



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 December 2022

Dear Parents

Re: **December 2022 Headmistress's Letter**

The festive season is finally upon us, with activities and rehearsals for performances well on the way. There is plenty to celebrate and enjoy for pupils and parents alike. Although this term has flown by so quickly there is lots still to look forward to.

Yearbooks

Work has already begun on the yearbooks for Year 6 and Year 11. We have many photos available at school, but we are aware that, as parents, you may also have some great photos taken over the years. We have therefore set up a yearbook email address which allows parents to send in photos to be considered for the yearbooks. Please email yearbook@normanhurstschool.co.uk and put either Year 6 or Year 11 in the subject heading. The deadline for photos is Friday 10 February 2023.

Christmas Carol Service

We have been rehearsing Christmas songs for our Carol Service which is going to be a fantastic event, full of happiness and cheer. The service takes place at The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on Wednesday 14 December at 2.30pm. Parents are very welcome to join us to share in this festive celebration. EYFS and Junior pupils may be collected from the church at the end of the service. The senior pupils will walk back to school and be dismissed from there.

Nativity Performances

There is a lot of excitement around the Nativity this year and I know we are all in for a very special treat. There will be three performances of the Nativity 'Superstar' to our parents:

Wednesday 7 December at 9.15am for Year 1 parents - refreshments will be available in the hall from 8.40am.

Wednesday 7 December at 2.30pm for Early Years parents - refreshments will be available in the hall from 2.15pm.

Thursday 8 December at 9.15am for Year 2 parents - refreshments will be available in the hall from 8.40am.

We have been working with DE Photos for many years, and the team will be taking individual and group photos of the event. Photographs will be available to purchase in the playground after the event on Wednesday 7 December, and online for those attending the event on Thursday 8 December.

Winter Fair - Monday 12 December from 3.45- 6.30pm

We are very much looking forward to the Normanhurst School Winter Fair. There will be a number of musical performances, Santa's Grotto, senior and junior prefects will be running the stalls and a variety of refreshments will be served by the NSPA. There will be a few stalls provided externally. If you would like to purchase a stall for the event please contact treid@normanhurstschool.co.uk by Wednesday 7 December. Please do come along and support what promises to be a wonderful school event.

There will also be a raffle and tickets are available to purchase at the school gate and from the school office.

Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunches and the visiting Pantomime

Once again, we look forward to our annual Christmas lunches on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 December. Christmas lunch will be followed class parties for the Early Years and the Juniors.

- Monday 5 December - Early Years and Years 5-9
- Tuesday 6 December - Years 1-3 and Years 10-11

Pupils will, as usual, be allowed to wear a festive jumper on the day of their Christmas lunch and party. They should also wear their Christmas Jumper on Thursday 8 December to celebrate National Christmas Jumper Day.

On Friday 9 December, we have arranged for the Early Years and Junior pupils to watch a live pantomime performance in school. We are very excited about this and I know the children will really enjoy it. Once again we would like to thank the NSPA for sponsoring this event and helping us to create special memories.

Staff News

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Fisher, our Head of Early Years. Mrs Fisher has contributed immensely to the Early Year's department and we will miss her warmth, care and compassion for the children. We would like to thank Mrs Fisher for her dedicated service to Normanhurst, as she leaves us to travel the world. I am pleased to announce that from January, the Early Year's department will be led by Mrs Allen, as the new Head of Early Years. Mrs Allen will remain the Reception class teacher, supported by Miss Elwis. Many of you will already know Mrs Allen, who is a fantastic, well-established current member of the Early Year's department and has helped the department to become a nurturing and wonderful place to learn. We wish Mrs Fisher and Mrs Allen the very best for the future. Ms Oriel will be joining the Early Year's team in January, bringing with her experience and expertise. Ms Oriel has already spent some time with the team and the children and is excited to get to know the children and parents.

We will be saying farewell to Miss Collings at the end of term, who will be leaving us to work closer to home. We have been incredibly fortunate to have Miss Collings working at Normanhurst for as long as we have given that her daily commute can be up to 3 hours. Miss Collings has been a fantastic teacher, Junior Science Coordinator and Head of House. We wish her the very best of luck and are very grateful for her hard work and commitment towards the children's learning. To replace Miss Collings, we have appointed Miss Khalifa who has over ten years' experience teaching in Reception and Key Stage 1. Miss Khalifa is very much looking forward to getting to know the Year 1 class and meeting the parents the week beginning Monday 5 December; further details will follow.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Miss Sainsbury has been appointed as the new Junior Science Coordinator from January, I know she will do a fantastic job in developing our Science curriculum and planning STEM Fortnight.

100 Years

In 2023 Normanhurst School celebrates 100 Years. I am excited to say this will also be the theme for the Summer BBQ on Saturday 8 July 2023. We have decided to mark this momentous anniversary by launching four Houses from September 2023 and will be working with staff and pupils to find meaningful names for all four Houses.

There will be four Heads of House:

- Miss Rudman from January 2023 replacing Miss Collings as Head of House
- Mr Botha from September 2023 currently Head of House
- Ms Parrott from September 2023
- Mrs Mouslmani from September 2023

End of Term Arrangements

The final day of term on Thursday 15 December will be a non-uniform day when pupils will be able to wear something festive and bring a donation of £2 to raise money for our local food bank. Pupils can wear jeans, or something sensible for school, but we would like to see everyone wearing something festive.

Please note the dismissal times for the last day of term, after final celebrations and rewards assemblies:

- EYFS and Years 1, 2 and 3 at 11.30am
- Years 4, 5 and 6 at 11.40am
- Years 7, 8 and 9 at 11.50am
- Years 10 and 11 at 11.55am

Year 11 Mock GCSE Exams

The Year 11 pupils have already begun to sit a full set of mock exams. This will enable pupils to see clearly how they are currently performing and how to build on these grades before the final exams in the summer. Our pupils have been working extremely hard for their mocks and have also attended a programme of after school booster sessions and made good use of lunch time quality improvement time.

We are looking forward to seeing this hard work reflected in their mock results.

Thursday Morning Career Talks

We are hoping to extend our careers programme to include short talks from parents to inspire our pupils - the future generation. We are therefore interested in hearing from parents from a variety of sectors and industries to come into school during the Spring Term on Thursday mornings to offer a 20-25 minute talk to our pupils about their occupation and roles, as well as the journey and motivation to work in these fields.

If you think you would be able to offer your expertise, please could you email Mr Botha who is responsible for Careers Education by **Thursday 8 December** via email: EBotha@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Normanhurst Art Exhibition 28 January 2023

Art at Normanhurst continues to go from strength to strength and I am pleased to share that Normanhurst will be having a school art exhibition at school on Saturday 28 January from 9-12pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to see the art work across the school and join us for a few refreshments. Please do save the date.

Autumn Term Reflections

It has been wonderful to feel the positive energy in school. I have really enjoyed and welcomed the opportunity to come together, appreciating these moments and not taking them for granted. We have welcomed new children into the school this Autumn Term and I am pleased to see how well they have settled into their first term at Normanhurst, finding their feet and feeling at home.

Pupils should be extremely proud of their efforts this term. It has been pleasing to read through the latest set of school reports: there is a significant amount to celebrate. Pupils have been determined, showing resilience and understanding and a desire to learn. This is what makes them excellent ambassadors for the school.

We have also had success in the ISA Art Competition, where Mia in Year 9 and a class piece submitted by last year's Year 6, were awarded first place in the ISA regional Finals. Mia's work went on to be awarded Highly Commended at the ISA Nationals. These are wonderful achievements: well done to all pupils involved!

Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim will always be to stay open in the wintry weather, even if the snow comes. In the unlikely case that we are unable to open, we will move to our online home learning programmes. On snow days, the maintenance teams will arrive on site early to clear paths and to ensure that pupils, staff and parents can make their way safely into the buildings.

We will always aim to update our website and email/text all parents and staff by 7am so that you will know our plans for the day ahead.

School Uniform and Rule Reminders

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school, and as the wintry weather is set to continue, I would like to remind you of the school's uniform expectations so that these can be resolved before the start of term in January:

- Pupils may wear a pair of plain gold or silver round stud earrings to school from Year 5 upwards only
- Long hair should be tied back securely all day
- Hair styles should be neat and tidy, not heavily styled, no quiffs, or cut-in designs
- All school bags and sports bags in the seniors are to be plain navy or black. There are currently a few seniors with patterned bags with large logos on them that are not permitted.
- Pupils may not wear black trainers to school instead of their black polishable shoes

All pupils should be wearing winter uniform. Juniors from Reception class upwards are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop.

- Seniors must wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat. Coats should not have design features and should be appropriate for school. All seniors hang up their coats in school and I suggest coats should be practical and not expensive. They should also be named.
- Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, a plain black or navy scarf or gloves are to be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves. Please be aware that seniors will have non-uniform items confiscated and these will need to be collected from the school office.
- Boots are not a part of school uniform in any part of the school, including the Early Years classes, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes throughout the winter. If it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school, but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

We are very aware that when returning to school in the Spring Term, the weather may be colder. Pupils may wear a white thermal top underneath their school shirt if they feel the cold.

NSPA

The NSPA have been fabulous once again in sponsoring so many excellent pupil experiences and valuable equipment for the pupils at Normanhurst. This year the NSPA have:

- Purchased juniors class pets
- Paid for the visiting pantomime to attend school for Early Years and Juniors
- Subsidised the Yearbooks and Hoodies for Years 6 and 11
- Supported the Year 11 Prom and Year 6 Graduation
- Subsidised the revision workshops for Years 7-11 and parent guidance session
- Provided an annual Christmas gift for the pupils
- Provided new Christmas decorations for the school

We are incredibly grateful to the NSPA for their ongoing support.

Coffee Mornings

We have very much enjoyed meeting parents who have been able to make the coffee mornings so far. If you are unable to make your coffee morning but have some feedback you would like to share with us, please feel free to email Miss Reid at treid@normanhurstschool.co.uk and she will pass it on to us.

Festive Wellbeing

The festive period can bring immense joy when we reunite with family and connect with relatives and friends. It can often be an exhausting time for young people as their normal routine is disrupted (for pleasant reasons). I have included a link to a website that provides some helpful tips to support children's wellbeing over the busy festive period: <https://happiful.com/6-ways-to-support-childrens-mental-health-this-winter>

Important Dates for the Diary

Fri 2 Dec	08:45 – 09:45	Y1&2 Coffee Morning
Tue 6 Dec	16:00 – 18:30	Y9 Parents' Evening
Wed 7 Dec	09:15 – 10:15	KG-Y2 Nativity to Y1 Parents
	14:30 – 15:30	KG-Y2 Nativity to KG & Rec Parents
	17:00 – 21:30	Y7 trip to Old Vic Theatre 'A Christmas Carol'
Thu 8 Dec	09:15 – 10:15	KG-Y2 Nativity to Y2 Parents
Fri 9 Dec	08:45 – 09:45	Y3 Coffee Morning
	14:00 – 15:30	KG-Y6 In-School Pantomime
Mon 12 Dec	15:45 – 18:30	Winter Fair
Wed 14 Dec	14:30 – 15:30	Carol Service at St Peter & St Paul Church
Thu 15 Dec	11:30 – 12:00	Last Day of Autumn Term
Tue 10 Jan		First day of Spring term
Fri 13 Jan	08:45 – 09:45	Y4 Coffee Morning
Tue 17 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents Evening
Fri 20 Jan	08:45 – 09:45	Y5 Coffee Morning
Tue 24 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y11 Parents Evening
Fri 27 Jan	08:45 – 09:45	Y6 Coffee Morning
Tue 31 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Year 8 Parents Evening

The Leadership Team, your child's form tutor or I are very happy to discuss any questions or concerns that may arise. Please do feel free to email or contact the school office if you would like to meet with us and discuss any issues.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



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