



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to the November edition of the Normanhurst Newsletter.

This term has brought a variety of events and learning activities for all to enjoy. I was extremely proud to see our pupils in action on Open Day, representing the school so well and being great ambassadors. Pupils have enjoyed participating in ISA events, sporting fixtures, Oliver auditions, trips to the theatre and the Chingford Fashion Week House competition.

We have celebrated Diversity and Black History Month in conjunction with Dyslexia Week, enjoyed Cultural Day, a talk about the Windrush from the Redbridge Caribbean Society, food tasting from around the world, traditional dancing from Ghana and African Drumming workshops. We have also been able to celebrate European Languages Day looking at the power of language and poetry.

We are now working on performances and activities that celebrate the Festive Season and preparing for the return of our Winter Fayre on Monday 11 December. I hope that many of you will be able to attend and I look forward to sharing photos in the next newsletter.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

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EARLY YEARS NEWS

The children in **Early Years** had a themed afternoon which took them to the jungle. We began by sitting in our very own jungle and listening to the story 'Rumble in the Jungle'. The children then chose their favourite animal from the story and worked in teams to create pictures and share facts about the animal. Each team shared their wonderful creations and facts with their peers and teachers. We finished the afternoon with a special watermelon elephant, cucumber and cracker snakes.



Kindergarten and Reception had a very exciting interactive storytelling session delivered by 'Adventure Babies'. They listened to the story 'Monkey Puzzle' and had their very own props to join in with the story such as a butterfly and a squeaky frog. They then explored sensory trays including a messy one filled with spaghetti snakes and one with lovely colourful feathers. A particular favourite was the dark den with colourful snakes and some other hidden animals from the story. This was a lovely way to finish off our learning about the jungle.



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

The children in **Early Years** and **Reception** took a walk to the forest to look for signs of Autumn. The children were in small groups and worked hard to tick off all of the things on their checklists from conkers to squirrels. They also looked carefully at the shape and colour of the different leaves as we searched for birch, oak and chestnut trees. We managed to tick off almost all of the objects on our lists, what a fun afternoon!



The **Early Years** children had lots of fun at our pirate themed afternoon. The children enjoyed making treasure maps that they hid in bottles and making waves in messy foam. We finished our afternoon by all having a go at 'walking the plank' as our fellow pirates watched with their telescopes!



The children in **Early Years** had lots of fun during our Bonfire Night themed afternoon. They created colourful print pictures, used playdough and pipe cleaners to make fireworks and built rockets from bricks. We finished the afternoon by making a special 'sparkler' snack using breadsticks and sprinkles.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

Dyslexia Awareness On Monday 2 October, Normanhurst Junior Pupils wore an item of red to raise awareness for dyslexia. They enjoyed an assembly about what dyslexia is and how it can be a positive thing and not something to be ashamed of. They then enjoyed a special book reading at their snack time about 'Xtraordinary People' read by HRH Princess Beatrice who is an ambassador of the global charity 'Made By Dyslexia'.



European Languages Day On Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 September Junior Pupils were treated to an assembly all about European Languages Day which was led by our Year 11 GCSE Language students. They led a quiz asking pupils to guess strange traditions from different countries and spoke to them about language and the upcoming House Competition.

Thank you to Year 11 for this wonderful assembly.

Both junior and senior students were quizzed about some fun traditions, typical of certain countries of Europe. For example, did you know that “Baby Jumping” is a tradition in Spain? Residents in a small Northern Community take part in baby jumping, called *El Colacho*, to keep the devil at bay. Men dressed as the devil run between and jump over infants, who are laid on mattresses along the streets.

At the end of the assembly, pupils were invited to take part in the European Day of Languages Challenge, where they were asked to design a T-Shirt representing different cultures and languages of the world. The MFL Department are pleased to announce that James in Year 4, Ridgeway House, is this year’s winner. Congratulations James!

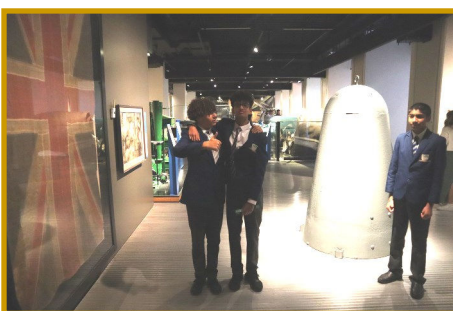


SENIOR NEWS

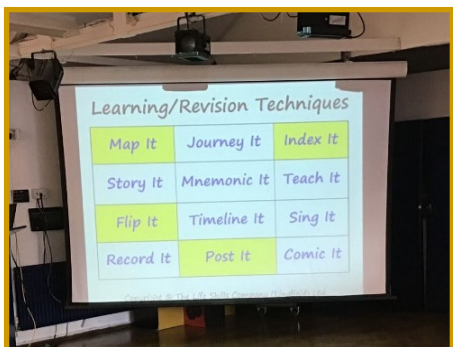
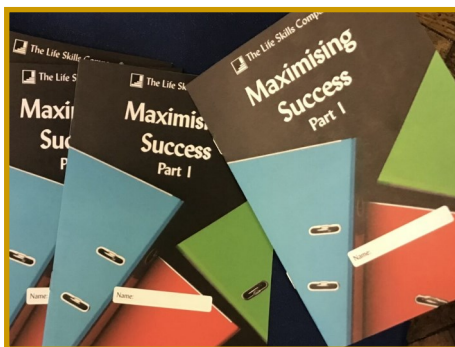
Year 7 Lion King Theatre Trip On Thursday 28 September all of Year 7 went to see the spectacular musical The Lion King. It was unbelievable, magical and truly splendid in the words of a few Year 7 students.



Year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum on 9 October. They took part in workshops and visited galleries pertaining to both World Wars and the Holocaust. With the help of a guide, they explored the three core themes of persecution, looking at the global situation at the end of the First World War; escalation, identifying how violence towards Jewish people and communities developed through the 1930s; and annihilation, examining how Nazi policy crossed the threshold into state-sponsored murder in the heart of twentieth century Europe.



Students in **Year 11** were part of an active, practical and productive workshop on how to effectively revise for their upcoming GCSEs. Our pupils were engaged with the speaker, who shared and modelled a number of usable strategies and tips to help them make progress with their revision as well as consolidate their learning. By the end of the session, pupils left the workshop knowing more about how to revise effectively and enjoyably.



On 9 November, the **Year 9** students went to see a brilliant production of Arthur Miller's 'A View from the Bridge' at The Rose Theatre in Kingston. The students are currently studying this text in their English lessons and they made some really astute and thoughtful comments about the production, when they discussed it in class the next day. Well done, Year 9!



DIVERSITY MONTH

During October pupils enjoyed numerous Diversity Month celebrations. The month started with a West African drumming and dance workshop, closely followed by African mask painting. Next, the children celebrated the rich cultural diversity of the school, with cultural dress day. This was an opportunity for the children to dress up in clothes from their culture and heritage. That afternoon, the pupils took part in an assembly on the Windrush, facilitated by the Enfield Caribbean Association. In addition, the children enjoyed a Jamaican jerk chicken workshop, where they prepared a jerk rub, and understood the importance of the spices and flavours from the Caribbean. At the end of the workshop, they tasted rice and peas, as well as the delicious jerk chicken cooked in the traditional oil drum. In our final workshop, the children worked with the wonderful spoken word poet, Kimba. Inspired by his performance at the start of the workshop, the children went on to create some fabulous poems of their own. Interspersed in between the activities throughout the month, the children tasted food from around the world and took part in a selection of religious and cultural lessons.



DIVERSITY MONTH Continued



DIVERSITY MONTH - Cultural Dress Day



CHINGFORD FASHION WEEK - HOUSE FASHION COMPETITION

The last day of the Autumn term saw the return of Chingford Fashion Week. The pupils had been preparing for weeks, in eager anticipation of this exciting event. This year, the competition was even fiercer than ever, as the four new houses were competing. The theme was fashion in 100 years and the pupils produced some excellent space-age designs. Well done to all the children who took part, with special congratulations to Buxton House, who were overall winners.



SPORTS NEWS

We have been so impressed with everyone's contributions in PE lessons and Fixtures over the first half term. There have been many notable successes not only in lessons but also at fixtures.

Years 3 and 4 kicked off their year with a Girls Football Festival, where they had a taster of various football drills led by local football ambassadors. Following this on Monday 16 October, a small group of Year 3 and 4 students represented Normanhurst in a match against The King's School. With a great deal of excitement and nerves on the minibus journey to King's, it was soon evident that our students were well equipped with the rules of football and netball and were able to take victory in all their matches.

The final scores at the end of the day were:

Netball	Football
1 st Match 3-2	1 st Match 3-1
2 nd Match 2-1	2 nd Match 4-2

Years 5 and 6 continued our sporting success at the Oak-Tree Netball & Football Festival, with the Netball Tournament proving to be a strong competition for our girls, with them finishing third in the group. The Netball results are below:

Position	School	Points	Goal difference
1st	Braeside	15	+7
2nd	Coopersale	11	+2
3rd	Normanhurst	5	-4
4th	Oaklands	5	-5

Year 5 and 6 boys stormed to victory at the Oak-Tree Football Festival. Results are below:

Position	School	Points	Goal difference
1st	Normanhurst	8	+4
2nd	Oaklands	8	+2
3rd	Coopersale	2	-6

In the senior school, we have enjoyed introducing more fixtures to the calendar this term. Years 7 and 8 played extremely well against King Alfred's School and this was the first time the Year 7 Netballers had played together. Normanhurst stole the lead very early on with confidence high going into half time; King Alfred's School came back fighting and took the lead from us in the last few minutes of the match.

Well done to Lucy for being awarded Player of the Match.

Years 8 and 9 had an exceptional game against King Alfred's School. Proving to be the stronger team, they took the lead and 'ran with it', with the final score ending 14-3.

Well done to Laila for being awarded Player of the Match.



PUPIL NEWS

After 10 years of Karate, first at school and now with Luke Cuthbert and UKA, Chioke (11R) was awarded his 1st Dan Black Belt at a grading on 6 October.

He is the first Normanhurst School student to do so and, as Mrs Saint will know, it has been a road of many twists and turns.

He was the first student to be invited to participate in UKA Junior League as well, so this is a major milestone. Well done Chioke!



On 30 September and 1 October, Eshan (8B) and Raghav (8R) participated in a Rubix Competition run by the World Cube Association (WCA), representing the United Kingdom. There were over 200 participants from all over the world. This was the first cube competition the boys had participated in and they had the opportunity to compete against and meet the best Rubix cubers from the UK, Europe and further afield from countries like Brazil, the United States and Singapore. Eshan achieved 44th and 45th place in the 3x3 and 2x2 competitions respectively, posting best average times of 13.19 seconds and 4.33 seconds. Raghav achieved 90th and 80th place in the 3x3 and 2x2 competitions respectively, posting best average times of 22.79 seconds and 7.55 seconds. They hope to enter more competitions in the future and continue to practice hard to improve their times. They both felt it was an incredible experience.



We are delighted to let you know that Imogen (9D) attended the ISA National Regatta and won the Rookie Fleet competition!



She competed in a gruelling 6 races, managing four 1st place finishes, a 2nd and a 3rd which gave her first place overall. A fantastic performance in her first ever proper competition.

She thoroughly enjoyed the day and was very proud to represent Normanhurst. Well done Imogen!





CHARITY NEWS

Thank you to all the pupils and parents who donated cakes, joined us for a natter and enjoyed a sweet treat. We were able to raise a total of £323.58 and this has been forwarded to this very worthwhile charity. Thank you also to the prefects who helped serve and sell cakes.



We hope to see more parents joining us next year!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Normanhurst had their second visit of the year to The Spinney Care Home and this visit was all about Halloween. The pupils joined the residents for some Halloween themed Art and spent time colouring in some special pictures and engaging in conversation with some of the residents. One of the residents had recently celebrated their 102nd birthday which was a big topic of conversation.

The pupils loved visiting again and look forward to visiting again!



Normanhurst Pupils visited The Spinney Care Home again and this time they had an excellent game of 'Balloon Tennis'. The pupils had to support the residents in getting the orange and purple balloons to opposite sides of the room. The pupils were very active and did a great job supporting them. After a few games, the pupils had a drink and a biscuit with the residents and got talking to them about their lives. A great afternoon was had by everyone!



GCSE PRESENTATION EVENING

It was wonderful to welcome back last year's Year 11 for the GCSE Presentation Evening. This evening took place at school and celebrated the GCSE results of last year. It was good to hear how well our pupils have settled into their colleges and schools and the skills acquired while attending Normanhurst are being utilised. Our ex-pupils showed great resilience and determination to be successful and we are all incredibly proud of them.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Pupils at Normanhurst gathered in the playground and at the front of school at 11am and took part in the Remembrance Day observation of the two minutes silence. They had already had an assembly discussing the significance of Armistice Day and how we should remember the brave men, women and animals that have lost their lives in conflicts.



'The Last Post' was played to the pupils to start the two minutes silence and pupils in the Early Years and Juniors displayed and wore poppies and art work they had created earlier in the week.

CLUB NEWS

Junior and Senior Chess Club

started this term and it is already one of our popular clubs. The club runs for both Juniors and Seniors (on separate days) and focuses on the basics of chess as well as the more complicated side of the game. Our coach (George) has been teaching our



pupils about the individual pieces and their value in the game. Pupils also learn various strategies for different pieces and various strategic moves. They then practise these strategies in their games. We are looking forward to celebrating our chess players' progress in the coming terms! If you would like your child to attend to one of our chess clubs, we have very limited spaces available.

NSPA

Dear Parents

The school year is in full swing now and although a busy time of the term it is also a fun time.

The NSPA facilitate events and fund trips to enhance the children's experiences at school and we need your continued support to make this happen. We would love to see you at the upcoming events:

Monday 11 December from 4-6.30pm is the Winter Fayre with a surprise visitor

Our most recent event was the Musical Bingo evening and this was a fantastic night full of laughter, fun and singing - although the teachers won again!

Please contact us at normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com if you would like to join the NSPA team or if you would be interested in supporting any of the events. New ideas are always welcome so please do get in touch if you feel inspired.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

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NSPA

Normanhurst Parents' Association