

Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER

May 2022



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to welcome lighter days and evenings, and to see the children with renewed energy for learning and enjoying new experiences. This edition shows some of the exciting opportunities they have had since returning from their Easter holidays. They have fundraised nearly £800 for UNICEF and Year 4 have been on their residential trip to Essex Outdoor Danbury. In school, the pupils have been learning about the Queen's Jubilee, and about growth and sustainability during Science and Humanities week. This month we are very much looking forward to our Summer BBQ on Saturday 21 May and hope to share this in the next edition of our newsletter.

It's wonderful to pass on the news of the success of our Year 5 pupil Nathaniel in his karate grading, and share that James in Year 2 and Sofia in Year 5 were shortlisted by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, resulting in their entries making it into the Top 10 for their age group. This is incredibly impressive and an amazing achievement.

I hope you enjoy the May edition of the newsletter.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS



Kindergarten have been learning about footprints, looking at different size and shape prints that animals and dinosaurs make. The children had great fun painting their friends' and teachers' feet and making colourful footprints.



A Trip to the Sea Life Centre

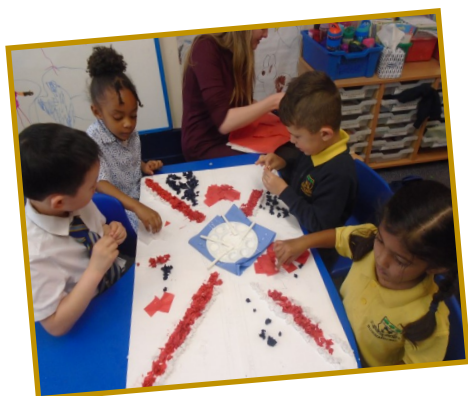
On Tuesday 29 March all of the Early Years children went to the Sea Life Centre in Southend. It was a very exciting end to a busy Spring term.

The day was filled with the opportunity to see lots of different sea creatures including penguins and even dinosaurs and butterflies. Well done everyone!



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

Reception are learning all about the Queen and the Royal Family and have collaborated to create a beautiful piece of art work of the Queen with the Union Jack flag in the background. They have particularly enjoyed learning about the Queen's corgis. We had a philosophy question - would you rather ride a horse with the Queen or walk the corgis with the Queen? Inayah said "I would rather go horse riding with the Queen because I used to go horse riding". Emma said "I would rather go horse riding with the Queen because then her legs won't get sore" and Cem said "I would rather walk the corgis with the Queen because they are fluffy."



Reception have also been learning all about London and London Landmarks. We have learnt about the London Eye, Tower Bridge as well as the Cutty Sark. During our Art lesson, we were guided by Miss Sulzmann to draw some of the London landmarks using chalk. We also made some London buses and painted the River Thames.



We decided to walk up to the top of Pole Hill to see the beautiful view of the London Landmarks and drew some lovely pictures! We enjoyed a 'hot seating' activity, pretending to be the Queen. The children came up with some great questions for 'the Queen' including:

How long do you walk the corgis for? Do you drink lots of tea?
How tall is Buckingham Palace?



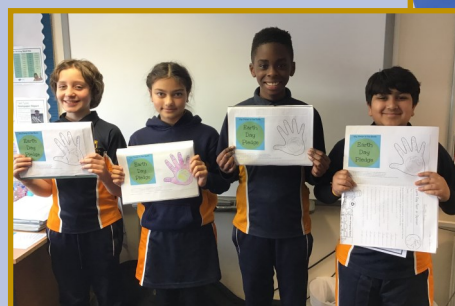
EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

Early Years worked together to create the Union Jack flag and the number 70 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They had to find different objects which were red, white and blue to fill in the flag and then used 70 mirrors to make up the 70. We plan to write a letter to the Queen with a picture of our lovely art work to send her our best wishes for her Jubilee celebration..



EARTH DAY - JUNIORS

On 22 April Junior pupils spent time learning about the history of Earth Day, considering ways in which they can help protect the planet, writing pledges and promises about how they will change their actions moving forward. They looked forward to discussing more about this during our Humanities Week, which was all about sustainability.



YEAR 4 NEWS



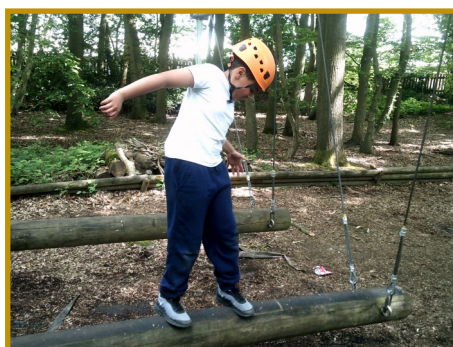
Last week, Year 4 departed for the long-awaited overnight residential stay at Danbury Outdoor Activity Centre. We arrived shortly before lunch and the children had time to settle into their cabins before the first activities. The year group was split into three groups where they rotated between four activities including low ropes, an obstacle course, a climbing wall and aerial trekking. After the afternoon activities on the first day, the children had a delicious dinner, played a few games of frisbee, then before bed had a tasty hot chocolate. This being the first night away from home for many of the children, they did take a while to settle into sleeping in a dorm with their classmates.



The next morning the children rose bright and early, and after a hearty breakfast took part in the last two morning activities before eating a well-deserved lunch and then packing up the cabins and returning to school.



Ms Low Ten Que, Miss Sainsbury, Mr Matthews and Ms Rudman were incredibly impressed by the children's bravery and determination to complete the activities, especially the circular 10-metre high aerial trekking. Well done Year 4 on a brilliant few days!



YEAR 6 NEWS



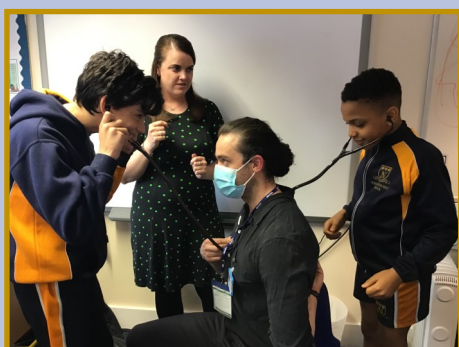
As part of Science Week, Year 6 visited Waltham Abbey Gardens to learn all about habitats of pond life and woodland creatures. They went pond dipping in small groups each with a net, tray and magnifying tubs to look at the creatures they carefully collected. They found leaches, freshwater shrimp, water snails, blood worms, water louse and many more. After lunch, they ventured into the woods and found many spiders, insects and a leopard slug but the best one was a tiny toad!



The Year 6 pupils had a wonderful day exploring their local area and finding all of these tiny members of our community.



Over the Easter break, Year 6 were challenged to be creative in their researching project about the Vikings and they did not disappoint! The children researched many different areas including weaponry, food, transport, sports and invasions. The pupils were full of accurate information, interesting facts and were confident when presenting their work. They chose many different ways to do so: PowerPoint presentations; 3D art sculptures; poetry and posters too. The Year 6 pupils have had an excellent start to their topic of the Vikings and are very well informed – well done!



Year 6 have been learning about the body and functions of the organs in Science this term and have been lucky enough to have workshops run by two student doctors – Alex and Jack. Alex came into class and spoke about the lungs and the whole respiratory system, he also gave the pupils the opportunity to listen to lungs using a stethoscope. Jack delivered a zoom session all about the heart and the whole circulatory system, he then lead a competition via 'Kahoot' to see who had learnt the most in the session. They had such a wonderful experience being taught by the two student doctors and having opportunities that they would not usually have, so a big thank you to them.

JUNIOR HUMANITIES WEEK

The theme for our Junior Humanities Week this year was "Sustainability". Our aim was to emphasise how every small change or action towards combatting Climate Change makes a difference to our Planet and its future survival. During the week, the children in the Juniors learned more about Sustainability in general and how it is made up of the three pillars: Planet, People and Profit. They also began to consider the importance of bees for our ecosystem, learning about how the majority of our food is reliant on bees to pollinate the plants. Alongside this, all of the children had the opportunity get their creative hats on and design an entry for the ISA 'Bee Inspired' art competition. We couldn't bee-lieve the brilliant entries!

Year 1 had an amazing time celebrating Humanities Week. They discussed how important it is to look after our World and that they need to become 'sustainability superstars'. Further to this, they considered how they can reduce waste and made some special pledges to reduce, reuse and recycle!



In **Year 2**, the pupils really enjoyed learning more about the important role bees play in our world. Following this, they wrote a non-chronological report about their significance and discussed the possible devastating effects of bee extinction. After, everyone pledged to try and be more sustainable. At the end of the week, Year 2 went on a Forest Walk to spot bees in their



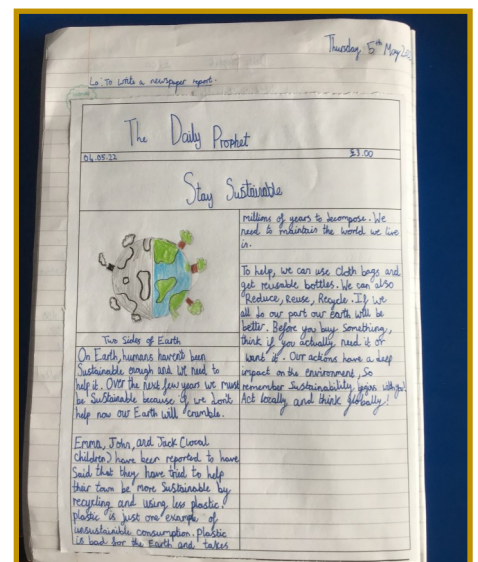
natural habitat! Pupils collected natural materials like twigs, stones and berries and used them to make some bee pictures!

The pupils in **Year 3** had lots of fun celebrating Humanities Week! The class enjoyed learning all about sustainability and why it is important to reuse, reduce and recycle. An activity the children particularly enjoyed was discussing how they can become more sustainable themselves; following the discussion, the children each wrote a pledge to promise to make changes in their lives to help our Planet. Some of the children have already started to become more sustainable by donating their pre-loved books to the school. Well done Year 3!



The pupils in **Years 4, 5 and 6** had the opportunity to meet Helen from The Kindness Bank, who shared a very engaging, informative and thought-provoking talk about social and environmental sustainability. Helen introduced the pupils to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and discussed the importance of each and every one of us making small changes in our lives to support the World's journey to becoming more sustainable.

In **Year 4**, the children researched the different forms of renewable energy considering which they believe is the best. Following the talk with Helen, they found out more about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals then chose a particular goal to research and were shocked by some of the facts and statistics that they discovered.



JUNIOR HUMANITIES WEEK continued



The **Year 5** pupils completed various activities throughout the week. They began the day by getting familiar with the key terminology, completing crossword puzzles and word-searches. It was a lot of fun and some crossword questions challenged the pupils very much! Then, working on KeyNote, they started looking into what sustainability is and discovered ways to be a sustainable member of our community. These included ideas to use at home as well as at school. There were a lot of discussion and research taking place. The activity also improved their cooperation and communication skills. At the end,

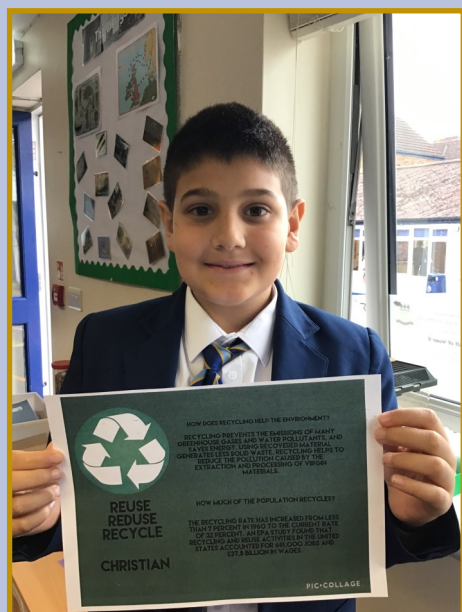
using PicCollage, they created some persuasive posters to promote sustainable living to others. We discussed the effects of visuals, slogans and short but effective phrases to be included. The Year 5 pupils are actively going to try and include most of their ideas into their day to day life at school in order to be more sustainable.



In **Year 6**, the pupils also made pledges to reduce, reuse and recycle in order to make the world a better place. During the week, they wrote a persuasive newspaper article, encouraging people to become more sustainable. Prior to writing, they researched ways to do this, as well as finding out more about the impact mass-producing plastic has had on the World. In particular, they discovered more about the impact this had in the 1990s, when lots of products were packaged in multiple layers of plastic. The pupils role played interviews with prominent people who promote ways to save our world, such as David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg, and included quotes in their articles. At the end of the week, the pupils designed

persuasive posters to encourage people to become more sustainable.

Overall, the juniors had a fantastic week and are very excited to share with others how you can all help too, to do our bit to save the planet!



YOUNG VOICES AT THE O²

On Friday 6 May, Years 5 and 6 and their teachers took part in Young Voices - the largest school choir in the World! This year was extra special as the Young Voices Choir celebrated its 25th Birthday with special guest performers such as Ruti Olajugbagbe, who won The Voice; Urban Strides, who are led by Europe's most qualified street dance instructors and The Beatbox Collective, who are World Beatbox Champions. It truly was a spectacular event. The pupils sang and danced their hearts out and even got the chance to compete against their teachers and parents to see who were the best singers, dancers and beatboxers; of course the pupils won! Performing as part of an 8000 person choir at the O² was a fantastic experience and they were amazing ambassadors of the school. Well done to all of Year 5 and 6!



Twilight Concert On 10 May we held our first Twilight Concert in the music room. These concerts are a chance to give all our pupils the opportunity to perform in a relaxed, informal and supportive way.

Tuesday's concert was fantastic, it was wonderful to hear what our pupils have been practising and preparing in their instrumental lessons and to share these performances with family and friends. We listened to performances on piano, drums, trumpet and guitar from pupils from Y2-Y9, some who have only been learning a little while, to those preparing for Grade 5! We had to make some last minute changes to the programme due to illness, but luckily some of our senior pupils stepped in and performed with only one day's notice!

It was a great concert to start off our Twilight series and we are really looking forward to the next one. Everyone who wants to participate in the Twilight series of concerts should have an invitation by half term, please contact Mrs Jones if you haven't received an invitation and would like to take part.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUB NEWS

Karate Normanhurst Karate Club proudly held their first grading during the Easter break. The grading was a success and all the students passed to the next grade with High Honours.

Also during the Easter break 30 students attended a one day training camp with sensei Luke Cuthbert. They worked very hard and are progressing very well. Karate club is open to all ages and is held on Fridays after school and is run by the United Karate Association.

In preparation for the ISA Athletics and the Normanhurst Sports Day, the running club headed back into the forest for longer runs. Please meet us at the front of school at 7.45am on Thursday mornings. The club is open to Years 4 to 9.



YEAR 10 GCSE ART TRIP TO THE WHITECHAPEL GALLERY

The GCSE Art pupils had the opportunity to visit the Artist's Studio Exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery. The exhibition explores a century of artists' relationships to their studio spaces and how their work was influenced by the space they were working in. The exhibition included work by Picasso, Rauschenberg and Bacon as well as contemporary artists like Maria Lassnig and Dieter Roth. Pupils had to select one of the exhibited artists to study in further depth to help progress their own ideas.

Not only was this an excellent opportunity to see a broad range of artists' work, it was also a chance for pupils to explore one of London's most innovative galleries right on their doorstep!



PUPIL NEWS



Over the Easter break Sofia Year 5 and Nicolas Year 7 managed to collect a whole car boot full of donations for Friends of Ukraine. Here is what Sofia has to say about her efforts:

"I did it to help the Ukrainians because I know they are having a hard time as refugees from a different country. We gave them food and anything else that will help make things a bit easier for them. We asked a lot of people to give us some donations to help support the charity and I feel really happy about it!"

Well done to both Sofia and Nicolas for giving up their time to support a charity - we are very proud of them.

Ibrahim Y11 loves racing go-karts and wishes to go further. He recently received another trophy for his cabinet. He has been a member of TeamSport Edmonton and has been go-karting since he was 8 years old. Last year he joined the members' elite race club at TeamSport and got to the National and Regional Semi finals.

Well done Ibrahim!

Pos	Kart	Driver	Laps	Time	Best Time	Time to
1	3	Martina Hassan	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
2	18	Bradley Ahmed	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
3	8	Lakshmi	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
4	20	Alvin Grant	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
5	7	Muhammad Ali	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
6	21	Ian Atcher	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
7	17	Zacharias Brooks Kaufmann	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
8	19	Hadiha Mohamed	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
9	9	John Bowden	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
10	12	Ryan Murphy	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
11	1	Martina Hassan	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
12	10	Steve Sackley	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
13	10	Mo Di-Yip Hassan	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00
14	4	rain dennis-john	25	00:25:00	00:25:00	00:00:00



Well done to **Jessica Year 2** and **Sophia Year 1** getting sworn in to rainbows and brownies.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

On Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 May Year 9 visited Lambourne End for their DofE expedition. During the weekend pupils navigated, orienteered, hiked, camped and cooked meals, including breakfast and dinner. It proved to be a helpful experience for all of those involved and they now look forward to their assessed expedition.



NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT



On Thursday the PE department had the opportunity to take part in another extracurricular activity - the brilliant F45 club.

The pupils taking part are really enjoying these intense fitness sessions, with leg and arm exercises testing their physical and mental strength. We have a few sore pupils walking around school after each session!

They are really benefiting from the advice of the instructors, making sure they do each exercise correctly and safely. The instructors were very impressed with the commitment and effort being shown by all the pupils - well done!



Cricket is now on the curriculum across Normanhurst School from Year 1 to Year 10. Pupils will be taking part in a variety of activities, including matches against other schools, tournaments and festivals and ending the term with our annual inter-house Connaught v Warren matches.



Years 7 and 8 Cricket Wednesday 11 May saw our first cricket fixture of the season against St Aubyn's School. The boys, captained by Charlie, were upbeat and confident.

Normanhurst opened the match batting, with outstanding performances from James, Bobby and Kaylan all hitting the ball for six. The team ended the innings on 176 runs.

St Aubyn's played very well, however, our bowling was very strong with Kaylan claiming wicket after wicket with his unbelievable spin bowling. Luke had the performance of a lifetime claiming a handful of catches.

The team played outstandingly and all players deserve a mention. The team supported each other incredibly well and demonstrated brilliant sportsmanship and etiquette throughout the match, representing our School brilliantly. We are incredibly proud of them and their efforts resulting in Normanhurst walking away the winners by an impressive 32 runs.

NSPA

Dear Parents

As we go into the final term of this school year, we have some great Normanhurst School Parents' Association events to tell you about:

SUMMER BBQ The long-awaited Summer barbeque will be returning on Saturday 21 May and will be Platinum Jubilee themed! If you have little ones, this is your chance to watch their carefully choreographed maypole and dance performances, so please make sure you buy your BBQ tickets to watch them! Tickets are on sale on the school gate in the mornings, afternoons or from the school office.

OAK-TREE SUMMER BALL Another big calendar event returns: the Gatsby-themed Oak-Tree school ball is on Saturday 18 June and this time is being held at the Prince Regent in Chigwell. The ball is now selling out fast, so please buy tickets ASAP before they all go!

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE Our next pre-loved Normanhurst uniform sale will be at the school barbeque on Saturday 21 May, but please remember that you can place an order with the school office in the meantime. It is a really good way to top up on extras, or to buy the whole PE kit / school uniform for your child.

SPRING WALK We had a record turnout for our recent Spring walk on Sunday 24 April. We walked to Connaught Waters and back, returning to the school for teas, coffees and sausage rolls. The Normanhurst PA walks are relaxed Sunday morning community events, and our next one will be in September, just after the children return. Look out for that date as children, parents, teachers and various dogs always love joining us.

Exciting news! We are now able to take card payments for tickets and uniform sales! This will make things much easier for parents in our increasingly cash-free world.

And finally, please keep in mind that the money raised by the NSPA provides our children with the extras that help make their time at school even more fun, so we hope to see you over the next few weeks at these wonderful fundraising events.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

