

NEWSLETTER

September 2022



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to the September edition of the Normanhurst Newsletter. We have had a really encouraging and positive start to the year. I have, once again, been impressed to see pupils in class so focused and enjoying their learning and ready for another academic year.

This newsletter will show how busy September has been. Pupils have been making bread, visiting the theatre, celebrating World Afro Day, growing their own vegetables, exploring e-safety and have been to the O² to watch professional tennis players in the Laver Tennis Tournament.

I have been delighted to see how well our new pupils are settling into school life at Normanhurst, making friends and getting to know their teachers. Equally, I have been impressed by the pupils transitioning to the next school year.

We are also excited to share that we are finalists for two Independent Schools Association (ISA) Awards:

Innovation for Mental Health and Wellbeing and Outstanding Learning Support Provision. The school is delighted to be shortlisted and recognised for the amazing work and support given to our pupils.

I hope you enjoy the first edition of our newsletter.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS



At the end of last term our Kindergarten children were excited when they were able to pull up and enjoy the potatoes they had been growing. On returning this term it is even more exciting, we have beautiful flowers growing in the garden alongside a wonderful crop of tomatoes and even some squash and courgettes. Once they are ripe and ready to eat we will enjoy them as an afternoon snack.



Kindergarten have been enjoying lots of activities linked to our topic 'Bears - Fact and Fiction'. In story time we have read all about teddy bears and in our creative activities have explored making teddies in a variety of ways. The children enjoyed making rice crispy teddy cakes, teddy bear toast and painting bears. In Maths they have been counting and comparing the sizes of bears and even brought their favourite teddy into school to join in with our group activities.



The 15 September was World Afro Hair Day, celebrating the natural hair of people from black and mixed-race ethnicities. We began by reading the story 'The Mega Magic Hair Swap' about two little girls who love each other's hair and decide to swap; a magical story about curls and being yourself. The children enjoyed role play at the hairdressers - plaiting and braiding,



washing the doll's hair and styling their teacher's hair. Worksheets encouraged them to draw their favourite hairstyles and here are some quotes from Reception children describing the hair they designed:



"My hair is straight and blonde and long." - Lilia

"My hair is so straight because it has super powers in it." - Leo

"My hair is rainbow." - Henry

EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

Following the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty the Queen, Kindergarten, Reception and Year 1 came together for a time of reflection on her life. It was a beautiful, poignant assembly where the children were encouraged to share their own thoughts and knowledge of current events. Using the morning paper as a link, the children in Year 1 were able to look at these independently in small groups with their teachers. We watched the wonderful clip of the Queen with Paddington and finished our assembly with a moment of silence, age appropriate listening to the rainbow song with the beautiful picture of the rainbow over Windsor Castle in the background. We will continue to follow the events as they unfold with Early Years and Year 1 coming together for further age appropriate sharing and caring.



Each week Kindergarten enjoy a 'Mini Artists' session where we look at different artists and their work. One week was all about Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian painter who explored colour. We began by learning a little about Kandinsky and looking at some of his pieces and then discussed how different colours make us feel. The children then used crayons to make their very own circle pictures, which we put together to make a beautiful piece of art. They used many different sized circular objects that they found themselves and dipped them in paints to create colourful prints. What another fun and creative afternoon!

EARLY YEARS NEWS continued



Reception are loving their forest walks! We have been on a scavenger hunt, looking for different items in the forest. We have collected lots of twigs and tried to write our names with them. The children loved looking at the view over London as well as going on a bear hunt!



"I can see the London Eye." - Leo

"I liked when we shouted for the bears." - Lenna-Mae

"I liked picking up sticks." - Hashim



In our Investigating fun sessions, we have been exploring the human body. We measured our friends to compare how tall they are and explored the question - 'do older children have bigger hands'? To test that out, we decided to draw around our hands, cut them out and then compare them to our friends in Year 1. We decided that our hands get bigger as we get older.



We also had a lesson focussing on our smell and why some things smell strongly and others don't. We decided that when things smell strongly, they usually taste strong too.

"Bread doesn't really smell but garlic bread does." - Isla



After reading the story of the 'Little Red Hen', the Reception children decided to write a shopping list in order to make some bread. After Mrs Allen got all the ingredients from the shopping list, we made the bread together adding flour, yeast, oil and water.

"We added yeast to make it rise." - Leo

"We put it by the window and waited." - Isla

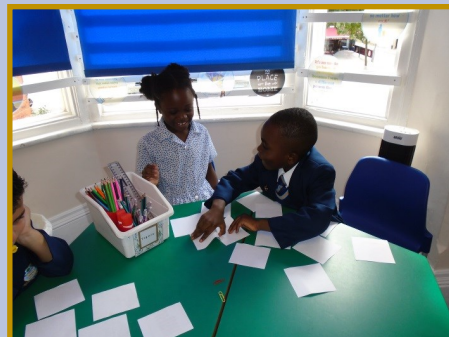
"It got bigger." - Sannan



Mrs Job could smell the bread all the way from her office and followed the smell down to Reception. The children loved sharing what they had been making with Mrs Job and gave her a bread roll to try! Mrs Job was so inspired, she asked the children for the recipe so she could make it at home.

JUNIOR NEWS

Year 2 have been busy learning about Place Value. They enjoyed matching the pictures of base 10 to the correct value.



In PSHE Year 3 were discussing the different emotions that we might feel and that all emotions are welcome. We discussed how its best to deal with our emotions and where we can get support.

In groups the children designed their worst schools and then presented them to the rest of the class. We then discussed the emotions we feel when we start something new or go to a new school and how we can deal with these emotions, and how as a class we can help each other.



As part of our cross-curricular Design/Technology and RE topic, Year 4 embarked on making challah bread. Over the last few weeks, the children had researched its significance in the Jewish faith, designed a recipe card, and tasted other bread from around the world. The children worked hard, mixing, kneading, and plaiting the beautiful dough before baking it in the oven. The results were fantastic, well done Year 4.



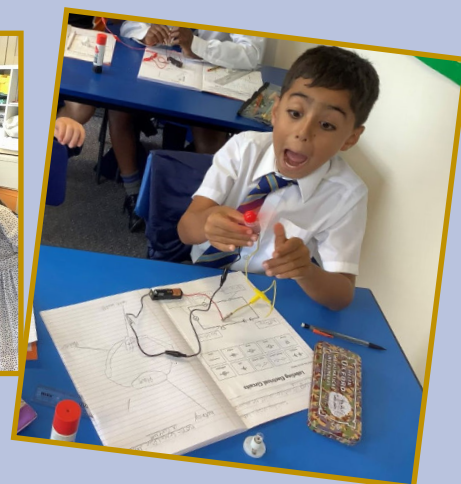
On Thursday 15 September, Normanhurst Juniors celebrated World Afro Day with a special assembly. World Afro Day founded a global day of change, education and celebration of Afro hair and identity with 2022 marking the 5th anniversary. Pupils in Lower Kindergarten to Year 5 had a special assembly in their classrooms and read stories such as 'Hair Love' and 'Mega Magic Hair Swap'. Year 6 joined a live stream assembly with other students from around the country and were able to interact with the presenters too.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

Year 4 had a brilliant Science lesson last week electrical circuit-making. The children were so enthusiastic and they approached the lesson with the enquiring minds of real scientists, successfully building circuits to make a bulb light and a motor run.

Well done Year 4, a great start to Science this term.

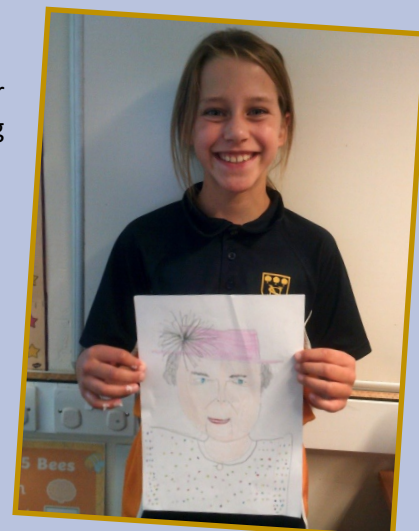
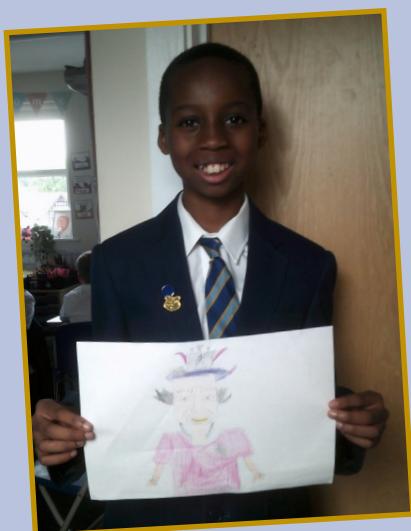


Year 4 took an afternoon walk to the Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge in Chingford. The trip linked to our current Humanities topic 'How is the Amazon Rainforest different to Epping Forest?' The children explored the museum, understanding its relevance to the area and why it was chosen by the Tudor Royal Family, nearly 500 years ago. It was a lovely historical trip linking very well to our local area, which enabled us to compare Epping Forest to the Amazon Rainforest.



Year 5's Portraits

In Year 5, we celebrated the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by designing portraits of her throughout her life.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

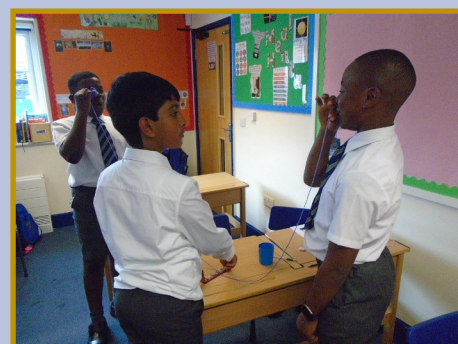
International Peace Day

On Thursday 21 September, Year 5 learned about the history of World Peace Day. We discussed this year's theme – End Racism. Build Peace – and considered how we can do this in our local community. The children created an acrostic poem to celebrate this important day.



Year 6 started the term with revision of the times table. It was, however, a different approach to the old times table! Children placed their battleships on a 12x12 grid and used times table as coordinates to locate their partner's ship. There was a lot of strategical thinking involved as, once the children got a hit, they had to work out the times table facts around that spot in order to sink the rest of the battleship. There was a lot of laughter and shouts of 'HIT' and 'MISS'! It was a lovely way to start the year and revise.

In Year 6, children are learning about light and how it helps us see. After learning that light rays travel in a straight line from a source, they did their own demonstrations with objects. They were amazed to find out that we see objects thanks to the light rays reflecting into our eyes! Later in the week, they completed a comprehension activity in their guided reading lesson about light and light sources, which further developed their understanding



Normanhurst Juniors have school pets – 5 Giant African Land Snails! They started their Normanhurst Journey being cared for by our Year 6 pupils who have named them after the School Values. They painted a tiny tip of the top of the shell of each snail so we can tell them apart. The yellow snail represents 'Friendship', the orange snail represents 'Respect', the pink snail represents 'Determination', the purple snail represents 'Excellence' and the green snail represents 'Courage'. The snails will make their way through all of the junior classes to be cared for by all of our pupils with the help of the Year 6 prefect team. Welcome snails!

SENIOR NEWS

Year 7

Well done to Year 7 who have brilliantly managed the exciting transition from primary to secondary mathematics. They have become experts at using Hegarty Maths, our online homework platform. They are all putting in their best efforts and are achieving very high scores on homework tasks too!

In the classroom, we have been learning about the wonderful part of mathematics called Algebra! We have played dominoes, we have been creating our own questions and we have been discussing our ideas to support new learning. Keep working hard Year 7!



Year 8

Year 8 have made a great start to the year and have enjoyed learning from their brand new smart board. They have been investigating shapes by designing rooms; answering challenging angle questions; and using their collaboration skills to achieve successful outcomes in each lesson. Some of them have even taken over the role of the teacher, and peer-to-peer teaching has proven to be very engaging.

Year 11

We have had a great start back to the new academic year in Senior Maths. The extended summery climate has meant that we have been able to get outside and learn about Loci and constructions before coming back into the classroom and formalising these skills.

Year 11 are only about two months away from sitting their first full set of mocks in preparation for their 2023 formal exams, and we wish them all the best in the preparations running up to this time.

To support one of their GCSE English Literature components, Years 10 and 11 (from both Braeside and Normanhurst) went to the New Wimbledon Theatre to watch JB Priestley's *'An Inspector Calls'*.

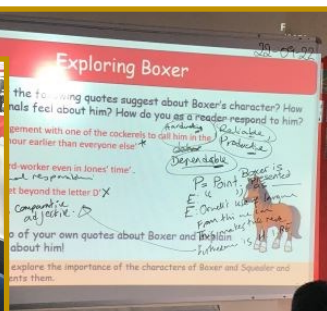
This visual experience gave them an opportunity to observe, reflect and analyse the text they have been taught and provided further support in understanding stage directions, setting and many other features they will need to refer to in their exams.

It was clear that every student benefitted from the event, both academically and leisurely, as they were laughing, gasping and cheering as the plot's dramatic moments revealed themselves - the trip was a great success!

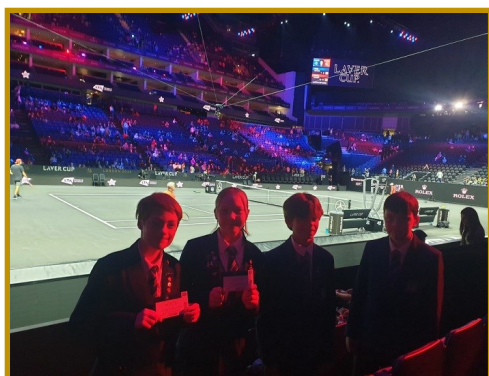


SENIOR NEWS continued

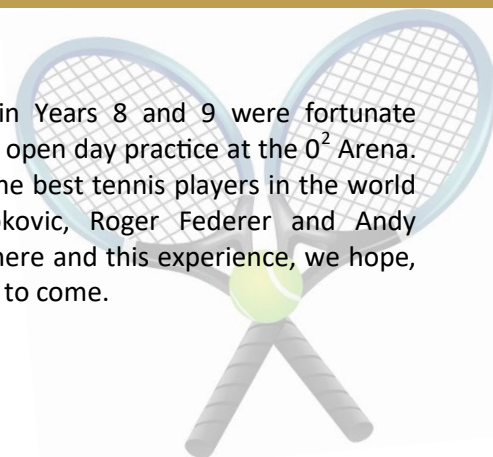
In a recent English lesson Year 8P pupils unpicked and analysed language to explore an important character in Animal Farm. They worked independently to “explode” a key quotation and produced written work of a very high standard. A proud English teacher - Mrs Lafferty.



In Computing for the Year 7 curriculum this term, we are starting off with some digital literacy and have begun our unit on E-Safety. This has been a great start to the term where we are covering all sorts of topics such as: using emails safely, looking at how to ensure profiles on social networking sites and apps are private and the positive/negative uses and features of the latest smart phones coming out in the industry.



On Thursday 22 September pupils in Years 8 and 9 were fortunate enough to attend the Laver Cup 2022 open day practice at the O² Arena. They had the opportunity to watch the best tennis players in the world including Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray. They soaked up the atmosphere and this experience, we hope, is one the pupils will cherish for years to come.



ISA

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

ISA Awards 2022
Finalist

ISA Award for Outstanding Provision for Learning Support

ISA

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

ISA Awards 2022
Finalist

ISA Award for Excellence and Innovation in
Mental Health and Wellbeing

We are delighted to announce that Normanhurst School has been shortlisted for the ISA Award for Outstanding Provision for Learning Support, and the award for Excellence and Innovation in Mental Health and Wellbeing.

YEAR 3 CAMP

Year 3 pupils had an amazing two days at the annual Oak-Tree Camp. They were joined by other pupils from the group to complete fun-filled activities during their overnight stay. For some pupils, this was their first time staying away from home for the night and everyone did so well!

As soon as they arrived their first task was to put up their own tent for the night, which was a challenge, even for the teachers! After some food, they took part in a range of team-building activities and games where they were teamed up with the pupils from the other schools too. To end the evening they were lucky enough to roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate around a camp fire. Even Mrs Job, Miss Stone, Miss Varley and Mr Ram had some marshmallows, after helping the pupils to roast their own of course!

The next morning there were a few sleepy faces emerging from the tents (including the teachers!) but after some nutritious breakfast there was enough energy to play more games in their groups, and then they had the task of taking down the tents! The pupils gathered for one last meal before playing their final game, after which they packed up the minibuses and returned to Normanhurst for some well-earned rest!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The start of the academic year saw pupils in Year 10 complete their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award assessed expedition. During this weekend the students behaved impeccably well and worked efficiently and cohesively to complete their expeditions. They camped, hiked, orienteered, cooked and dealt with challenging situations when necessary, and for this reason, all involved passed their assessment. Well done all!

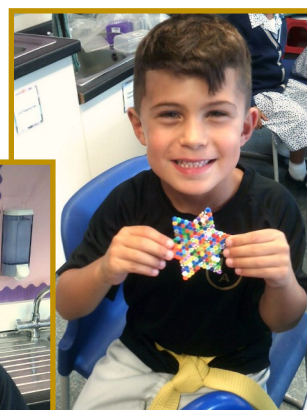


PUPIL NEWS

John (Year 8) successfully completed a karate grading and is now a purple belt.
Elizabeth (Year 6) also graded and is a yellow belt.

Hama Bead Club

The children in Hama Bead club have caught us under a spell already! They have been showing great focus and concentration in making some very intricate designs. Well done to you all, keep it up!



NSPA

Dear Parents

Welcome to all our new parents and pupils, and welcome back to everyone else! We are delighted to introduce the Normanhurst School Parents Association, which you may have seen abbreviated to NSPA. The beginning of the school year is an exciting time for the NSPA, as we start planning the activities and events for the coming year that will enrich our children's time at Normanhurst, and enable parents to meet each other in a social setting.

We ended the last school year on a high, after a record-breaking fundraising barbeque, and so this year we will be trying to go even further, raising even more funds to buy the extras that make school so much more fun for all our children!

The first NSPA event of the school year, the Welcome Walk and Litter Pick, took place on Sunday 26 September, and we were very pleased to see so many parents and pupils from all years taking part. As usual, the children were super keen to litter pick and did a great job of clearing the route to Connaught Waters of litter. At the end of the walk, we returned to sausage rolls, teas and hot chocolates. We hold a couple of these parent and teacher walks throughout the year, so please join us for the next one. It is a great way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday!

Dates for your diary

Quiz Night - Friday 14 October 7-9pm

NSPA meeting - Monday 17th October at 7pm. It is an event held on Zoom, and is open to anyone to attend.

Group Fireworks - Sunday 13 November 4.30-6.45pm

NSPA Meeting - Monday 21 November at 7pm

Winter Fayre - Monday 12 December 4-6pm

Preloved School Uniform

We hold regular sales of second-hand school uniform at the school during the year. The next sale date is TBC, but please remember that you can place an order for uniform with the school office before then. This is a great way to stock up on PE kit, as well as being able to buy regular school uniform items - we hold stock for Juniors and Seniors.

We look forward to meeting you at future NSPA events. If you have any questions, please leave a message in the school office and we will get back to you.

Best wishes

The NSPA Committee
normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association