

# Normanhurst School NEWSLETTER

February 2023



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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Spring term is always an exciting time, with lots to celebrate from Parents Evenings, Coffee and Drop-in Mornings, to the Junior Disco and Safer Internet Day to name a few.

This term we have seen how powerful our school community is in responding quickly to requests for items for our fundraising event in aid of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. This, once again, demonstrates our kind nature to think of others and respond to those in need.

Every day our pupils continue to make significant contributions towards the school and demonstrate the true Normanhurst School spirit.

This term our 11+ entrance exams and interviews have returned and we are busy finalising our Year 7 offers for September.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights, once again, how rich school life actually is.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Jacqueline Job**  
Headmistress



## EARLY YEARS NEWS



The Early Years children loved their trip to the theatre to watch 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We could do with the Giant's tie as a scarf in this cold weather!

"I liked the bit when his trousers fell down and we all started laughing."- Isla

"I loved going on the school minibus."- Henry

"My favourite part was when we all sung and clapped and when we

spoke in French."- Leo

"I liked sitting with Yasmeen."- Olive

"I loved singing the songs."- Eve

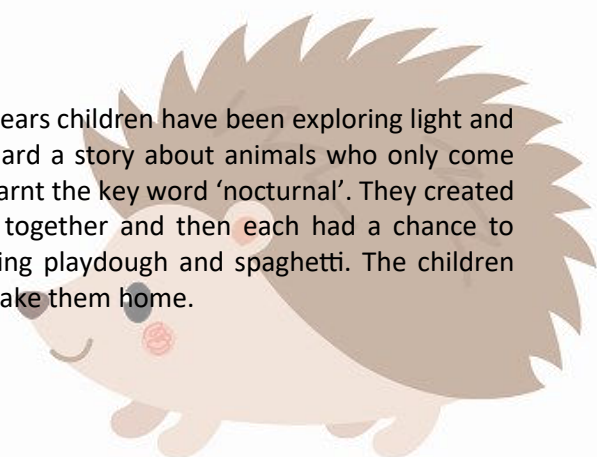
"I liked the Smartest Giant and the giraffe."- Seraphina



After their trip to see 'The Smartest Giant in Town', the Reception children had a go at painting the Giant and what a fantastic job they did!!



In Science, the Early Years children have been exploring light and dark. The children heard a story about animals who only come out in the dark and learnt the key word 'nocturnal'. They created a big night scene all together and then each had a chance to make a hedgehog using playdough and spaghetti. The children were very excited to take them home.





## EARLY YEARS NEWS continued



They continued to explore 'dark' by using their telescopes, which they had great fun making, to look for stars in the dark sky. They spotted lots of stars which represented different shapes and we also saw the big shiny moon! The children went on a 'camping trip' where they listened for the nocturnal

animals. They enjoyed exploring different sources of light by using lanterns and glow sticks; this was linked to our story 'Can't you Sleep Little Bear'. They finished with a trip to the cinema to experience another activity linked to dark and light.

"We were learning about night and we had bracelets that glow in the dark." - Isla

"We used some telescopes." - Henry

"I really liked looking through the telescope in the dark." - Leo



## JUNIOR NEWS

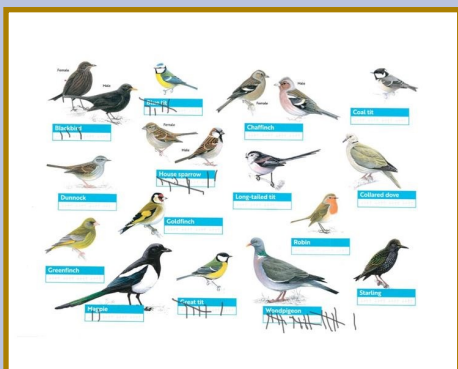
**Year 2** presented an amazing assembly all about The Great Fire of London. The children read diary entries, re-enacted the events and sang a special themed song to the audience.



Over the last few weeks **Year 4** have been working hard on their class assembly. The focus was dreams and goals, linking in with their PSHE topic. The children performed a beautiful story of Little Bird's journey of 10,000 miles from Greenland to Antarctica. To end, they sang 'When I Grow Up', from Matilda the musical.



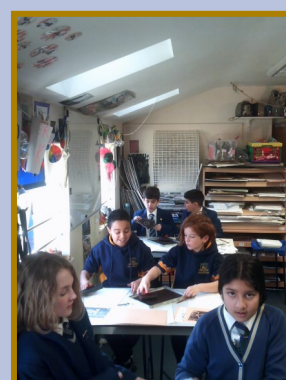
## JUNIOR NEWS continued



Over the weekend of 27-29 January, pupils in the Junior School and Eco Councils supported the work of the RSPB by taking part in the 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. On the last weekend in January each year, the RSPB asks people to spend just an hour counting the wild visitors to their garden or outdoor spaces to help give the charity a snapshot of how our wildlife is faring.

The pupils looked from their windows, gardens, balconies and even local parks to search for birds for an hour and noted down all the birds they could see land. One pupil noted that she could hear more birds than she could see! Other pupils noted birds that were not on their count list and should be added for next year. Miss Stone and Miss Sainsbury were really pleased with the efforts pupils made in supporting the RSPB's work as a conservation charity, monitoring well-loved birds in the face of nature and climate crisis - well done to all who took part!

Before Half Term, the pupils in **Year 5** had a fantastic Art lesson creating some space-themed prints. They 'wowed' us all with their creative designs and super prints! The children really enjoyed working in the Art Room and experimenting with the different resources and tools. Keep up the great work!



## SENIOR NEWS

**Year 10** GCSE Drama students took part in a devising workshop, led by Nick O'Brien from the Stanislavski Experience. Following an introduction into different Epic Theatre techniques by Bertolt Brecht, students were then able to explore new ideas using the creative techniques they acquired from the workshop.

'The taxi' exercise explored social class character stereotypes.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and learnt new ways of conveying our group intent in a creative way."

Shaunella Year 10



**Year 9** pupils enjoyed a trip to the Shaftesbury Theatre to see the production of & Juliet, as they are currently studying 'Romeo and Juliet' in class.

& Juliet is a hilarious new musical that proves when it comes to love, there's always life after Romeo. With her bags packed and ready to escape Verona, Juliet recovers from heartbreak in the best way possible... by dancing the night away with her best friends by her side.

The production was a joyful and vibrant show, which pupil and staff thoroughly enjoyed! A brilliant night at the theatre for Year 9!





## SPORTS NEWS

On Tuesday 7 February pupils in Year 6 participated in an Oak-Tree Tag Rugby competition. There were stand out performances by players in both squads, and this resulted in a first place finish for the A Team and a second place finish for the B Team. The Normanhurst squad collectively managed to score over 20 tries. Well done to all those involved! Normanhurst played a friendly Year 7 and a Years 8 and 9 combined team netball match against Forest School. The match was played in excellent spirits and both teams showed determination. An excellent standard of netball was achieved and both teams won their games. Congratulations to everyone who played.



The Year 7 netball team played in the Waltham Forest Netball Tournament held at Redbridge Sports Centre. Ten schools took part and Normanhurst played all of them in a round robin format. The team put in a lot of effort all day and won all of their matches except one. They narrowly lost to Forest school (the eventual winners). Normanhurst came in a very respectable 2nd place winning silver medals. They were a long way ahead of the 3rd place school in terms of points won.

Congratulations to everyone who played: Bella, Eloise, Selina, Hermione, Alexandra, Zara, Alanna, Kenya and Sienna.





## CLUB NEWS



**Running Club** On 22 April, 60 Normanhurst students will run the London Mini Marathon. Training is going well and well done to all the pupils who turn up for the early morning runs. It is going to be an amazing experience to run the final section of the London Marathon and finish in the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace.



Good luck to Mrs Botha who will be running the full marathon on Sunday 23 April.



## Golf Club

This term has seen the return of Golf Club and we have had a good uptake, especially from Year 7, which is great to see.

We have been going to Chingford Driving Range and the owner, Mr Goldie, has offered some putting coaching on his new putting area. Pupils have had the opportunity to use a variety of clubs from sand wedges through to drivers to test out their skills in the hitting bays. Safety is of the utmost importance at the range and pupils are following the guidance which has enabled them to really get the most out of each session.

Golf Club will continue until the summer term on Mondays. There are a few spaces still available, so do sign up via the school office. We have also had an offer to go to West Essex and use the 'Trackman' for one of our sessions. We look forward to updating you on how the pupils got on in the next newsletter.



## PUPIL NEWS

Ethan in Year 10 did well in the Essex Schools' Cross Country Championship on Saturday 21 January. He came in 50th place and his time was around 21 minutes for 5.2 km. Well done Ethan!



A huge thank you to the Muscat family for donating 10 copies of the book 'When I Grow Up' to the Junior School. They will be used during our upcoming STEM fortnight with great links to our themes of engineering and connections. We will then keep copies of the book in our Junior Library and classrooms for the children to continue to enjoy. The pupils are very grateful for the donation!





## NSPA DISCO

The Junior Disco came back with a bang! Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 4 enjoyed dancing the night away and were treated to a fun filled evening. All of the pupils came 'dressed to impress' and showed off their best moves! Everyone had a great time dancing and playing games throughout the evening and they all took home a goody bag too.

A huge thank you to the NSPA for organising a wonderful event and bringing the much loved event back!





## CHARITY NEWS



In response to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, Normanhurst held a cake sale on Friday 10 February to raise funds for this worthy cause. The sale was hugely successful, with a lot of money raised and most of the cakes sold.

## House Music Competition 2023

Friday 10 February saw the return of the popular House Music competition at Normanhurst School, with some of our youngest and oldest pupils taking part in the fun-filled event. Both Houses had been putting in a lot of time and effort in rehearsals and on Friday it really paid off.



The Houses battled it out over a couple of categories in front of a panel of judges and an audience of family and friends. This year there was an ABBA theme running throughout, which was a lot of fun! The grand finale was the House Song.

After much deliberation from the judges, it was announced that Connaught House was the overall winner! Well done!





## NSPA

Dear Parents

We hope your children had a great half term break!

The recent Mini Disco was a huge success with all tickets sold out. Your support at these events is invaluable and helps us towards our target to buy more iPads this year.

Other recent purchases include items for the fancy dress box in the playground, as requested by the school council, storage boxes, picnic blankets, robots and insect kits.

We will be holding another Preloved Junior and Senior Uniform Sale on Thursday 23 March from 3-4pm and requests can also be made via the school office.

### Dates for the diary:

- Sunday 14 May – NSPA Summer Walk
- Saturday 1 July – Summer BBQ celebrating 100 years of Normanhurst School

We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful upcoming fundraising events.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

[normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com](mailto:normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com)



**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

