

# NEWSLETTER

June/July 2022



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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Summer term has continued to be an exciting time of year where learning takes place, both inside and outside the classroom. Pupils have been working hard towards their end of year exams and assessments, and of course their formal GCSE examinations, which last occurred in 2019. The pupils continue to show how determined and committed they are to succeed. They have been incredible and have embraced this process positively, which has been acknowledged and commended.

This bumper edition celebrates the Queen's Jubilee, the Early Years Celebration of the Year, the NSPA School Barbeque, sporting fixtures and our ISA sporting success, Sports Day, Careers Day, music concerts, numerous educational trips and the Year 6 Graduation Party.

It was a pleasure seeing so many parents at these events. Once again, we are grateful for the very kind comments and emails we receive, and we are reminded daily how special the Normanhurst community is and the people within it.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Jacqueline Job**  
Headmistress

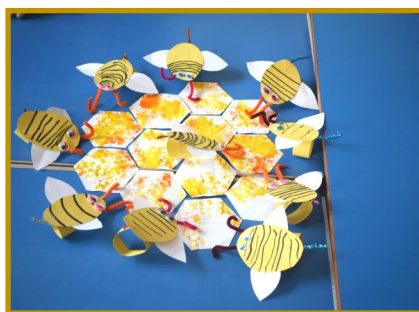


## EARLY YEARS NEWS



In **Kindergarten** the children are finding out about different mini beasts and have enjoyed lots of activities and learning, including the arrival of caterpillars which they have observed every day. When the butterflies were ready, we took them to a secret garden to release them.

**Lower Kindergarten** have been counting using the ladybirds and Upper Kindergarten had an art afternoon creating a large hand painted picture of a pond inspired by Monet's 'Water Lilies'. We all enjoyed finding out about bees, making our own finger puppets and printing hexagon shaped honeycomb.



The children across the Early Years Department made a card for the Queen congratulating her on her Platinum Jubilee.

They had the very important job of posting this letter and so, despite a little rain, we took a walk to the post office to buy a stamp and to post the letter. The children decided that we should wear our crowns, and as you would expect, we received some lovely compliments from the public. The children really enjoyed learning about the Queen and her Jubilee. Lots of other fun and creative activities took place throughout the rest of the week.





## EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

Day 2 of Kindergarten's Jubilee Week celebrations. An exciting Morris dancing session started off the morning. Later in the day we made beacons like those that were lit across the country, followed by a great creative afternoon based on the art of Andy Warhol. Everyone used watercolours and painted the Queen in very unusual colours and even went on to decorate her further with brightly coloured pens.



On day 3 pupils were busy making hand print bunting to decorate the classroom. With our Reception friends we created a large puzzle mural for the garden.

Reception were set a challenge to make a paper plane that would go faster and further than the teachers! We explored plane making on the internet and then created our very own interpretation of a 'fly past', like we had watched the Queen enjoy from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. It has been another lovely day with lots more activities planned for tomorrow.



Day 4 and another busy day in the Early Years Department. We began by making scones in preparation for our tea party tomorrow. The children helped to measure the ingredients, roll out the dough and use the cutters. They also enjoyed learning about 'Trooping the Colour' and used a variety of instruments whilst marching like soldiers. We ended the day by painting our very own Jubilee plates using beautiful bright colours.

Mrs Fisher





## EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

The children in **Kindergarten** have been learning about colour mixing and trying to guess what the new colours will be. The activity came to an end with everyone mixing their colours on the table top and using them to draw beautiful pictures.

We made rainbows with the hosepipe and enjoyed cooling down with water play in the garden.



**Kindergarten** had a wonderful day at Paradise Wildlife Park looking at animals and exploring the world of dinosaurs. We saw lions, zebras, camels, penguins, forest animals and even an owl in flight. Lots of fun on the fire engine slide and the perfect weather for a picnic. Well done Kindergarten, we are very proud of how you represent Normanhurst, you are a pleasure to take out.

**Reception** thoroughly enjoyed their time at Paradise Wildlife Park!

"I liked seeing the snakes, they camouflaged into the water. They looked like logs."- Xavier

"I liked seeing the dinosaurs because two of them were having a battle."- Rupert

"The dinosaur sprayed water!"- Gabriella

"The zebras were cute."- Liana

"The lions were sunbathing."- Ezriella

"I like the lions because they were protecting the daddy."- Emma





## EARLY YEARS NEWS continued



**Reception** loved their time in the art room with Ms Parrott and Ms Georgie. We tried a new method of creating artwork, painting over the top of a picture of the Queen onto a special sheet which we then put through a machine to create a print. We added some details and turned our picture into a stamp.



"There was the Queen and we taped some glass on it, painted on top and there was this thing that went wooooo."- Liana

"I liked the big machine because I have never seen one before."- Cem

"It looked like carpet through the machine."- Rupert



**Reception** had a fantastic time at Dinosaur Golf. We completed the 18 hole course, through waterfalls, over bridges, up ramps and through tunnels. We had to rescue balls from bushes and the water and Liana got a hole in one!

"I got a hole in 2."- Cem

"I liked the one where we tried to hit it over the water."- William

"I loved all the waterfalls and there was a ginormous dinosaur."- Liana

"I liked being in teams."- Tori





## EARLY YEARS CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR

On Monday day 27 June the Early Years children enjoyed a 'Celebration of the Year'. It was a wonderful opportunity for their parents to share the staff's and the children's highlights of the year. The children performed songs together, there were poems from Kindergarten and Reception shared their Wonderwall questions and answers in a rendition of 'We will shock you!'

Everyone proudly received certificates for their achievements over the year, well done to you all.



## PUPIL NEWS

Selina in Year 6 took part in a Gymnastics competition. The event took place at Casablanca North Weald on the 19 June. She had to learn routines for the floor, beam and bar apparatus. She took home the 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy and a medal for her age category. Selina said she loved competing and that it was a great experience. Well done Selina, we are very proud of you!





## PUPIL NEWS continued



Stella in Year 2, with her good friend Dexter, set up a stall in front of her house selling homemade lemonade and cakes, plus a week's worth of bracelets she had made, to raise money to buy books for the new school library. A few friends came to support her which was lovely to see (she even sold to The Only Way Is Essex "star" James Argent.)

She raised £60 and purchased books from Jo Jo's Book Shop and gave them to her teacher. Well done Stella!



Sofia in Year 5 and Nina in Year 4 have recently received their dance certificates and medals for Primary Ballet and Tap Dance. They had to learn and memorise some difficult choreography for their exam and both received a Distinction. We are very proud of them!

## OAK-TREE CHALLENGE



Sofia completed the Oak-Tree Challenge Silver Award. For outdoor pursuits, she canoed on the River Wye, tried indoor climbing and had an indoor ski session. For the residential challenge, she went on a camping weekend, putting up a tent, cooking on a stove and Sofia's favourite part, roasting marshmallows on the fire. The final challenge was a fundraising event. Sofia planned a collection of different items for a charity called 'Friends of Ukraine' to help people in need in Ukraine. "Since I remember, I have always been involved in charity events and activities with my family. My parents have taught me that you can change the world through kindness and our life is more meaningful if we share what we have with others. I think that if we help just one other person, our life is already worth it." What a fantastic attitude to have at such a young age! We are very proud of all of Sofia's achievements.

Elizabeth completed the Oak-Tree Challenge Silver Award. To complete the challenge, she bravely took on BMX biking and loved it! Luckily she was able to have a sleepover with her guides and had fun teaching her friends how to do a backflip! To raise money for charity, Elizabeth decided to do people's hair in different hairstyles, including a Dutch braid and enjoyed doing different teachers' hair! Miss Stone kept hers in all day. "My challenge was to get 10 people, I got eleven which was even better!" Elizabeth raised £100 for Young Minds. Well done Elizabeth!





## JUNIOR NEWS

On 17 May Year 4 visited the infamous Colchester Castle, where they had the opportunity to explore the museum, investigating and observing a variety of artefacts. Working in teams they were tasked with the challenge of building either an Iron Age round house or a Roman villa. They showed some fantastic collaborative working skills and were very proud of their building efforts.

They also visited the castle prisons, noting the sudden change in temperature in the eerie prison area!

Finally, they had the opportunity to go down into the basement of the Castle - 10m underground where they were given a very engaging, informative and interactive talk about the history surrounding Colchester Castle and the Romans. All in all, it was a fantastic learning opportunity and the children had a brilliant day at the Castle!



As part of their Science topic for the Summer Term, Year 4 went on a pond dipping trip to Lambourne End.

They took part in a pond dipping activity and found some extraordinary creatures, most notably baby newts, a selection of molluscs and numerous larva.

They also discovered the beautiful grounds on an orienteering trail and came across the on-site farm and met the giant tortoise. After a well-deserved lunch, the children spent some time enjoying the trim trail before returning to school at the end of the day.





## JUNIOR NEWS continued

As part of the Juniors' celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Year 4 took part in an exciting and engaging Morris Dance workshop. The instructor demonstrated the basic parts of the dance - steps, skips and hops. Once they were familiar with the steps and used to the speed of the music, they danced with ankle bells and handkerchiefs. The children lined up in rows and performed a sequence of choreographed dances. It was lovely to see so many happy, smiley faces as they experienced traditional English folk dancing. A brilliant effort was put in by all the Year 4 children!



Year 4 Queen's Platinum Jubilee ceramic plate painting.



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the Queen's 70th Jubilee. They designed and made their own crowns which they wore for afternoon tea. They also participated in Maypole and Morris dancing!

A fantastic day was had by all at Paradise Wildlife Park. Seeing the lions up close was definitely a highlight of the day!





## JUNIOR NEWS continued

**Years 3 and 4** on Monday 27 June, set off on an exciting day out to KidZania in Shepherds Bush. They went through the airport, checked in and were each given their own credit cards, introduced to the KidZania City and were then sent off to work hard and earn more KidZos! The children had the opportunity to take on a variety of job roles during their time in the City. There were many budding police officers, fire fighters, radio journalists and vets! A fantastic day was had by all!

**Years 5 and 6** visited Harry Potter Studios on Monday 27 July. There were a lot of excited faces and a great buzz among the children, especially the ones who have enjoyed the world of Harry Potter through the books and the movies. The children were so excited to be welcomed by an amazing dragon! They enjoyed the presentation by the venue staff and then the doors of the studio opened and they found themselves in the Great Hall of Hogwarts. It was an amazing start to a great day.



The children learnt about costumes, set design, prop making and CGI effects. They even tested their skills of making a broom hover! Some of our children were extremely impressed by the Knight Bus and had an opportunity to view some of the interior.



They visited Harry's house on Privet Drive and ended their tour with a close-up view of Hogwarts Castle's model and were blown away by the attention to detail! It was an amazing trip and will be remembered by many of our pupils.



**Year 6** have been learning about how the body works for their **Science** topic this term. They tested and measured their heart rates and oxygen levels using a pulse monitor attached to their finger. They completed a series of tasks and measured the effect on their heart rate and oxygen levels and made comparisons. The children felt like mini doctors using this special equipment.



They continued their science learning around the body and the different systems that keep us alive. There was an interactive talk on the digestive system led by Dr Fonalleras Marcos, a Normanhurst parent. Dr Fonalleras Marcos is a gastroenterologist and shared her expertise with the pupils to teach them how the body digests food. They loved her talk and learnt a lot of interesting and gross facts! They are very grateful to Dr Fonalleras Marcos for taking the time to help them.



## JUNIOR NEWS continued

**Year 5** on a local walk (Art).



**Year 6** had a brilliant time celebrating Jubilee Week. They

participated in a Morris Dancing workshop and had fun painting their plates to commemorate the event. The pupils also researched and created a biography all about the Queen. To finish off their exciting week, they joined the Normanhurst street party, diving into delicious cakes and sandwiches, before playing a whole school game of bingo where the two official winners of the game were Felix and Olof! What a wonderful way for Year 6 to finish half term; a great Jubilee celebration was had by all.



**Year 6** went to Jump Giants in Thurrock for their end of year treat trip to celebrate their graduation. They were very lucky to have almost the entire park to themselves! They started with jumping on the trampolines, completing the assault courses, playing dodgeball and basketball on trampolines, and even playing 'Gladiator Wars' with Miss Stone and Miss Gilbert!

This was followed by an hour in the 'Endzone'. The pupils finished off the day with pizza. A great time was had by all, even the teachers!





## YEAR 6 GRADUATION PARTY

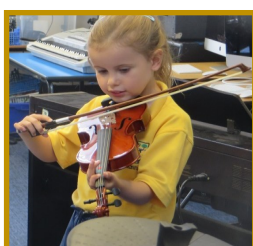
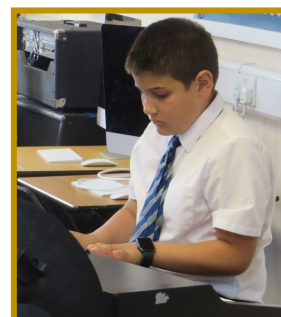
Year 6 celebrated the end of their time in the Juniors with a Graduation Party. The party was planned by the Head of House Prefects and they did a fantastic job! The Year 6 pupils all voted for awards such as: most likely to become Prime Minister, to own their own business or to win at Wimbledon, which were given out at the party too. The Year 6's also received their graduation hoodies and yearbooks which were a big hit. Everyone had a great evening and the chocolate fountain was definitely a highlight! We wish the Year 6 pupils every success as they move into the seniors.



## TWILIGHT MUSIC CONCERTS

During May and June our pupils were given the opportunity to take part in our 'Twilight Concert' series.

Six, short, informal concerts were held in the music room after school for pupils to show the progress they have made in their music lessons. Family and friends were treated to performances on the trumpet, drums, clarinet, flute, saxophone, guitar, voice, piano, violin, viola and cello. Nearly 40 pupils performed and we were so impressed by the progress they have made over the year. For most pupils, after 2 years of restrictions, it was their first opportunity to play for an audience and they all rose to the occasion, performing with joy and style. The concerts were a real treat, a lovely way to end the school day and we would like to say thank you to their music teachers for all the work they put into the preparation and to their families for supporting them through the year. If you are interested in learning a musical instrument, please speak to the office about the many options available.





## SENIOR NEWS

**Year 10 Careers Day** On Friday 1 July pupils had the opportunity to listen to seasoned professionals who introduced them to their respective professions. The speakers were: Ozan Kazim (Finance), Mandy Aulak (Law), Helena Miles (Business), Sinead Greenaway (Media), Dathan Muscat (Engineering/Architecture) and Debra Marcos (Medicine).

Following a drinks reception and lunch, hosted by Mrs Job, Mrs Saint and Mrs Lafferty, they were subjected to 30 minutes of interviews, during which they had to talk about their ambitions, interests and involvement in everyday school life.

The interview panel was very impressed with our pupils and gave them some constructive feedback. The Year 10 group gained valuable experience in how to conduct themselves in a formal interview scenario, an experience that will be extremely useful for the imminent sixth form application process. The Year 10 pupils would like to thank everybody who made the day possible.



**Year 7 to Year 10 pupils** went to Skreens Activity Centre for a day of end of year team building. They thoroughly enjoyed their time at the Essex site, testing their skills in archery, climbing, caving, den building and then finally relaxing toasting marshmallows on their self-built fires. Everyone had a fantastic time as they scaled new heights and learnt the importance of tightening the ropes around the rafts! With only a few pupils facing the water of the lake, it was overall an excellent day out!





## SENIOR NEWS continued



**Senior pupils** enjoyed a wide range of activities at our annual house trip to Harlow Outdoor Centre. A packed itinerary included climbing, high ropes, archery, kayaking, canoeing and bumble on the River Stort. Bumble is unique to Harlow Outdoors and includes sliding on weirs, playing team games in the river, jumping from the river bank and bridge jumping. Our pupils donned buoyancy aids, blue wetsuits and helmets, and Tim in Year 9 said the best part of bumble was jumping into the cold water on such a hot day!

William in Year 9 proved to be talented at the water games, whereas Vraj also from Year 9 and Ben in Year 10 fell into the water! James in Year 7 also fell in after his foot got stuck in the mud, and Adam in Year

8 suffered the same fate when his paddle pushed off from the wall and he fell in. They all took it in good spirits and there was no lasting damage!

Max in Year 8 excelled at archery, as did Luke in Year 9. Meanwhile, Jordan in Year 9 was considered strong enough to be allowed to have a special bow. Archery contestants played the "pizza game", where they had to hit the coloured circles in order. White represented dough, blue was tomato, red the cheese and yellow the topping. If they hit the black circle, they had 'burned' the pizza and had to start again. The instructors said they saw a huge improvement in our pupils at the end of the session.

This was a highly successful house trip, which will doubtless be repeated another year.

## DRAGON'S DEN



Aspiring young entrepreneurs from Years 5 to 9 were given exciting product and service ideas which they researched and presented their business plans and strategies.

It was an impressive event that encouraged individuals to go outside their comfort zone while enhancing their public-speaking and persuasive skills. This event also helped them to prepare for the 'real' world.

It was incredible working with these enthusiastic participants and watching their astonishing pitches. We hope to have more of these enterprise events to encourage friendly competition in the coming years.

Thank you to the teachers who gave pupils their time to work on this project and to all the participants who showed such great interest.





## SHAKESPEARE WEEK COMPETITION 2022

Shakespeare Week 2022 encouraged pupils to think about the quote "...a turn or two I'll walk, to still my beating mind" from the play 'The Tempest'. They were asked to think about how they manage to 'still your beating mind'? It was all about physical wellbeing and considering how being active is good for one's mind!

Normanhurst has been taking part in the Shakespeare Week Competition for the last two years. In our first year, we had a Highly Commended entry from Nicolas (now a Year 7 pupil) and we were extremely proud of his achievement. This year, he managed to not only get a Highly Commended entry but also a First Runner Up! Well done Nicolas.

Sofia in Year 5 entered the competition with her lovely poem all about dancing. You can see her poem and further information about her entry via the link here: [HERE](#)

Her entry was Highly Commended in '8-11 Years' category and we were absolutely thrilled to hear the outcome! Well done Sofia.



Our 'First Runner-up' entry in the category for ages 4 -7 was by James in Year 2. James wrote a poem to highlight the importance of walking outdoors. He also explained in his bio that writing poetry is a great way to keep active as he needs to think about rhyming which makes his brain work hard! Well done James.

You can see his entry using the link: [HERE](#)

We are already looking forward to next year's competition!

## SUMMER 'JUBILEE THEMED' BARBEQUE

The bunting was up, the stalls set and the bouncy castles ready for our whole school summer barbecue. This event has been missing for a couple of years, so it was wonderful to see families, friends and pupils working together and enjoying themselves in the sunshine. The atmosphere was fantastic with so many events to take part in or watch, with the sponging of the teacher being one of the highlights. Mr Christou we thank you for being such a great sport and the NSPA team for all your hard work.





# NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

## ISA Regional Athletics, Bedford

This year saw the return of ISA Athletics. The London North Qualifiers were held at Bedford International Athletics Stadium the week before half term. Normanhurst took a strong team of able athletes to compete. Pupils have been doing athletics in lessons at Lee Valley Athletics Track since March and they were all well prepared for the day's competition. Despite the lack of competitive experience due to Covid over the last few years, our pupils did themselves proud on the day. We had 3 pupils win their events and progress to the National Finals in Manchester. We also had many 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place results. Well done to everyone who represented the team.



## London North Tennis Tournament

Bobby and Matias represent Normanhurst in the London North Tennis Tournament in the U13 boys event. They competed against mostly pupils from the year above but their quality showed and they gradually gelled more and more as the day went on, as the format was all doubles. They finished in 2nd place. Congratulations to them both.

Maybe go for gold next year!

**Year 3** all took part in the LBWF Tri Golf Festival. They worked together as a team to score points by aiming at targets using a variety of golf clubs to putt, chip and pitch depending on the game. Well done to the team. They all played well and improved over the afternoon, displaying all the school games values such as determination, perseverance and teamwork.



On Monday 13 June Bella Y6 and Laila Y7 were invited to the ISA Athletic Finals hosted in Manchester after successfully qualifying - Bella in the rounder's ball throw and Leila in the 70m hurdles. Both pupils performed exceptionally well and Bella unsurprisingly returned to Normanhurst with a gold medal after competing in the rounder's throw event. Leila scored an impressive 4th place in the 70m hurdles; she is now the 4th fastest year 7 girl in the country.

Congratulations, we are incredibly proud of both of your achievements.



## SPORTS DAY

This year was my 10<sup>th</sup> year being involved in Sports Day at Normanhurst School and I think it was definitely one of the best! I am always surprised by how well pupils at Normanhurst excel when given the opportunity to compete and demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The level of peer support, sportsmanship and individual effort was outstanding. Well done to each and every one who participated.

There were many notable performances throughout the day and some very close finishes on the track. Kindergarten amazed us by doing so well in what was the first sports day for many of them. We had a handful of pupils who really stepped up and broke long standing school records: Ethan 800m, Bobby and Tim javelin, Laila and Mert long jump, Shaunella shot and Edward, Kiran, Luke and Timothy the Warren Y9 boys relay team. Congratulations to them all.

I must thank all our teachers who timed, measured, scored, commentated and encouraged the students. Thank you to the NSPA for providing refreshments all day, without you days like this simply couldn't happen. But the main objective of the day was to establish which house was going to win the Sports Day Shield. It was a clean sweep for Connaught House in both the juniors and seniors. Next year I expect an even bigger effort from Warren to try and win back the Sports Day Shield. In the meantime, Connaught can celebrate being the WINNERS of sports day, well done!

Mrs Taylor





## NSPA

Dear Parents

This has been a year to remember for the Normanhurst School Parents Association, as it has marked the return of our fundraising events!

### Barbeque

The school barbeque returned with a bang on 21 May and was attended by a record number of parents, carers and children. Highlights were Miss Stone and Mrs Saint leading the children in a fantastic Junior School Macarena, and Mr Christou endured his final sponging, as he starts his well-earned retirement at the end of the school year. A huge thank you to everyone for attending or lending a hand to help raise over £2,000!!

### Family walks

At other points during the year we had our family walks. These are held on a Sunday morning in September, Christmas and Easter. They are a lovely opportunity to spend an hour or so walking with teachers and parents, ending with a hot drink and sausage/vegan roll. Please look out for the date for the September walk to be announced soon.

### Uniform sales

Our pre-loved uniform sales went from strength to strength, thanks to the hard work of Lorraine Green and Janie Bird. They have so far helped raise a whopping £1,300 during the year! All uniform is carefully checked and washed before re-sale, so is a fantastic way to stock up on PE and school uniform for your children.

### Card readers

We went digital during this year, investing in card readers, and moving our raffle sales online. Parents have told us that this has been a significant help when buying tickets and uniform sales, as none of us carries cash anymore!

### What we bought for our children - what it is all about!

And finally, the fruit of all these labours has resulted in the NSPA being proud to have been able to fund, or contribute towards, the following events and games for our children during the year, which is what this is all about:

- Two pool tables
- A woodwork bench for the Early Years
- 3 recycling bins
- Christmas Elf show and gifts
- Revision workshops for Years 7-11
- Year 11 and Year 6 graduation events, yearbooks and hoodies
- New playground markings
- Positively You workshop
- Squash and biscuits for Sports Day and the Sponsored Walk

Have a wonderful summer holiday, and look forward to seeing you all again in September 2022!

With best wishes

**The NSPA Committee**  
**normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com**



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association