

NEWSLETTER

March 2023



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The second half of the Spring term has been exciting and rewarding. Pupils have been working incredibly hard and have had the opportunity to enjoy enriched activities as part of STEM fortnight, the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award weekend, visits to the Spinney Care Home, various trips, World Book Day and much more.

This month we have enjoyed our combined focus of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) celebrating the theme of connections, and taking part in World Book Day and International Women's Day activities. We also wish the members of our community celebrating Ramadan the best of luck through the period of fasting and reflection.

In sport, both juniors and seniors have demonstrated real commitment and dedication. There has been a host of fixtures and competitions and I am proud of what our pupils have achieved. We are also proud of the individual contributions each pupil makes towards our school and the wider community.

I hope you enjoy reading this exciting newsletter, and may I wish you all a lovely Easter holiday.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

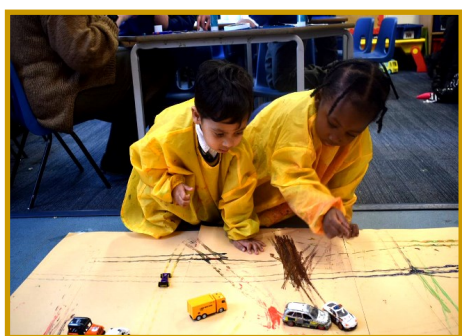
EARLY YEARS NEWS

Our topic in Early Years this half term has been real life superheroes and we have explored professions including engineers, the police, firefighters, doctors and nurses, scientists as well as athletes and para-athletes.

The children had a great time being engineers. After watching Humpty Dumpty fall off the wall and crack his head open, they decided to try and make something so that if he was to fall again, he would be safe. Working in small groups, some added padding around Humpty Dumpty, one group wrapped him in cotton wool and put him between two cups and another group decided to use lots of feathers to make his landing soft and comfy!



After learning about the police, there was a crime scene at Normanhurst school!! We had to look at fingerprints, think about what the suspect looked like and write a report. We had great fun being police officers!



With special thanks to the NSPA, Normanhurst Early Years pupils have some more class pets! There is a new fish tank in the Lower Kindergarten Class that is home to four baby danios. We look forward to watching them grow and adding some more animals to our aquarium over the next few weeks.



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued



We had a fantastic time visiting Chingford Fire Station, learning the number '999' and having a tour around the fire station. The children had great fun squirting the hose and sitting in the fire engine.

We asked the children what their favourite part of the trip was and what they had learnt.

"Squirting the cone with the hose."- Henry

"I liked it when we went upstairs and saw the gym."- Leo

"When they showed us the bed where they sleep."- Isabelle



We also learnt all about doctors and nurses and had a great afternoon looking after patients, creating x-rays and making our own medical books.



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

The Early Years children had a wonderful trip to Epping Forest. They went on a leaf hunt, hugged some trees, made a potion to paint on the trees for the animals and ended the day by creating a home for the fairies. Here were the children's favourite parts of the day:

"Finding some bugs." - Nahla

"Going in the forest and painting the trees." - Adam

"Building the fairy houses using sticks. We used big sticks." Remy

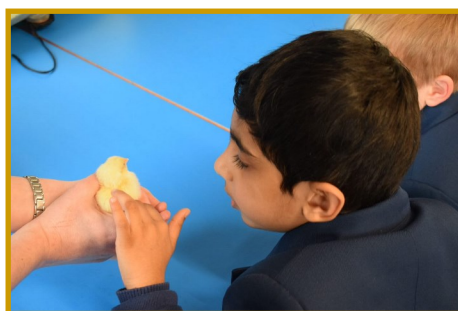
"I liked building the fairy house." - Lenna-Mae

"I liked digging for the worms with the spoon." - Henry

"My favourite part was painting the trees to make the animals go to them."
- Lilia



We have loved watching the chicks hatch and having the chance to hold them. We make sure we speak to them every day and have even thought of some names for them which include Rose, Mango and Rainbow.



JUNIOR NEWS

Some of the pupils from Years 1 and 2 were lucky enough to attend a workshop developing their poetry writing skills with the author of 'Rastamouse', Michael de Souza. They spent the day telling stories through poetry, playing rhyming games, and acting out the stories of 'Rastamouse'. The pupils had a fantastic day and enjoyed the chance to work with pupils from other schools as well as this amazing author! Michael de Souza shared the start of his new book with the pupils and even shared the secret of how it starts. The day finished with Michael de Souza signing a few copies of his book for the Normanhurst Junior Library! What a great day!



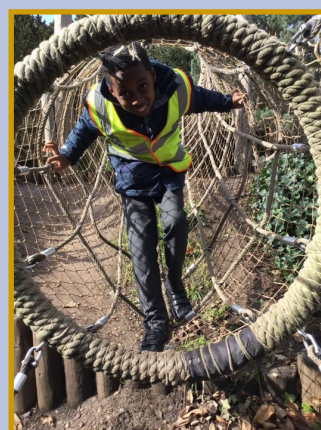
Years 1 and 2 Trip to the Science Museum

The pupils had a wonderful time exploring the Science Museum and learning more about how astronauts live and work in space. From floating poop, recycling water, trying on enormous space gloves, and inspecting astronaut diapers and a real piece of the moon, the pupils had lots of fun discovering facts about space.



Year 5 Trip to Kew Gardens

On Thursday, the pupils in Year 5 had a fantastic day at Kew Gardens. They all thoroughly enjoyed the exciting workshop, in which they had to put on their detective hats and help solve the stolen plant crime. The children had to discover the uses of different plants and consider which of the suspects would have wanted to steal them. We were very impressed by their problem solving and team working skills during the task. They were also amazed by the beautiful plants and trees that surrounded them. They loved seeing many different creatures around the gardens, including a fox and many Egyptian and Canadian geese. All in all, it was a super day out and the children are looking forward to going back to Kew Gardens again in the future.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

On Friday 24 February Year 5O performed their Class Assembly. In our History lessons we have been learning about the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings, so we decided to bring it to the stage! We discovered how the Anglos and the Saxons invaded Britain after the Romans left, and re-enacted a battle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. The vicious Vikings were triumphant! We finished our performance with a song from 'Horrible Histories' which explained some of the gory ways the Vikings took over Britain. Thank you to everybody who came to watch the performance, and a big well done to Year 5O for all your hard work in bringing it to life!



Year 5S surprised their parents and peers this term when they hosted an interactive game-show inspired assembly, called "I'm An Eco-Warrior Get Me Out of Here". The presenters explained the rules and introduced the three contestants: Freddie Forest, Izzy Ice Cap and Rachel River. The children shared a variety of facts about the importance of rivers, forests and ice caps in our world, in order to emphasise why it is vital that we all take action now to protect our world. At the end, the parents voted for the winning issue of the day and Izzy Ice Cap was crowned the winner. The children finished their assembly with a beautiful rendition of "Count on Trees". Well done to you all for your fantastic performance!



Last month, Year 6 was visited by Mr Brencher, a resident of Chingford, who was an evacuee during the second World War and spent 6 years away from his home and his parents while being looked after by foster parents. He was only 2½ years old when he left London with his sister and almost 9 years old when he returned. He talked about his life as a child who had to endure many difficulties that the war had presented. Mr Brencher discussed many aspects of WW2 including rationing, school life and the Blitz. Year 6 pupils listened to his stories attentively and made a lot of notes in order to write about Mr Brencher's life during the war.

They were shocked to hear that, after spending 6 years with his foster parents, Mr Brencher didn't recognise his father and refused to go back home for a while. He also made Year 6 pupils laugh with his anecdotes about his school life and his train journeys. Pupils also had an opportunity to read letters that were written by other evacuees and tried out some evacuee outfits.

It was an amazing experience for our pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed having Mr Brencher in their classroom.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

100 Days of School

Pupils in the Juniors celebrated their 100th Day at school earlier this month and they completed many different activities to mark the day.

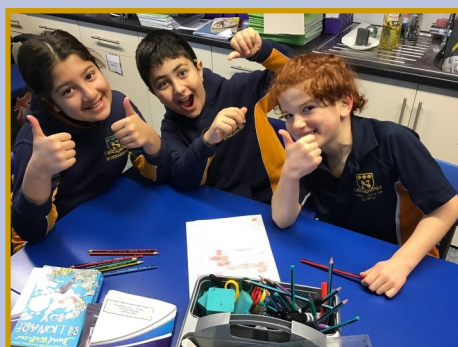
Reception class learnt that there are 10 '10s' in 100 and decided to build a Lego tower of 100. They each built a tower of 10 and put it altogether to build a tower of 100. It broke a few times on the way, so they had to work together to rebuild it and hold it to ensure it didn't break again. Well done Reception!



Pupils from other year groups had this to say about the day:

Clementine Year 3 - "On the 100th Day of School we found as many words as we could out of the word 100. We also played a game where we had to roll a dice and guess how many goes it would take to get to 100 in our maths lesson and we also did 100 colouring which was fun. I really enjoyed the 100th Day of School."

Caitlin and Emily Year 4 - "We really enjoyed predicting what we would look like when we reach the age of 100!"



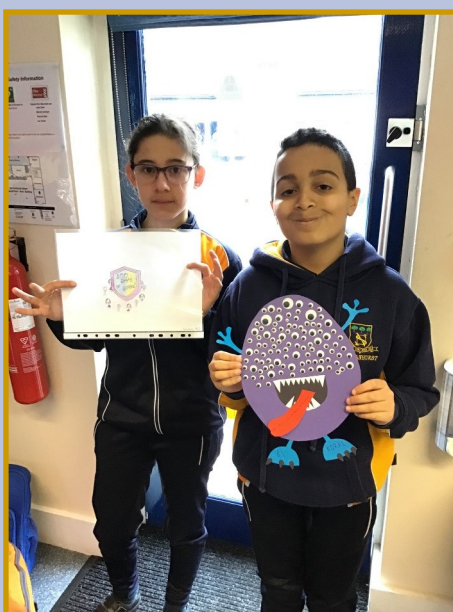
JUNIOR NEWS continued

100 Days of School continued

Pupils have also been busy getting creative at home showing the number 100 through Art.

Year 5 – “We enjoyed making the 100 day art and sharing it with our classmates.”

Well done everyone!



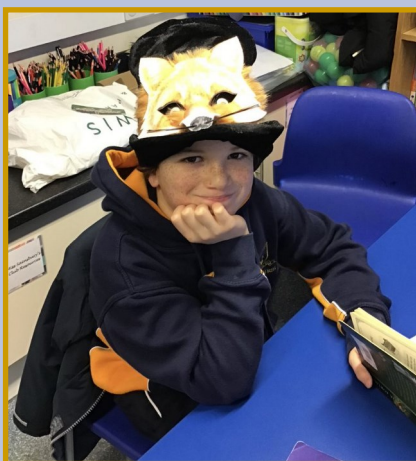
WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day at Normanhurst was an amazing event and this year's theme was "The Mad Hatter's Hat Party". Children were asked to design a hat based on a book, author or a character. There were so many creative and colourful ideas!



William's hat (Year 1) from his favourite book 'The Snail and the Whale' was voted as the class winner. Year 2 played a game of guess the character which brought a lot of laughter to the room as children tried to guess the characters from their favourite stories! Year 3 also designed and made their special World Book Day bookmarks. It's safe to say that Year 4 are big Harry Potter fans, with 4 hats themed around the famous wizard. Year 5 visited the Spinney Care Home, where they shared their World Book Day hats with the residents. They also read aloud to the residents and were great entertainers, reading their stories or poems with fantastic expression and intonation! Daisy's hat (Year 6) was voted as the best design winning the 'Best Hat' title in Year 6.

Throughout the day there were various activities and competitions in classrooms to celebrate World Book Day. There was a 'Design a Potato' challenge, in which children were asked to design a potato in the style of the favourite book character. A 'Make a Book Trailer' challenge, which challenged pupils' digital skills and the winners received a lot of house points and prizes! There was also a 'Short Story' competition, where pupils were asked to write a story with less than 50 or 100 words. Winners received a lot of house points and prizes and a 'Design a National Book Token', which was run by the World Book Day organisation. We have sent many amazing designs and are looking forward to the results!



Junior pupils also took part in a 'Read for Good' charity event, challenging themselves to raise money by completing a READathon in March. The Read for Good charity provides brand new books and exciting story times to children who are in hospitals around the UK. Normanhurst pupils were proud to be a part of this and support a great cause.

A big THANK YOU to Normanhurst Juniors for taking part in so many competitions and designing amazing hats! We are already planning our next World Book Day celebration!

STEM FORTNIGHT - JUNIORS

In the Juniors we started off STEM fortnight with some little visitors – caterpillars! The Year 1 School Council asked for some caterpillars for STEM week and the School Council Prefects made it happen.

As part of their STEM Fortnight activities, the pupils in Year 1 and 2 were blown away by some amazing bubbles during the immersive bubble workshop!

Sophia in Year 2 was amazed by the massive, rainbow bubbles and she couldn't believe that some of her friends were put inside the bubbles.

Emma in Year 1 loved popping lots of bubbles and seeing her friends have bubbles sprayed on top of their heads.



The pupils from Years 3 and 4 went on an exciting trip to the Science Museum. After touring all floors of the museum, they took part in an interactive Wonder Show that focused on states of matter, light and forces.

The children finished in the Wonderlab, which was spread across seven different zones, and there were lots of opportunities to interact with real scientific phenomena, see lightning strike before their eyes, play with forces on giant slides and travel through space under a canopy of stars.



STEM FORTNIGHT - JUNIORS continued

EYFS Challenge Afternoon

The Early Years children had great fun working in small groups to try to build a bridge that could hold a train. They were only allowed to use pasta and playdough. They had great fun and all of the bridges were able to hold the train.



Years 1 and 2 Challenge Afternoon

The children were set the challenge to design and build a boat that would hold some weight (marbles) and float. The winning boat was the one which held the most marbles. They enjoyed the opportunity to work in small groups and get creative, thinking about the best materials they could choose to build a boat. They had a great afternoon and there were many boats that fitted the brief and floated whilst holding several marbles.

Years 3 and 4 Challenge Afternoon

Years 3 and 4 embarked on a Goldilocks and the Three Bears chair challenge. In groups they were given the resources to design a chair large enough for 3 teddy bears. They had to plan their designs, discuss the best strategy, work together as a team and communicate well. After 45 minutes their time was up and they had to present their chairs to the rest of the class.



Years 5 and 6 Challenge Afternoon

The Years 5 and 6 pupils were challenged to help Cinderella build a timing device so that she could leave the Prince's Ball on time. They had to choose the best equipment and materials from a small selection, and then design their timing devices. Many groups decided to try and build their own take on a sand timer, whilst a few adventurous groups attempted to create a water or marble timer. This was a great opportunity for the children to learn about the importance of perseverance and resilience. They discovered that very rarely is an invention designed and created perfectly at the first attempt, instead it generally takes lots of trial and error to create the final, perfect product.

STEM FORTNIGHT - JUNIORS continued

VR Workshop

The children in Years 3 to 6 took part in an exciting, interactive virtual reality workshop. They had an amazing time exploring new places, including Mount Everest (Year 3) and Space (Year 5). The children were initially shocked by how strange it was to feel as though they were somewhere else, even though they were still physically at Normanhurst! However, after a few seconds they came to love the feeling and lots of fun was had by all. They are looking forward to more opportunities to experience virtual reality in the future!



Amelie, in Year 4, said: "I loved it when the lion licked me!"

Enis said: "It was so cool and I wanted to have the animals as pets!"



Experiments

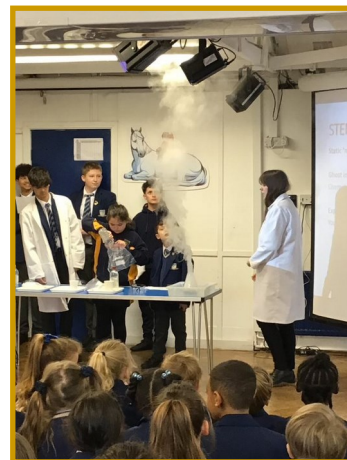
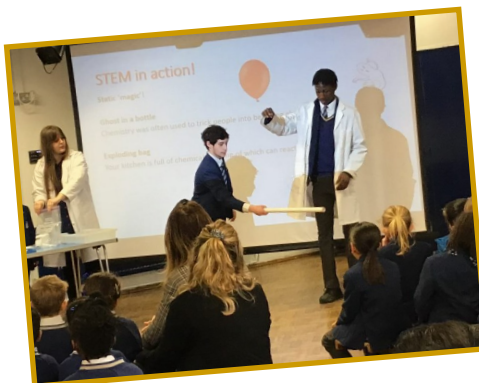
The children in Years 1 to 6 had an exciting morning getting involved in a range of experiments. They had the opportunity to observe and take part in a variety of experiments, including elephant's toothpaste, lemon volcanoes and fireworks in a jar. The children had great fun getting a little bit messy whilst learning about the reasons behind the different reactions that they explored. The students in Years 5 and 6 also got to explore how to use Morse Code to communicate with one another.



STEM FORTNIGHT - JUNIORS continued

Assembly

British Science Week started with a bang, as some of the senior pupils shared a range of exciting experiments with the junior pupils during assembly. Further to this, the Year 9 pupils explained the importance of STEM in our everyday lives and introduced this year's British Science Week theme - Connections.



Mad Science Demo

The children in EYFS to Year 6 had a fantastic afternoon, watching the Mega Mixtures demonstration by Mad Science. They were amazed by the different physical and chemical reactions that Professor Whizzkid shared with them, including the exciting bang at the end which was caused by the balloon (filled with the hydrogen gas that was created) being set on fire! Overall, they loved the show and can't wait for another next year!



Global Recycling Day

During the final week of STEM Fortnight, the children also celebrated Global Recycling Day, which was celebrated on Saturday 18 March. They took some time to discuss the importance of recycling and how they can encourage others to recycle more in order to save our planet.



STEM FORTNIGHT - SENIORS

STEM fortnight got off to a flying start on Monday 6 March when Matt from Immersive Experiences visited and the pupils experienced a **virtual reality** show. Years 7 to 10 joined Raj and Sooki on an adventure inside the human body as they used a series of fantastic instruments to peer inside complex living cells. They saw microscopic 'alien trees' and 'wriggling slugs' as they moved around the body while watching on a 360° screen. They uncovered the mystery of DNA and discovered how we all began as a single, tiny cell. In addition, Year 9 experienced life in the trenches during World War 1. The pupils were transported back 100 years and surrounded by the infamous trenches. A British private and an officer described life in the trenches, the course and outcome of World War 1.



On Wednesday, Will, the tallest **bubbleologist** came to the school. Pupils learnt about the science of bubbles, including surface tension, and evaporation. They learnt why bubbles are spherical (minimal surface area) and how they refract light to produce colours on the

surface of the bubble. They made the perfect bubble mixture and discovered the effects of gravity on a bubble. Some bubbles were enormous, so big that pupils were completely enclosed in them! Will showed pupils some amazing tricks and finished off with setting light to a huge bubble filled with butane. A truly amazing experience.

To support the STEM 'connections' theme, during PSHE pupils have been experiencing zombie attacks and have been sending morse-code messages to each other to escape. Using a standard circuit attached to a buzzer, pupils replicated the "dots and dashes" that morse code uses. It took some time to decipher but very soon pupils began to recognise common letters and words to make things quicker to decode.



Other PSHE lessons have included designing hotels in a hostile environment (the moon) using only card and tape. Their design had to survive a meteor attack (which was Mrs Saint dropping a book on the hotels from a height!)

STEM FORTNIGHT SENIOR continued

Pupils became architects on Tuesday 14 March when Archimake, a young persons architecture academy, came to see us. They talked about how anyone can be an architect. The students were shown how designers use courtyards, water and chimneys to keep buildings cool. They showed us a really unique chimney system for an underground electric generator located in Paternoster Square in London. It was made from stainless steel and shaped into a spiral cylinder. We learnt how paper can model steel when we fold it, so using the ancient Japanese technique of origami they modelled the angel wings chimneys.



UKMT

In February a group of Year 9 and Year 10 pupils completed a national mathematics challenge run by UKMT. The questions required pupils to use their problem solving and reasoning skills to answer, and they get increasingly more challenging.

Here is what some of the students had to say about UKMT:

Madihah – Year 9 “The UKMT was a really big opportunity given to us all. We were given two sheets, one for working out and the other is where we’d have the questions and boxes to tick as they were multiple choice answers. Although it was challenging, it gave us the opportunity to show what we’re capable of doing.”

Hudson – Year 10 “The UKMT was a fun and interesting experience that really challenged my brain. I would enjoy having this experience happen again as it is a nice practice for exams.”

Max – Year 9 “The Maths challenge was fun and interesting, especially as the questions became more and more challenging. I loved the challenge. “

Well done to all of our pupils who performed very well.

A special well done to the following pupils who were awarded Bronze and Silver certificates:

Ethan - Silver- Best in school
Mert - Bronze- Best in Year 9
Hudson - Bronze
Farrell - Bronze
Edward - Bronze



SENIOR TRIPS



On Wednesday 22 March 2023, GCSE Drama students saw a performance of **To Kill A Mocking Bird** written by Harper Lee at Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and commented on how convincing the acting was especially that of Mathew Modine as Atticus Finch (Stranger Things) and Jason Hughes as Mr Ewell (Midsomer Murders). There were gasps of shock and tears of sadness from the audience for Tom Robinson, the falsely accused and victim of racial discrimination. Overall, this was a successful performance leaving the pupils inspired by the acting and enlightened by the issue, past and present.

On Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 March, all of Years 7, 8 and 9 were taken to Bletchley Park. This historic site was a great place to discover, and the pupils learnt a lot of the history and also got a chance to put their coding and de-coding skills to the test! It was a very successful trip and here is what some of the students had to say about it:

Zayaan - Year 7 "Bletchley Park was very interesting and full of amazing things to look at. Some of the things we saw included the enigma machine and motorbikes and vintage cars used during the time of WW2. We also learnt about different codes which were fun to discover.

Eloise - Year 8 "The Bletchley Park trip was fun! It allowed us to have a glimpse of what it was like in WW2 when we explored the rooms and learnt about Morse code."

Ella - Year 9 "I enjoyed the guided tour around Bletchley Park, learning about the mansion that had hidden details relating to the war. It was fun to see a real-life enigma machine that is worth half a million today and to solve examples of different codes like Morse code."



SENIORS TRIPS continued



A selected number of pupils travelled to Oxford for an exciting day out to challenge their thinking and inspire them to be outstanding. The elegant setting along with the inspired speakers made for a brilliant day out. The pupils were able to benefit from hearing esteemed Oxford professors and motivational speakers broaden their critical thinking skills as well as share with them the psychology behind what makes an outstanding achiever. By the end of the day our brains were tried, tested and tantalised with notions on and concepts to stretch and challenge current thinking and attitudes to learning.

Jordan said "What a great day! I was surprised at how interested I was in the speeches and the presenters. I really liked the debates at the end of the day."

Sophia agreed and said "The Oxbridge interview questions were so interesting and I think I got some great future tips that I am hoping to be able to use in the future."



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

On Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 March pupils continued their journey on the DoFE programme by taking part in a practice weekend at Lambourne End. They successfully completed several sessions covering navigation, orienteering, kits and rucksacks, tents, stoves, diet and menu planning, as well as first aid and emergency procedures. Pupils worked collaboratively and there were many examples of effective leadership and teamwork. Well done to all of those involved.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Year 6 visited some of the residents at the Spinney Care Home. Year 6 pupils read poems and short stories to the residents and talked about their inspirations for their hat designs. It was an amazing afternoon and we are looking forward to visiting Spinney again.



Senior pupils visit residents at the Spinney Care Home

A number of our senior pupils went to meet some of the lovely residents at the Spinney. During the visit, as well as chatting to the residents, our pupils read poetry to them and helped them colour in sunny Spring pictures. It was a truly joyful afternoon watching the generations converse and enthusiastically enjoy each other's company.



CLUB NEWS



Lucy and Ewan ran a race at the Olympic Park this term. Lucy was the second girl and Ewan the second boy. They have attended the morning running club since they were in Year 3! Congratulations to both!

NSPA

Dear Parents

As we draw to the end of another term and the weather is starting to improve, we wanted to thank you for all your support.

The NSPA has been busy behind the scenes supporting requests from the school, recently purchasing fish for the Early Years children and caterpillars for the science curriculum.

The recent purchases of fancy-dress costumes have been a big hit in the playground.

As we go to print, we have just had another successful pre-loved uniform sale, despite the rain. Well, done to all involved. Please remember you can also request uniform 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

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NSPA

Normanhurst Parents' Association