe

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Thursday 11 November in two gatherings outdoors the school commemorated Remembrance Day with a two minute silence and a beautiful rendition of The Last Post by Mrs Jones.

Pupils have also taken part in numerous imaginative activities to learn about the meaning of this special occasion. Year 4 created some beautiful collaborative Art as part of their work on Remembrance Day. The children then held the poppy wreaths during the two-minute silence whilst they commemorated all of the men, women and animals who have served in the Armed Forces for us.



Year 4 with their poppy wreaths

WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY VISIT

Year 5 pupils visited the William Morris Gallery during the first week back after the half term holidays. We have been learning about our local area in Humanities and we further extended our learning by studying a local artist William Morris.

Our workshop started with an informative session where a lot of information and facts were shared about William Morris. There were samples of his designs and some printing tools for us to explore and study closely. We learnt that William was a very talented artist and had done a lot of work in carpet and wallpaper designing, furniture making, painting and architecture.

Then we designed our own patterns inspired by William's work, and used a printing tool to bring our creative designs to life! It was an interactive session lead by another local artist. After our printing workshop, we were treated to a guided tour of William's house (now a gallery) and learnt many facts about William, his hobbies and his family. Since then, we have completed numerous artwork inspired by William's main theme: Nature.



William Morris's nature-inspired designs

THE WOMAN IN BLACK TRIP

On Thursday 4 November Year 9 and the GCSE Drama pupils saw the spine-chilling theatre adaptation of Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune Theatre near Covent Garden. The actors Terence Wilton (Arthur Kipps) and Max Hutchinson (The Actor) successfully created a suspenseful performance using minimal set, props and multi-rolling which kept our students on the edge of their seats throughout! Overall, this was a fun and inspiring experience.

Ready to be thrilled by *The Woman in Black*



NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

Y7/8 LBWF Sports Hall Athletics This month we saw the return of the sports hall athletics competition which is a London Youth Games qualifying event. The winner of each borough goes through to a London final later in the year. This is a really popular and fun event with a wide variety of athletics events including long and sprint running races, long jump, triple jump, shot and vertical jump, finishing off with the traditional team relay.

Unfortunately, Normanhurst was missing a few pupils and some pupils had to do extra races on the day, but despite not being at full strength there were many excellent individual performances. Well done to everyone who took part and especially to those volunteering to do more than their allocated events. The results will hopefully be published soon by the organisers.



Year 7 and 8 girls at the LBWF Sports Hall Athletics

Netball This has been a very busy term for the Normanhurst netball teams.



U16 netball team

The U16 team has been playing in the LBWF League, and has so far played matches against Highams Park, Heathcote and Chingford Foundation's Y10 and Y11 teams.

After a heavy defeat to Chingford Foundation and a team reshuffle, the match against Highams Park was a much more closely fought contest, with the Normanhurst girls narrowly losing 7-5. Congratulations to Isabella who was voted player of the match. We have continued to work on the team formation and have begun scoring more consistently.

The girls have also had friendly matches against ISA independent schools Kings at Harpenden and Northbridge House. Well done to everyone who played this term.

The U13 girls have also started playing in some matches. They have had a friendly fixture against Kings School Harpenden in preparation for the LBWF U13 League which starts later in the year.

Forest U11 Netball Tournament The first big test for the Normanhurst team this term came at the U11 netball tournament hosted by Forest School. Lots of local independent schools attended and it was an excellent event. Our team progressed through the day and grew in confidence and then the goals started to follow. Well done to everyone who played. The cookies and fruit smoothies at the end were very much appreciated by the whole team!



U11 netball team

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT continued

Oak-Tree U11 Netball Tournament Peter May once again hosted the annual Oak-Tree Netball Tournament. Historically this event has been won by Coopersale Hall for the last 9 years! This year saw a very exciting competition with a much more even standard of netball across all four schools. There were lots of score draws and teams winning by a single goal. This meant it came down to the last round of matches to decide the overall results, which were:

1st Braeside

2nd Coopersale Hall

3rd Normanhurst

4th Oaklands



Y1 practise their shot put

Y1/2 Borough Cross Country Some of our best runners in Years 1 and 2 went to the Peter May Centre for the Waltham Forest Cross-Country on a sunny but cold morning. We did extremely well with Elin (Y2) coming in 1st place and the girls' team coming 2nd in the borough which is a huge achievement for a school of our size. All of the pupils had lots of fun and enjoyed getting really muddy! A big well done to all.



U14 Football vs Ibstock Place

U10 St Aubyn's Football Tournament A mixture of Years 4 and 5 boys journeyed to St Aubyn's for their annual 6 a side tournament. A tough group saw us lose to Forest and St Aubyn's before drawing games against Chigwell and Avon House in games where we just could not get the ball into the net despite hitting the post and drawing numerous unworldly saves from the goalkeepers. This saw us go into the Plate Semi-Finals where we played Bancroft's and we again were the dominant team who just were not getting the rub of the green. Unfortunately Bancroft's had one shot on goal and scored meaning we narrowly lost and were knocked out. All of the boys played extremely well, well done!

Well done to everyone who took part. The next group event will be Indoor athletics later in the school year.

Golf club Pupils have returned to Golf Club on Mondays after school this term, and are continuing to perfect their skills at Chingford Driving Range!

Year 1 PE This term Y1 have been learning some fun football skills. They have also tested their fundamental movement during some sports hall athletics, practising their running, throwing and jumping techniques.



Getting to grips with golf



Years 1 and 2 cross country runners

U14 National Cup vs Ibstock Place A long journey to Roehampton was in store for our U14 football team. After a slow start through which we found ourselves 3-0 down in no time at all our boys bounced back well before finally losing 6-1 and bowing out at the first hurdle. The game was a lot closer than the scoreline suggests with a slow start costing us in the end. The boys are beginning to realise what is required to compete at this level and continue to learn a lot from their experiences.



U10 Football at St Aubyn's

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT continued

Cross Country On 15 October Ethan and I took part in the Waltham Forest Schools Cross Country at Leyton Jubilee Park. It was a good course, with mixed terrain, including grass, tarmac, gravel and even a small hill. As the races started it began to rain quite hard, meaning it was quite slippery, there was a vicious corner right at the end, where lots of people slipped.

We both ran a good, tactical race, starting steadily and keeping to the middle, so that on the last lap we could make a good push for the finish. Ethan came 12th out of a field of 75, an amazing achievement, and I came 3rd with a time of 13.55 over a distance of 3km, a result I'm really proud of. Afterwards we had a hot chocolate and cookie, as a reward for a race well run and also to warm up after being soaked! Cross Country season is just starting, so hopefully there'll be more reports to come as we get more chances to compete. The races will get colder and muddier, but that is half the fun!



Ethan (9B) and Lucy (11B)

By Lucy, 11B



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

NSPA

Dear Parents

The NSPA is gearing up for Christmas and we are still finding ways to raise money for the children. It is still not advisable to meet in person and so our planned Christmas quiz in the school hall has had to be postponed ... for the moment. But we are looking into replacing this with an online Zoom quiz. Last year's NSPA Christmas Zoom was brilliant fun - with a whole-house scavenger hunt, and a spontaneous Olaf costume competition - so please look out for information about this.

However, not to be put off, we are already putting arrangements together for events for 2022, and dates for your diary so far are the Juniors' disco to be held on Friday 4 February, and an extra special school barbeque on Saturday 21 May.

We are very pleased to say that already this term we have arranged funding for a wonderful woodwork bench and tools for the Early Years! This is extremely exciting for the NSPA as it ties in very well with one of our aims, to encourage sustainability within learning, and we hope to see photos of the children's creative work very soon. The NSPA has also paid for a visit from a panto company, accompanied by a very mischievous Elf, which looks set to cause chaos amongst the children and teachers just before the Christmas break!

Also, continuing with the sustainability theme, a reminder that the NSPA is in charge of the second-hand uniform sales, and all money from this goes towards NSPA-funded events and activities for the children. This is extremely useful in stocking up on PE kits and school uniform for your children - and saves another journey over to Forest Casuals! Our next uniform sales stall will be on 1 February, or alternatively, please place an order through the school office.

Finally, we will be outside the school gates in the last couple of weeks of term selling our Christmas raffle tickets, the prizes being one of a number of Christmas hampers. Please buy to be in with a chance of winning one of these lovely Christmas prizes!

Wishing you all the warmest of season's greetings from all on the Normanhurst School Parents Association, and looking forward to catching up again in 2022!

Best wishes

The NSPA Team