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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Time has sailed by this term and pupils have returned to school full of life and re-charged. The unpredictable weather has not prevented Normanhurst pupils from moving their learning on and creating opportunities. Every day our pupils continue to make valuable contributions towards the school and demonstrate the true Normanhurst School spirit.

I have really enjoyed the 11+ interviews with our internal and external pupils wanting to join the senior school in September. I am in the process of finalising our Year 7 offers.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights the opportunities available. 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 NEWS

Our Tuesday afternoon the Early Years' themed afternoon kicked off with the story 'Supertato'. We created wanted posters to find the 'evil pea' who had taped up his vegetable friends. The children did such a great job with their posters that the 'evil pea' was soon found and the vegetables were freed. The afternoon ended with delicious smoothies from Mrs Fletcher's smoothie shop.



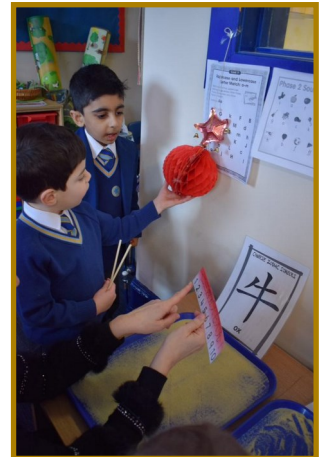
We had a wonderful minibeast afternoon, reading the story 'Superworm' with lots of different activities for the children to enjoy. We had a role play area where the children enjoyed wearing masks and creating homes for the bugs. We also had some creative activities including creating a symmetrical butterfly with paint, a superworm using beads as well as decorating their very own superworm.





## EARLY YEARS continued

The children had a fantastic afternoon celebrating Chinese New Year. They started off by learning about what people might do to celebrate Chinese New Year and the significance of the colour red. They had a fantastic selection of activities they could try, including Chinese mark making, dressing up in traditional clothing as well as a Chinese restaurant role play. We ended the afternoon with a 'dragon dance' and trying some Chinese food.



## JUNIOR NEWS

Over the Christmas holidays pupils in **Year 2** conducted research on lighthouses. They created posters, non-chronological reports and made some fantastic models!





## JUNIOR NEWS continued

Over the term **Year 2** have worked on their Design and Technology skills. They designed and built their own 3D bus made from recycled materials. Pupils carefully used junior hacksaws to cut their wooden axles to the desired length and then attached the wheels to the axle. Throughout this task pupils learnt to explore and use mechanisms. At the end of the unit, pupils were able to evaluate their own work, thinking about what went well and ways they could improve.



**Year 4** Science Christmas holiday project on States of Matter.

In preparation for the children embarking on a new topic in Science, Year 4 were asked to make their very own lava lamp at home. They were given a list of ingredients and a method and asked to document their experiment with photos, then make an explanation poster. The results were fantastic and the children were able to present their finds to the class on their return in January.



As part of their Spring One topic in RE, **Year 4** pupils took a trip to the Buckhurst Hill Synagogue. Firstly, they were greeted by Rabbi Brandman who showed them around the Synagogue. He gave an impressive and engaging talk on all aspects of the Synagogue and Jewish daily life. The children were able to see the Torah housed in the ark and hear the Rabbi read from the prayer book in Hebrew. Finally, they were able to ask the Rabbi questions in a question-and-answer session. It was a great trip, enriching the children's learning and understanding.



## JUNIOR NEWS continued



Over the Christmas break, **Year 5** were challenged to complete a variety of Space themed tasks to introduce their new Science topic: Earth & Space. Many of the pupils created some fantastic projects, including a solar system cake, Hama Bead solar system and a magnetic-tile alien! We were very impressed with the information that they discovered, as well as the creative pieces of work that they made. Well done Year 5!

Following an assembly led by the **Year 6** Prefects, pupils in Years 1–6 celebrated Chinese New Year in their snack time last week. They learnt more about traditions of the celebration and were able to taste some prawn crackers with different flavoured sauces including hoisin and plum sauce. The pupils really enjoyed trying the food and learning about this celebration.





## JUNIOR NEWS continued



Selected pupils from **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** from all four schools in the Oak-Tree Group came together at Braeside School for a competitive Maths Challenge. Year 3 kicked off the proceedings, with three pupils representing their school. They only had a few minutes to complete a mental maths challenge, before clearing the stage to make room for Year 4. Once all of the year groups had their turn, the judges set about marking the papers.

It was then time for the second stage of the challenge. In this round, the children's teamwork was put to the test, as they had to work together to complete a series of tricky problems.

After the scores from both stages were added up, it was announced that Coopersale Hall pupils were the overall champions and we came second! We can't wait to hold another Maths Challenge next year.



## SPELLING BEE

The first ever Spelling Bee at Normanhurst couldn't have gone any better. The event brought both our Houses together from Years 3 to 10 for a friendly yet highly competitive event. The competition started with a classic spelling round. Each House put forward a representative from each year group for a 5-word round, starting with Year 3. However, it wasn't only down to the representatives of each house at the front: there were numerous uses of 'audience lifelines' and pupils from the audience came to the rescue of their Houses. Materialistic, bioluminescence, bludgeon and onomatopoeia were some of the words to be spelt. There were many fair-play moments throughout.

The second round involved the audience directly. It was a Countdown style round where everyone used sets of random letters to write a single word. The word with the most letters would earn a point. At the end of this round, there was a 3-pointer event, where everyone in the room was asked to write as many words as they could using the letters on display and all could change because of the involvement the audience would earn a lot of points for each House! The points are currently being counted. The winning House will be announced and will receive their first ever 'Normanhurst House Spelling Bee' trophy.

The event came to an end with a lot of laughter, handshakes and applause.



## PUPIL NEWS



Nina had her first solo dance competition where she competed in Modern at the BDHH Dance Festival and finished 4th out of 8 dancers. This was a great achievement for her first solo competition.

Well done Nina!



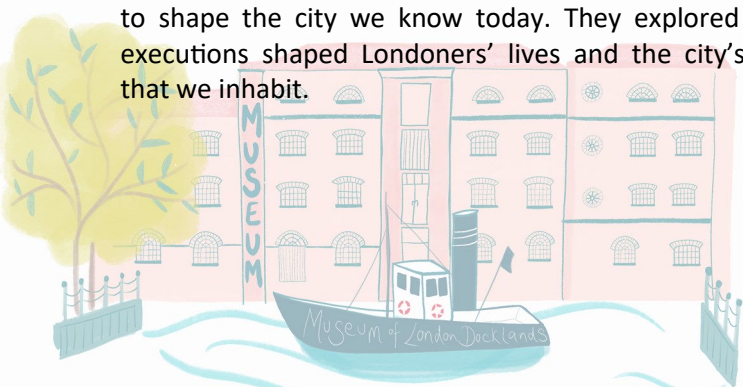
Poppy in Year 5, received a new sewing machine for Christmas and got to work using it straight away! With a little help from her mum and grandmother, she was able to design and make her own drawstring bag! She spent time preparing the materials and learning how the machine worked before she started. Poppy said that it took her over an hour to make but she felt really proud of her efforts and the bag itself when she was finished.

Well done Poppy, we are all very impressed with your skills!

## YEAR 8 TRIP NEWS

Year 8 enjoyed a History trip to the Museum of London (Docklands) earlier this month. Students were able to experience and explore the History of London's historic docklands and its connections to London's trade, Empire and its impact on London and UK society.

Pupils were also able to view the new 'Executions' exhibition that showcases a range of fascinating objects, paintings and projections, including the shirt said to have been worn by King Charles I when he was executed, a recreation of the Tyburn gallows with an immersive projection, last letters of the condemned, and much more. Many of the items on display have rarely been seen in public. Pupils discovered how, over nearly 700 years, public executions came to shape the city we know today. They explored how public executions shaped Londoners' lives and the city's landscapes that we inhabit.





## CLUB NEWS



### Running Club

A massive well done to the brave runners who turned up for a freezing forest run.

The pupils from **Hama Bead Club** love designing and creating a variety of projects. Erin is very proud of her vast collection of designs – well done Erin!



## SPORTS NEWS

On Tuesday 24 January pupils in Years 5 and 6 had the opportunity to compete in an Indoor Athletics Oak-Tree competition. Every pupil made fantastic contributions in a number of track and field events. We now eagerly await the result.



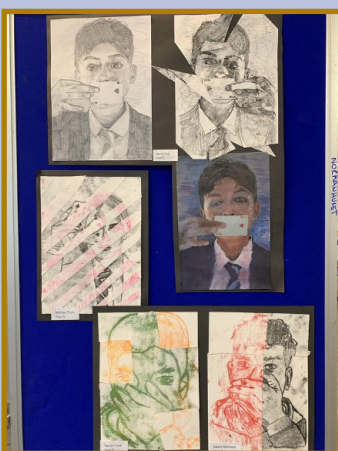
On 26 January the Advanced Sports Programme continued and pupils were in full flow. During this particular session pupils learnt about the skeletal system, identifying bones of the body, and appropriate locations. This was linked to a strenuous relay styled competition which they thoroughly enjoyed. They then had the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved rest which included a cooked breakfast.



## ART EXHIBITION

To brighten up a cold January we saw the return of the Normanhurst Whole School Art Exhibition. This is the first opportunity we have had since the pandemic to bring together and celebrate all of the amazing artwork produced across the whole school. Children from Lower Kindergarten right up to our eldest students in year 11 were represented through a wide variety of projects and artworks.

It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the creativity, knowledge and skill of the young people here. A big thank you to all the teachers in juniors who use their resourcefulness and imaginations to connect a wide range of topics to arts practice. Thank you to all staff and NSPA who helped in the preparation and on the day and a HUGE thank you to all the families who came out on a cold Saturday morning to celebrate and support our Normanhurst young artists!



## NSPA

Dear Parents

Is it too late to say Happy New Year?

We are well into the Spring Term and hopefully the weather will warm up soon.

The Winter Fair was a new event in our school calendar this school year and what a success it was, raising over £1000. Well done to everyone involved.

As we move forward, we have some dates for your diary:-

Thursday 2 February from 3-4pm - a Pre-loved Uniform Sale. All proceeds will go towards NSPA-funded events and activities for the children.

Friday 3 February 5-6.30pm - a Mini Disco for the children from Kindergarten to Year 4

Best wishes

**The NSPA Committee**

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**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association

# NORMANHURST SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023 - 9.15am

[www.normanhurstsch.co.uk](http://www.normanhurstsch.co.uk)

Tel: 02085294307

