



June 2023



ItemPage

<u>Headmistress's Message</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Early Years News.....</u>	<u>2-3</u>
<u>Junior News</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Senior News</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Junior & Senior Trips</u>	<u>6-7</u>
<u>School Production</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Summer Music Concert</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Sports News</u>	<u>10-12</u>
<u>Club News</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Pupil News</u>	<u>13-14</u>
<u>Community News</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Message from the NSPA</u>	<u>15</u>

Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Summer Term continues to be busy, both inside and outside the classroom. Pupils have been working hard towards their GCSE grades, internal exams and assessments and continue to show how determined they are to succeed and this positivity is infectious. Much attention has been given to feedback to further pupil understanding. They have been incredible and have embraced this process positively, which has been acknowledged and commended.

As we head towards the close of the school year, we still have much more to look forward to including the NSPA Summer Barbecue, Moving Up Day, Sports Day, Celebration Assemblies, the Year 11 Prom and the Sponsored Walk.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at some of these events. Details of dates and times are available in the most recent Headmistress's Letter on our website.

Once again, we are grateful for the very kind comments and emails we receive, and we are reminded daily of how special the Normanhurst community is and the people within it.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS

What a great themed afternoon filled with jungle fun! The children enjoyed crafting parrots with colourful feathers and dressing up as their favourite jungle animals with masks and coloured material. We also created colourful snakes by carefully threading brightly coloured pasta onto pipe cleaners.

It was lovely to see the children working together when creating a collaborative tiger using black and orange paper.



The children in **Lower Kindergarten** 'planted' our Numicon number tiles in the garden. They used the hose to water them and left them to grow in the sunshine whilst having a snack. What a surprise to return and see how much they had grown! The children counted the tiles and we put them in order from smallest to biggest.



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

The **Early Years** children enjoyed an afternoon of Fairy Tale Fun. They re-enacted traditional stories using props and crafted wolf and Little Red Riding Hood masks. There was an exciting tuff tray filled with porridge, bowls, beds, chairs and even Goldilocks and the Three bears! The children showed great team work as they built tall beanstalks out of Lego and got creative as they made the 'Three Little Pigs' houses. We finished the afternoon by decorating our own gingerbread men and enjoying them for snack.



Early Years End of Year Celebration

To end our school year, **Kindergarten** took part in a wonderful jungle themed celebration with a little help from their Reception friends. The children in Lower Kindergarten put on their monkey ears and joined in with the action rhyme 'Itsy Bitsy Monkey' and Upper Kindergarten showed off their animal noises as they performed 'Rumble in the Jungle'. It was lovely to learn about jungle animals from the children in Reception, they researched their own facts and drew fantastic pictures. To end the performance, all of the children came together to sing 'You'll Be In My Heart'. What an amazing performance, well done everyone!



JUNIOR NEWS

On 15 June the Junior pupils celebrated Clean Air Day. They discussed how we can help to reduce pollution in order to improve the conditions of our air. They had lots of fun designing a Clean Air Superhero whose special powers would help to make our air cleaner! Many children made Clean Air Pledges to do their bit towards saving our planet! Mason in Year 5 pledged: "I promise to walk more and travel in cars less." Diana in Year 5 said: "I will encourage my parents and friends to turn off lights when they leave a room."



Pupils in Kindergarten to Year 6 have been enjoying playing in fancy dress during their break and lunch times. From characters in films, to pretending to be animals or emergency service workers, there are costumes for everyone! A big thank you to the NSPA for providing the pupils with the costumes, they are being very well used and loved.



SENIOR NEWS

GCSE Art

We were delighted to share the amazing Year 11 GCSE Fine Art and Graphic Communications work with the whole school this week as the art room was transformed into a gallery space.

The work shown consisted of a broad range of paintings, sculptures, photography, animation and product design. The whole school had the opportunity to experience the work and to look through sketchbooks to see the huge amount of research, analysis and experimentation that goes into making a final piece of artwork.

The work of all the Year 11 GCSE Art students was of an incredible standard and showed their uniqueness as individual artists and designers. Well done to all!



JUNIOR TRIPS

Y1 Lloyds Park and William Morris Gallery

Year 1 had a wonderful time at Lloyd's Park searching for garden and wild plants and doing observational drawings linked to their learning in Science. They enjoyed learning about William Morris and exploring the gallery to see his beautiful wallpaper, furniture and tapestry designs.



Y3 Capel Manor

On Wednesday 21 June, Year 3 visited the beautiful gardens of Capel Manor. In the morning they participated in a workshop linking in with our Science topic, Plants. The children learnt all about pollination, fertilisation and how to look after nature. In the afternoon we explored the rest of the gardens, navigated our way through a maze and then visited the mini Zoo. A lovely day was had by all.



Year 4 Lambourne End

As part of their Science unit, 'Living Things and Their Habitats', Year 4 undertook an exciting trip to Lambourne End Activity Centre for pond dipping. The children spent the morning exploring the pond, where they found a whole range of creatures.



After having fun at the pond, the children explored the orienteering trail and then enjoyed a packed lunch. Finally, they spent time on the trim trail before returning to school.

SENIOR TRIPS

Year 9 Residential Trip to Gilwell Park

Year 9 had a fantastic time at Gilwell Park. The accommodation was great and the activities kept everyone busy. We were very lucky with the weather, although can we say a little hot at times! We were split into two groups with a full programme of activities each day: team building, zip wiring and bouldering. Even those with a fear of heights had a go. The challenges required us all to work together as a team. Year 9 even turned their hands to fire lighting and backwards cooking; who knew you could cook pizzas in an open fire - although they had very burnt bottoms! The smores were far more popular! Mrs Saint, Mr Ram and Ms Marks had a go at tomahawk throwing, a popular activity with all.

Year 9 were well behaved and a pleasure to take away.



SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'MATILDA'

On 25 May we saw the school community come together to watch the annual school production, which this year was Matilda, at the Redbridge Drama Centre. It was an evening filled with laughter, wonderful voices and truly inspiring acting.

Congratulations to all the performers for making it a performance to remember.



SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT

The Music Department gave its Summer Concert on Thursday 22 June on a beautiful summer's evening where our families could enjoy cheese and wine seated at outside tables.

Students showcased a wide range of musical styles from Vivaldi to rock and folk to music theatre. It was wonderful to celebrate our students' achievements whether they were at beginner level or virtuoso. Children from Year 1 to Year 10 performed with wonderful confidence, bravery, commitment and joy throughout the evening.

Parents were treated to solos on piano, clarinet, guitar, trumpet, violin, viola, drums and voice, plus several instrumental groups and a music technology showcase. The cast of Matilda revived two of their songs from their recent show and the newly formed Junior Choir sang beautifully to open and close the evening. Thunder clouds began to gather rather aptly during their rendition of Skyfall!

It was a wonderful evening of talent and enjoyment for both parents and pupils.



SPORTS NEWS

On Monday 22 May a number of pupils were taken to Bedford for the annual ISA Athletics Competition. There were many stand out performances: Laila secured a gold in the year 8 girls long jump event and Raghav also secured a gold in the year 7 boys high jump event. The majority of year groups for both boys and girls qualified for the relay finals achieving several 2nd places, and were unfortunate not to secure a 1st place finish in the year 7 girls relay. Those who won their events have been invited to represent Normanhurst as part of the North London Team in the ISA National Finals at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham on 19 June 2023.

A huge well done to all of those involved. You represented yourselves and your school tremendously well.



On Friday 26 May pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 were involved in the annual Oak-Tree Tennis Competition. Pupils showed off their skills on what was a beautiful day in the sunshine. There were great performances from all, but we would like to give a special mention to Emran, Enis, Francesco and Erdogan after winning the majority of the games they were involved in. This is a great achievement given the strength of the opposition. Well done to all involved!

SPORTS NEWS continued

Congratulations to all the members of the running club who ran a mile at the Olympic Park on Saturday 24 June. This is a wonderfully inclusive event for runners of all ages and abilities. All students ran well in the heat on a very hilly course. Congratulations to Daisy in year 6 who was the first girl and Lucy in year 6 who was the second girl. Ryan in year 8 was positioned third in the boys race and Yusuf in year 8 was fourth. We are already looking forward to the next race on the 26 August 2023.

Feel free to contact Mrs Botha if your child wants to participate in the next race.



SPORTS NEWS continued

ISA tennis

On Friday 9 June both Bobby and Matias in year 8 took part in the annual ISA Tennis Competition. They did incredibly well achieving 3rd place out of 6 schools, in what was a very competitive and demanding competition. They were the only team to play 4 games back to back, over two and a half hours, in temperatures that made it very challenging. We are very proud of their efforts and their final standings. Well done boys!



CLUB NEWS

We have had some beautiful mornings for the Thursday morning Forest Run Club. Pupils were preparing for our next race at the Olympic Park!



Pupils in Fashion and Design Club have been decorating lampshades. The results have been fantastically creative, ranging from cats with felt hearts to hand-painted flowers and jungle scenes.

Well done girls on a great effort!



PUPIL NEWS

Nina, in Year 5, achieved 3rd place at her Club's Trampoline Competition, which was a great result! She is now working very hard towards taking part in the 2023 Future Cheer Internationals Competition in Bournemouth on Friday 23 June - this is Europe's largest Cheerleading competition!

Nina also achieved 3 Distinctions for Ballet, Tap and Freestyle, gaining the highest grades of all the students in her dance academy.

Well done Nina!



Nicolás, in Year 8, had a weekend away with the National Children's Orchestra and really enjoyed making music with such a talented group of children. Not only that, he got to meet the guest artist Sheku Kanneh-Mason!

As you can imagine, they were treated to an amazing concert.



John, in Year 8, and Elizabeth in Year 6 recently passed their karate gradings and are now brown belt (John) and purple with one stripe (Elizabeth). Well done to both!

Congratulations to Raghav, in Year 7, who won the Bronze medal at the National ISA Athletics Competition. He jumped a height of 1.35m - Well done Raghav!



PUPIL NEWS continued

This summer, Erdogan and his Dad have been growing tomato plants in their garden! He has very kindly brought some to plant at school and to give to his teachers. Erdogan says he works hard to grow the tomatoes because he likes 'giving to other people and sharing the kindness'. He takes on this challenge with his dad every year, and thinks he has grown between 40 and 50 tomato plants this year alone! We are very proud of him – what a lovely thing to do.

Over the school holidays, Erdogan took part in a fundraiser for Asthma Lung UK. Alongside his mum, he hula-hooped for 15 minutes every day in May to raise money for the charity. Erdogan says he wanted to do the fundraiser in support of his Grandma, who has asthma. He raised an amazing £500 for the charity! Well done, Erdogan!



COMMUNITY NEWS

This week a number of our junior and senior pupils went to meet some of the lovely residents at the Spinney Care Home. They had a wonderful afternoon playing bingo and eating strawberries with the residents, as well as reading poetry to them and helping them colour in sunny spring pictures. It was a truly joyful afternoon watching the generations converse and enthusiastically enjoy each other's company.

Thank you to the Spinney Care Home for inviting us



NSPA

Dear Parents

As this goes to print, we are getting ready for our annual Summer Barbecue on Saturday 1 July. Do come along and join us for a great afternoon of fun with inflatables, lots of stalls and competitions. The samba band will be entertaining us and there will be a 1920s dance performance for all to enjoy. The theme is 100 years of Normanhurst School. Don't delay! Remember to buy your tickets from the office or from the lovely parents at the front of the school. This promises to be an amazing event and we look forward to seeing you for an afternoon of eating, drinking and having fun.

The NSPA is always happy to hear ideas from other parents and look forward to seeing you at all future events.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

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NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association