

NEWSLETTER

February 2022



Item..... Page

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Headmistress's Message</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Early Years Celebrate Chinese New Year</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Reception News</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Year 3 News</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Chinese New Year in Year 5</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Year 4 News</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Year 6 News</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>Year 2 Dance In The Chinese New Year</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Year 11 Sexual Health Workshop</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>An Evening of Song and Dance</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Year 11 Art & Graphics Exhibition</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>GCSE Music Presentation Evening</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>Normanhurst Sports Report</u> | <u>8</u> |
| <u>NSPA</u> | <u>10</u> |

Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Spring term is always an exciting time, with lots to celebrate; from Parents Evenings, Drop-in Mornings, Safer Internet Day and Mental Health Week, to name a few. I am always amazed at the range of unique talents discovered at Normanhurst and some of these have been observed at the Performing Arts Event, hosting singing, dancing and music performances along with some spectacular displays and performances at the GCSE Art and Music evening. Every day our pupils continue to make valuable contributions towards the school and demonstrate the true Normanhurst School spirit.

This term our 11+ entrance exams and interviewing have returned and we are busy finalising our Year 7 offers for September. I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights once again how much activity the pupils engage in. I am proud to see so many of our pupils taking ownership of their learning.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR



Three little pupils from Normanhurst are we!

One of the week's highlights was taking part in the Chinese Dance Workshop. Reception and Kindergarten had a wonderful time exploring different types of Chinese dance with fans and parasols, becoming a long red snake and even traditional Chinese dragons.

The Early Years had a wonderful week finding out all about the Chinese New Year of the Tiger. Throughout the week there were creative and musical experiences that took them all on a journey to China. On Monday afternoon, they created a Chinese themed role play area full of beautiful dressing up outfits and everything you need for a Chinese restaurant. On Tuesday the children came together for an afternoon exploring the tastes and smells of China as they enjoyed a Chinese banquet for afternoon snack. They made lanterns, wrote their names in Chinese writing and not only read the story of 'The Great Race', but acted it out with masks and props in the garden area.



Animals of the Chinese zodiac

RECEPTION NEWS



Making constellations

In the last few weeks, Reception have loved learning about space and stars. Did you know there are around 100 thousand million stars in the sky? They discovered constellations and even created their own. The children loved doing a fizzing star experiment and seeing glow in the dark stars. One of their favourite activities was reading the story 'Aliens Love Underpants' and creating a spaceship and an alien!



Aliens spaceships have landed in Reception!



Yummy chocolate cake!

They have enjoyed going round the world to different countries. In Canada, They learnt about how maple syrup is made from maple trees. They visited Australia, trying a typical Australian snack called 'fairy bread' and also created some beautiful Aboriginal Art work. They found out that cocoa beans grow on trees in warmer countries like Ghana and Brazil, and learnt about how chocolate is made.

They loved reading the poem 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen, and made our own chocolate cake!



Aboriginal Art

YEAR 3 NEWS



The children enjoyed sharing their knowledge of the plant life cycle with the workshop leader!

Kew Gardens On Wednesday 26 January, Year 3 travelled by minibus all the way to Kew Gardens to learn about pollination and plants! While they were there, the children attended a workshop where they learnt all about pollination and looked at pollinators at work. They also saw some plants from different countries and spent some time in the 'Children's Garden'.

Everyone had a wonderful time and learnt so much!



The Children's Garden was lots of fun



Kelly made a square based pyramid for her 3-D shape

Shapes Before the half term holidays, Year 3 learnt all about the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes. They even had the opportunity to make their own 3-D shape models using cocktail sticks and sticky tack! This practical activity helped to cement their learning about vertices, faces and edges.

Chinese Dance Workshop Year 3 had lots of fun celebrating Chinese New Year! The class loved the Chinese Dance Workshop in which Enis and Caitlin were able to dress as dragons! Back at school, they had lots of fun making Chinese lanterns and sketching tigers in their Art books, as this year is the Year of the Tiger!



Caitlin enjoying the workshop

CHINESE NEW YEAR IN YEAR 5



'Chinese' calligraphy

Year 5 celebrated the Year of the Tiger by completing cross curricular activities during the day. They started by writing a date that is important to them, using Chinese numbers. They also learnt the system of writing larger numbers such as 45, thanks to Perry and his informative explanations.

They then read the story 'The Nightingale' and discussed the relationship between the Chinese Emperor and the Nightingale. There were a lot of important themes that encouraged some intriguing discussions after the story. They then followed this with a Drama activity where the pupils were asked to summarise the



Enter the Year 5 dragon!

story with only five freeze frames. The children thought very carefully about their facial expressions and how to communicate their characters vividly.

In the afternoon, each child designed a part of the class dragon before joining them together. Each child incorporated something about themselves into their design and they also used various elements to represent the Year of the Tiger.

YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 are currently learning about the Romans in History and recently spent a week focussing on the Roman army. In a brilliant lesson the children made their very own miniature catapult, known as an onager. The onager was a war machine used in the past, especially in the Roman army. Equipped with a 'spoon' on a rigid arm, it was able to throw stone missiles and burning logs a long distance. Pupils then had a competition in the playground to see who could catapult a Playdough ball the furthest.

Year 4 also created some awesome Roman Raps about the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The children researched the Gods and Goddesses to find out some key facts and then wrote their raps in groups. They learned lots about the Roman deities, and then had a fantastic time performing their raps to their classmates!



Ready! Steady! Catapult!

Chinese New Year

In honour of Chinese New Year, Year 4 tried their hand at a spot of baking and made their own Fortune Cookies! The children loved having the chance to learn how fortune cookies are made and all of the children agreed that they were the tastiest fortune cookies they have ever had! It seems we have some master bakers in our midst! Well done Year 4!

As part of their English work the following day, the children wrote an instruction text of the recipe and method of baking the fortune cookies. The children also had the opportunity to learn how to write their names in Chinese characters, as well as finding out about the Chinese zodiac and the Year of the Tiger. In Maths, Year 4 undertook two Chinese New Year Crack the Code activities. This was a consolidation of the column addition and subtraction work they had done the previous week.

As a culmination of the celebrations, the whole of the juniors took part in the Chinese dance workshop. Year 4 were very well behaved, following the teacher's instructions perfectly. They started off by performing a choreographed dance to Chinese music with fans. The teacher progressed them to a parasol and dragon head procession dance. It was super!



Ethan is about to enjoy his fortune cookie

Anaya preparing her cookies for baking



On Friday 11 February, 4S shared a fantastic assembly with their parents and the children in KS2. As they have been learning about States of Matter in Science this half term, the children wanted to share all of the interesting facts they have learned. Our two crazy scientists, Poppy and Ronnie, led the class in explaining what solids, liquids and gases are. The rest of the children, to Poppy's and Ronnie's amazement, shared the Matter Chatter rap demonstrating their brilliant understanding of States of Matter. Towards the end of the assembly, the class even demonstrated how to undertake a fair test investigation, to discover why people put salt onto their icy driveways. Finally, the children finished the assembly by performing one of their favourite songs from singing assembly, Waving Flag. The audience were all amazed by the wonderful performance and fantastic singing. Well done 4S!



Erin and Sienna getting ready to dance with parasols



4S finished their assembly with a rousing song

YEAR 6 NEWS

Geography Ecosystems Year 6 have been studying how animals and humans impact the environment in both positive and negative ways. They have also looked at what an ecosystem is and created their own 'mini flora ecosystems'. They spent a lesson building an ecosystem in a bottle, planting cress and wild flower seeds. They will study them for a week before taking them home to further develop. Whilst in school they will study the changes that happen when the seeds are untouched by animals or humans and how quickly things can grow. Keep an eye out for the results of their 'blooming ecosystems'!



Shay with his ecosystem in a bottle



Selina and Leo present their findings on wildfires

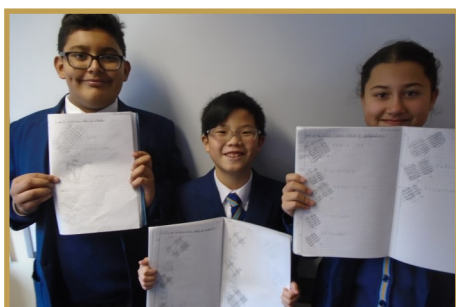
Geography Presentations Year 6 spent two weeks of their Geography lessons researching and creating presentations on a variety of Natural Disasters. They worked in pairs using the school iPads to research and design their own Keynote presentations which they later presented in class to their peers. The Year 6's learnt many new facts about their chosen disaster as well as new skills using the Keynote application. All of the pupils presented with confidence and showed great subject knowledge. The disasters chosen were volcanoes, floods, avalanches, blizzards, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, landslides and wildfires. Well done to the Year 6's for all their hard work and presenting skills!

Science Workshop Year 6 had a zoom workshop with Tony North who is an expert on all things genetic and evolutionary. Tony delivered an exciting workshop showing Year 6 artefacts including a fossil known as an ammonite and a dinosaur tooth that had originally belonged to a spinosaurus, which was a carnivore. Year 6 learnt about the tree of life, explored their own family trees and learnt about the processes of evolution and adaptation. Pupils had a wonderful time learning in this interactive way and enjoyed this experience.



Science workshop with Tony North

Chinese New Year The Chinese New Year was celebrated by Year 6 in many ways. The prefects started off the week by delivering an assembly to the juniors all about the story of the zodiacs. On Tuesday they started off the day learning to use the Ancient Chinese Method of Multiplication. This was a tricky concept to understand and hard to keep neat in their books but was great fun! They then had a comprehension all about the Year of the Tiger where they discovered some exciting facts and figures. They also found out their fortune which was decided by a fortune cookie! They had a go at writing their names and family names in Chinese too. On Wednesday, they participated in a Chinese Dance workshop which was really enjoyable! Year 6 had lots of fun celebrating Chinese New Year.



Chinese multiplication



Fortune cookies!



Chinese Dance Workshop

YEAR 2 CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR

Year 2 had a fantastic time in their Chinese New Year dance workshop. In class, they made their own paper dragons and learnt all about the Zodiac Calendar. It was great fun!



From fans to parasols, Year 2 showed how quickly they could learn and enjoy Chinese dancing



YEAR 11 SEXUAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

As part of our ongoing PSHE/RSE programme for Year 11 students Waltham Forest Sexual Health had their first visit to the school recently.

Jacqui King of the Waltham Forest Sexual Health Outreach Service introduced herself and her free and confidential services to young adults.



Sexual health education for Year 11

AN EVENING OF SONG AND DANCE

On Tuesday 8 February families were treated to a song and dance showcase. The hall was decorated in a café style, with the audience sitting around small tables lit by flickering candles. Our talented pupils performed a variety of pieces, crossing many genres from musical theatre to pop. It was a wonderful evening, a real treat.

This was another in our series of informal twilight concerts designed to give our pupils the experience of performing in front of a live audience. If any pupil is interested in taking part in a future event, please contact Mrs Jones.



Nina, Dylan and Kelly demonstrate the impressive array of talent on show



YEAR 11 ART & GRAPHICS EXHIBITION

The Art & Design department were delighted to be invited by the Music department to celebrate the work of our Year 11 creatives. To compliment the musical performances of the current GCSE cohort, a range of Art and Graphic work, responding to topics as broad-ranging as 'Conceal and Reveal' to 'Fragrance Packaging' were exhibited. Pupils had the opportunity to share their sketchbooks, showing all of the development of ideas as well as their products and artworks. As usual, the work was as diverse and as exciting as our pupils and it was fantastic to once again be able to invite people in to celebrate all their hard work. Well done Year 11!



Showcasing the diversity of our Year 11 artists

GCSE MUSIC PRESENTATION EVENING

On Thursday 10 February the GCSE Music pupils from Braeside and Normanhurst were given the chance to share with their friends and families some of the coursework they have been working on. For the GCSE Music course pupils are required to prepare a performance on their main instrument and compose a piece of music to a chosen brief.

The audience were treated to performances on violin, saz, guitar, piano, drums and voice, featuring genres from opera, film, concertos, folk and modern pop and rock. Compositions ranged from traditional Indian ragas to pieces for string quartet, piano and guitar. The evening ended with everyone taking part in a performance of Pachelbel's Canon.

The standard was immensely high and we are so proud of the hard work pupils have put into their work. We wish them all the best of luck for their final exam.

Special thanks go to all the peripatetic teachers who helped prepare the pupils, both in and outside of school and a special mention must go to Ms Law, Ms Savage and Emilie who all provided accompaniment on the evening.



GCSE pupils performed a broad range of musical pieces

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

ISA National Hockey Our U11 boys hockey team took a trip to the Olympic Hockey and Tennis Centre at Stratford to take part in the ISA National Hockey Tournament, where the boys got to experience hockey at the highest possible level in their age group. In the group they narrowly lost the first two games 2-0 and 1-0 respectively before losing to eventual quarter-finalists Chafyn Grove who were by far the strongest team played on the day. The boys took lunch in the Olympic Hockey Stadium and enjoyed soaking up the atmosphere and experiencing one of the London 2012 Olympic venues. In the afternoon session they entered the plate semi-finals, narrowly losing out to Oakfield Prep School. All of the boys thoroughly enjoyed the day, and are now looking forward to future fixtures against St. Aubyn's and Avon House



ISA National hockey



Tag rugby at Avon House

U9 Tag Rugby vs Avon House All pupils in Years 3 and 4 took the short journey to play our good friends at Avon House. Here, pupils began to put into place the tag rugby skills that they had learnt so far this term. There were some excellent individual displays and it was great to see pupils in these year groups return to competitive fixtures!

ISA Badminton A selection of pupils from Years 9-11 ventured to Milton Keynes for the ISA London North Badminton Tournament. The



ISA badminton

Y11 girls team finished 3rd whilst the two boys teams finished 4th. All pupils had a great day and there were some notable victories for Malachi in the singles and also two doubles victories in the Y11 boys team. Pupils took turns in playing and umpiring with excellent skills and sportsmanship shown throughout!

U11 Rugby vs Keble Prep All boys in Years 5 and 6 journeyed to Winchmore Hill to play against Keble Prep in a contact and tag rugby fixture. The A team, who were playing contact, showed great courage and determination throughout the match; notable performances came from Felix and Christian who were fearless in defence and strong in attack. They narrowly lost the game by 10 tries to 6 but won the second half 3-2 with tries scored by Tiago, Christian and two tries apiece for Troy and Nathaniel. The B team, who were playing tag, followed a similar pattern losing the first half but winning the second half comfortably and gaining lots of rugby knowledge in the process. The boys now turn their attention to house tag rugby, contact fixtures vs St. Aubyn's, and the ISA Tag Tournament.



Rugby vs Keble Prep

U11 Oak-Tree Mixed Tag Rugby On Monday 7 February the U11s participated in a tag rugby competition versus all schools that form part of the Oak Tree Group. Pupils from all four schools twisted and shuffled their way through waves of opponents in an attempt to score as many tries as possible. It is safe to say that this competition helped enhance pupils' understanding of the rules in tag rugby, and enabled them to have some sporty fun. The A and B teams from Coopersale Hall topped the tables, and both teams from Normanhurst finished in a very respectable 2nd place winning four games out of a possible six.



U11 Oak-Tree tag rugby

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT continued

High 5 Netball The juniors fielded a very strong team for this year's LBWF 5-a-side netball tournament. The mixed team of boys and girls had to follow a strict rotation of positions which always kept a balance of three girls and two boys in court in different positions for each new game. Normanhurst got off to a strong start winning their first game. They had a little blip and lost the second but went on to win the last three with confidence and not conceding any goals. They improved with each game and are waiting to find out if they have progressed to the next round. Well done every one who played.



Mixed netball team for the LBWF 5-a-side tournament



U13 Oak-Tree team

ISA Netball This year we combined forces with Braeside to form an U11 and an U13 netball team to represent Oak-Tree Schools in the London North netball tournament held at Redbridge Sports Centre. Teams travel from across the region to compete and the standard was as ever very high.

The U13 team took a few games to get into their rhythm and they started to play some much more effective games as the day progressed. However their slow start hindered them and they qualified for the 3rd flight, which meant they finished in 9th place.

The U11 played a new format of netball this year called Bee netball or Stringers. In this format only five players take part and there are no Wing Attack or Wing Defence positions. Pupils from Normanhurst had a practice match against Gatehouse School at Peter May prior the ISA to help them

become familiar with this format. Our players gelled quickly and they won four out of five group matches to finish second in their group. They went through to the second flight round of matches which left them competing for places 4-8. After all the second round of matches our U11 girls finished in 5th place.

Well done to everyone who played!



U11 Oak-Tree netball team

Senior Games Years 9 and 10 boys spent a recent Games lesson learning how to lineout lift in rugby. All boys learnt how to throw, lift or be lifted.

NSPA

Dear Parents

We hope your children had a great half term break and are looking forward to returning to school!

We have a wonderful event coming up on Sunday 24 April, which is the Easter walk. This is a lovely opportunity to meet other parents and chat with some of the teachers. We start in the school hall, and end back there with hot drinks and sausages rolls and hot cross buns. The Easter walk is always popular with the children as it includes an Easter-themed quiz, the prize being as many mini eggs as they can carry!

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. This is a large event that requires lots of parent input, so if you are able to volunteer please contact the NSPA at normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com or the school office who will send on your details. Also, the BBQ raffle is a large part of the event's fundraising, so if you have a prize you can donate, that would be hugely appreciated. Again, please contact us if so.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES

Please remember that you can contact the school office to place an order for an item of second hand clothing. We have a wide range of the school uniform and PE kit, so this is an extremely useful way to top up on extras for your children.

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

22 March 2022

17 May 2022

Many thanks to the parents who stopped by during our last sale on 1 February - we raised a fantastic £290!

We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful upcoming fundraising events.

The next NSPA meeting date will be on Wednesday 16 March at 7pm (venue TBC - whether in person or on Zoom). All are welcome, so please feel free to come along.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association