

# Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER

January 2022



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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Spring Term, although we were all hoping for sunnier, warmer days. This first newsletter of 2022 provides another opportunity to celebrate the enthusiasm, perseverance and dedication of all our pupils. They have returned refreshed and established good learning routines. We can also celebrate that Transport for London has awarded Normanhurst School the London STARS Schools Travel Plan award at GOLD level, demonstrating our commitment towards a safer and healthier school environment.

This term has been eventful with 11+ entrance exams, and meeting many prospective parents. Year 11 are focused on preparing for their mock exams in March and we look forward celebrating Chinese New Year very soon.

The pupils have been involved in many different activities and events, from careers talks delivered by our parents, parents evenings, revision and sexual health workshops, trips to Kew Gardens, the Imperial War Museum and the F45 Fitness Centre, Sports Hall Athletics, and many more.

I hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful activities the pupils have been participating in.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Jacqueline Job**  
Headmistress



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS



**Making beaver habitats**

This term in Kindergarten they have been looking at the topic of 'Around the World'. In the first full week back, they visited Canada. They read the story of 'Little Beaver and the Echo' and turned the role play area into a forest camp.



**Moose print cookies!**

The children enjoyed making moose print cookies, playing the 'Racing Beavers' game and creating beaver dams and lodges from lots of different media. In their Letters and Sounds work they discovered 'oo' and made paper bag puppets like in the story of 'The Moose on the Loose'.



**Our Moose on the Loose puppets**

After visiting Canada, Upper Kindergarten then transported themselves down under to Australia the following week. The children had a fun afternoon at the Great Barrier Reef. They painted fish pictures that we then helped them to put into an interactive sea world on 'Squigglefish'.



**Water play in Lower Kindergarten**



**Great Barrier Reef sea creatures**

There was lots of messy play to explore and they even created an underwater role play area using the blue of the projector, the sounds of the sea, bubbles and pictures projected onto the ceiling and walls. They could all pretend to be their favourite sea creature out for a swim with their friends. Finally, snack was fishy shaped bread and butter prepared by the children. They had a lovely time and learnt so much about the Great Barrier Reef.

Lower Kindergarten made balloon worlds and learnt about heavy and light. Throughout the week our youngest children thoroughly enjoyed lots of water and messy play



**'Under the sea' adventure**

Finally, we would like to extend a big thank you to the NSPA from everyone in the Early Years for the lovely new woodwork bench!

The bench has already proved very popular with the children who have been learning how to use it safely. They have demonstrated great care and attention as they enjoy sawing, screwing and hammering

As you can see, everyone has given the new bench a big thumbs up!



**A big 'thumbs up' for our new woodwork bench!**

## RECEPTION NEWS

In their Maths lessons, Reception have enjoyed learning how to double a number. They started off by using a mirror and using some miniature people and teddies to double a number. Cem decided to extend himself and said 'I have 8 here and 8 in the mirror so double 8 is 16'. They also had different shapes and painted a number of dots of one side, folded it in half and found out what double the number was.



**We had perfect winter weather for our first forest walk of term**



**A bobble hat makes a good blindfold for our 'Pin the Tail' game**

Reception have loved going back out on their forest walks and exploring Epping Forest. They enjoyed splashing in the puddles and seeing some frost and ice still about. They explored different types of leaves they might find in Epping Forest and discovered there are lots of holly bushes in the forest. They even played 'Pin the Tail on the Kangaroo'!

Reception love Science! They read the story 'Ada Twist Scientist' which is all about a child's interest in Science. After this they became scientists and tried a few exciting experiments themselves in class. One included lighting a candle, putting a jar on top and watching the water rise up in the jar when the candle went out. In the other experiment they made 'dancing popcorn'. It was all very exciting!!



**We used paint spots on symmetrical shapes to explore Doubles**



**Awe and wonder at the candle in the jar experiment**

## FASHION DESIGN CLUB

The first week of the Fashion Design Club started with a bang! The children were introduced to the world of design, understanding the difference between high-end fashion and high street fashion. They focused on a few specific designers and stores.

Next, the children were introduced to the idea of a mood/storyboard. This is the initial concept of all designs. They build the board with inspirational images and a colour palette. This board will be used as the foundation of their garment designs moving forward for the following weeks. Next time, they will be looking at the initial sketching of garments.



**The children created these amazing mood boards—we have some budding fashion designers in the making!**



## YEAR 4 ROMAN VILLAS



**Alicia explains the features of her villa to Miss Low Ten Que**

Well done Year 4 pupils!

Over the Christmas holidays, Year 4 were set a project to design and create a 3D model of a Roman Villa. They had to research the features of a villa (using books and the internet). The key areas to focus on were the bathhouse, columns and arches, mosaic floors, and central heating.

The children presented their villas to Ms Low Ten Que in an exhibition style presentation. She was very impressed with the level of detail and hard work put into the villas.

**Lily Rose displays the mosaic floors of her villa**



**Diana presents her beautiful villa**



## YEAR 1 BECOME PALAEOLOGISTS

In Humanities Year 1 have been learning about significant individuals from the past. In one recent lesson, they learnt about the famous Palaeontologist Mary Anning. They discovered how she found dinosaur fossils, then they looked at fossils of a prehistoric mammoth, and even became Palaeontologists themselves.

Working in teams, they were given two frozen dinosaur eggs, a wooden chisel, some salt, cold and warm water. Each team was challenged to 'excavate' their dinosaur fossil in the quickest time using the equipment provided. It was so interesting to see how the salt melted the eggs!

To conclude the dinosaur afternoon, they completed some dinosaur yoga! It was a brilliant day.



**A frozen dinosaur egg**

## YEAR 2 GEOGRAPHERS

Over the Christmas holiday, Year 2 pupils worked extremely hard on their Geography projects learning about the seven continents and five oceans.

Each pupil then presented their work to the class and explained what they learnt. The projects were very impressive and all pupils should feel proud of their efforts!

**Alexandra with her globe**



## STATES OF MATTER IN YEAR 4

Year 4 have been enjoying their Science lessons this term, based around their new topic, 'States of Matter'.

They started the topic by undertaking a number of experiments observing air, using their scientific knowledge of materials. They really enjoyed their practical investigations and found out lots about solids, liquids, and gases.

**Erin and Mason examining a solid**



## STEM CLUB

The Science Department are really pleased to introduce STEM Club for Key Stage 3 pupils, with the aim of developing their knowledge and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (hence STEM).

Miss Wren and the club members are currently working on a challenge 'To Design a piece of wearable technology to help people live a more sustainable lifestyle', whereby the students have been researching the different Sustainable Development Goals and Designing Wearable Technology that can solve some of the biggest issues facing our planet.

Sayfullah (Y7) has been designing a wearable band that will be linked to solving health issues created by air pollution. Imogen, Nicolas and John (Y7) are working as a team to design a shoe that will be addressing issues to do with arthritis in older generations.

All very exciting! Miss Wren can't wait to see their final presentations, and we look forward to reporting on them in future newsletters.

## YEAR 9 TRIP TO IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Students in Year 9 really enjoyed visiting the Imperial War Museum on Friday 21 January. They explored the history of the First and Second World Wars through the eyes of the British people and the Empire, both on the home front and the fighting fronts.

On display were over 1,300 objects from IWM's collections including weapons, uniforms, diaries, keepsakes, film and art. Each object on display gave a voice to the people who created them, used them or cared for them, and revealed stories not only of destruction, suffering and loss, but also endurance and innovation, duty and devotion, comradeship and love within the interactive galleries.

Our students worked extremely well to complete the documentary challenge provided for their tour and were afterwards guided through an exhibition on the Holocaust to support their learning in both History and Religious Studies.



**Year 9 outside the Imperial War Museum**

## INNER WORKINGS OF THE EYE

In GCSE Biology, our Year 10 triple scientists have been learning about the structure of the eye and how it functions. This involved a very careful and slightly messy dissection of sheep eyes!

The pupils each had their own sample and were able to cut through the protective outer layer (sclera) and see for themselves the inner structures of the eye – including the lens, retina and blind spot. They successfully linked what they saw to their prior theoretical knowledge to enhance their understanding of the eye.



Sydney gets to grips with his sample

## REVISION SKILLS WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday 19 January, Normanhurst seniors welcomed back Natalie from 'Positively You' who led a day of workshops across Years 7-11 on revision skills before hosting a zoom parental event in the evening.

The excellent workshops aimed to enhance student learning and recall, to boost creativity, to plan effectively and to be a note-taker extraordinaire! Mind mapping was focused on, which is a skill that, once mastered, can be applied to all subjects and can be used to show high order thinking skills, like analysis and synthesis. Mind maps are also a superb way to boost imagination and creativity.

Pupil and parental engagement and feedback was extremely positive and we are confident that pupils will build on these sessions for forthcoming tests and exams in their school career.



Year 11 discovering how mind-mapping can help their revision

## NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

**Hockey** This term is our school hockey term for all pupils from Years 1-9. The children have been progressing their hockey skills or just being introduced to the sport depending on their school year. The enthusiasm for the sport is excellent and all children are progressing well.



Hockey season!

The sport does require protective equipment which includes a mouth guard and shin pads for pupils from Years 3-9. Without this equipment children will not be able to experience a competitive match and can only take part in isolated skills.

Our youngest pupils are learning hockey skills using our uni-hockey equipment which is a light plastic stick and larger softer balls. This helps them safely acquire the skills necessary to progress to real hockey from Year 3.

This unit of work will culminate in a full round of inter-house matches during the last week before half term for all year groups.



Younger pupils using uni-hockey equipment



## NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT continued

**Waltham Forest Sports Hall Athletics** Year 3 & 4 pupils have enjoyed taking part in a sports hall athletics event run at Peter May, where they were involved in races and field events. They had to throw a foam javelin, perform a vertical jump, long jump, ball chest push, and test their throwing accuracy. The races were a mixture of team events with 2-4 runners in a team. There was a few different obstacle races and several different length running races with a team relay to finish.



**Alex tests his skills at the sports hall athletics**



**Year 4 pupil Nina preparing her javelin throw**

we didn't come first overall, students were very happy that they participated as it was incredibly fun.

**By Rosa, Year 8 Sports Helper.**

### **Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics Tournament**

On Friday 21 January some of the Year 3s and 4s competed in an athletics competition against Oaklands, Braeside and Coopersale. A few Year 8 pupils were in attendance to help run the activities. Normanhurst were very enthusiastic, listened sensibly and followed instructions perfectly. There were 5 activities including the speed bounce, long jump, vertical jump, chest push and the javelin. After they completed all of the activities there were two obstacle courses and a relay race. Normanhurst did very well, and the A team secured a first place finish. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed it, and although



**Luke (Y9) enjoyed the challenges of F45**

**F45** On Tuesday 25 January a number of young aspiring male athletes in Years 9, 10 and 11 attended F45 to partake in a circuit led by two enthusiastic qualified coaches. During this trip pupils underwent a gruelling but enjoyable session where they had the opportunity to express themselves through exercise. In this time they also acquired knowledge and an understanding of various exercises, the muscles targeted and safe lifting techniques. This fitness venture created a real sense of fulfilment and students have mentioned that they would like to do it again. Let's see what the future holds.



**Braeside and Normanhurst U16 netball teams**

**U16 Netball v Braeside** On a very cold January afternoon the Normanhurst U16 team travelled to Braeside to play a fixture.

Normanhurst played really well with some great mid-court play from Lucy. Isabella and Mehrnaz were able to convert their attacking chances and score consistently throughout the match.

Braeside however fought hard and kept the pressure on to the very last second. The final score was a win for Normanhurst 10-8. Well done everyone who played.

## HAMA BEADS CLUB

The weekly Hama Beads Club after school each Monday is as popular as ever. Here is what some of the participants have to say about it.

"I really enjoy Hama Beads Club because it is fiddly but fun!" – Stephanie, Year 2.

"It is a great start to the week!" – Lucia, Year 2

"It is relaxing and quiet, and we can make some spectacular creations." – Erin, Year 4

"It is a really good club because you get to make lovely things to take home." – Eloise, Year 1

Henry shows off his Hama Bead heart



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association

## NSPA

Dear Parents

Happy New Year from the NSPA!

We kicked off the new year with a meeting to start arranging this year's activities that will support our children's time at Normanhurst School, and to enhance the school community in 2022.

We were very happy to hear that Early Years have started using the woodwork bench, recently part-funded by the NSPA. This is a lovely example of one of the NSPA themes of sustainable, environmentally friendly activities, and it's great to see Normanhurst's very own elves in action!

Following the success of the Welcome Walk last term, we are planning a walk to be held in the next few weeks. If you haven't yet joined us on one of the Sunday walks, they are a lovely opportunity to get to meet other parents and chat with some of the teachers. We start in the school hall, and end back there with hot drinks, sausage rolls and pastries. Please look out for the date to be confirmed for the next walk.

Looking ahead, the Summer BBQ takes place on Saturday 21 May and, to commemorate the Queen's 70 years on the throne, will be Platinum Jubilee themed. So, start polishing off your crown making skills and prepare to get into the spirit of this family fun afternoon!

**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES** Please remember that you can always contact the school office to place an order for an item of second hand clothing. It is great if you need a top up of something in between trips to Forest Casuals.

We will also be holding a second hand uniform stall on the following dates, so please look out for us then:

1 February 2022

22 March 2022

17 May 2022

We look forward to seeing you at our NSPA events and here's to a wonderful 2022!

Best wishes

**The NSPA Committee**



Reception pupils Angel and Ali Can trying out the new Early Years woodwork bench