



March 2024



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

In the second half of the Spring term, pupils have been working incredibly hard and have had the opportunity to enjoy the annual STEAM activities during STEAM fortnight. They have been exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths as subjects and their application beyond the classroom, into industry.

In this edition you'll see a focus on character and leadership development with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award weekend, visits to the Spinney Care Home, World Book Day, various trips and workshops. In March we also celebrate International Women's Day and wish the members of our community celebrating Ramadan the best of luck throughout the period of fasting and reflection.

In sport, pupils have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to training sessions, fixtures and competitions and I am proud of our pupils' achievements. More importantly, they have enjoyed representing their school. Behind the scenes pupils and staff have continued to work on Oliver, our annual school production, where scenes are beginning to come together nicely.

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

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS

On Tuesday 19 March the children in **Early Years** learnt about and explored the Hindu festival of 'Holi'. They discovered that the festival is a celebration of spring, love and new life, and watched videos of people celebrating by throwing coloured powder. The children then participated in a carousel of activities, including creating a colourful snack, making streamers, and covering cut-outs of people with coloured powder.



JUNIOR NEWS

Year 1 trip to Willows Farm

Year 1 loved exploring Willows Farm. They were able to name the animals they saw and their babies. They enjoyed hand feeding the animals, particularly the baby goats which are called kids!

It was a lovely trip!



JUNIOR NEWS continued

On Friday 8 March, **Year 2** performed their class assembly which had a special focus around one of Normanhurst's core values - Respect. It commenced with a sign language welcome to parents and attendees from kindergarten, reception and years 1 and 3. The presentation emphasized the importance of respect and illustrated various ways to express it. Some students shared their unique approaches to demonstrating respect. The assembly concluded with a rendition of the song "Respect," followed by an invitation for everyone to join in singing "Happy" by Pharrell Williams. The morning was filled with joy and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.



Year 3 attended the local library for their monthly visit. This is in support of 'DEAR' ("Drop Everything and Read"), a national celebration of reading designed to remind families to make reading a priority activity in their lives and something every class at Normanhurst School takes part in daily.



Normanhurst pupils from **Years 3 to 6** took part in the annual **Oak-Tree Spelling Bee** and represented their school proudly. Our pupils celebrated their achievements with an overall third place award. Our Year 3 pupils came joint third; our Year 4 pupils were joint second; our year 5 pupils were joint first and our Year 6 pupils were first in their year group's round. We are looking forward to handing out our Spelling Bee certificates in our Junior assembly.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

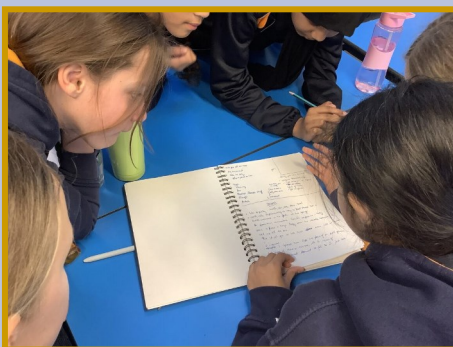
This year, **World Book Day** at Normanhurst was celebrated with joy and a love for books! The pupils celebrated the day by dressing up as their favourite book character and we had so many amazing costumes! Ronnie (one of our Year 6 pupils) came to school as Billionaire Boy. His outfit was so brilliant that he even caught David Walliams' attention online! In addition to dressing up, we added to the excitement of World Book Day with a poster competition. The goal was to promote World Book Day in a poster and the winners received vouchers for our book fair that ran throughout the week. Although we were planning to choose a first and a runner-up, we had so many amazing entries that we decided to add a third place as well as a 'highly-commended' to celebrate as many entries as possible!



JUNIOR NEWS continued

We had a special guest to run a workshop with our pupils from **Reception to Year 6** as part of our **World Book Day** celebrations. Our visiting author was Abie Longstaff who has written over 50 books for children, including The Fairytale Hairdresser series (1 million copies sold worldwide) and The Trapdoor Mystery series. Her books are translated into nine languages, and have been adapted for television and audio. Abie also appears frequently on TV and radio (BBC, Sky, Al Jazeera) to talk about children's literature, and is on the Board of Directors at the Society of Authors.

Our pupils had an amazing day thanks to Abie's visit and learnt about the process of writing a book, which gave them an invaluable insight into an author's world. They also came up with their own ideas for a book as well as characters! For our older pupils, Abie also talked about printing and publishing a book as well as marketing and the financial aspects of being an author.



SENIOR NEWS

The **year 11** students completed their Ecology required practical at the Epping Forest Field Studies Council on the 8 March. They learnt about how to study populations by random and systematic sampling and also got to relax in a sunny meadow after mocks week.



STEAM Fortnight - Early Years and Juniors

The **EYFS and Junior Pupils** have had a fantastic first week of STEAM Fortnight. They kicked off the week with the arrival of the Ducklings and a Maths Workshop. All the duckling eggs have hatched and we now have 5 ducklings! The children from different classes across the school have named them 'Fluffy-Duck', 'Daphne', 'Tiny', 'Waddle' and 'Pecky'. The pupils have loved watching the ducklings and have closely observed them; examining their beaks and webbed feet. The pupils in Kindergarten have been so gentle when handling them and often sing to them to help them fall asleep!



Normanhurst School had a shout out on the BBC Live STEAM Lesson for British Science Week. Thank you to Mr Masters for organising this!

11:15

This school have planned a fortnight full of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths activities!

How is your school marking British Science Week?

"To all pupils who are starting their STEAM fortnight full of workshops, experiments and trips! Enjoy it everyone!"

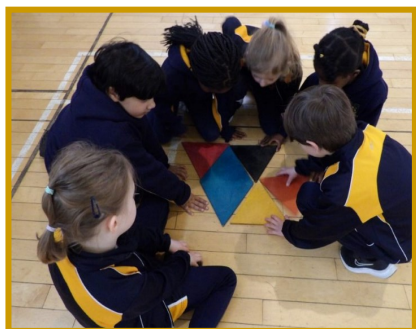
Miss Stone & Mr Masters at Normanhurst School, Chingford

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Share

STEAM Fortnight - Early Years and Juniors continued

Pupils from **Reception to Year 6** enjoyed the Maths workshop at the beginning of the week, having to put their problem-solving skills to the test and work collaboratively in small groups or pairs to work out the answers. Pupils worked in their houses to earn points and many showed excellent leadership skills, as well as improving their Mathematical understanding. In Year 6, the first team to finish the code-breaking activity was Ridgeway and they completed the challenge in a record-breaking 18 minutes!



Junior pupils were racing against time to escape a 'secret location' in the BBC British Science Week 2024 Live Lesson. Pupils took part in the interactive lesson, using their scientific knowledge to solve a series of invertebrate-themed tasks. The pupils even got a shout out from their teachers during this lesson!



Kindergarten have been learning about rockets. They shared their ideas and knowledge about rockets and learnt about the chemicals and gases required for rockets to take off into space. The pupils then headed to the garden for a fun experiment using Coke and Mentos to represent a rocket. Later on, the pupils built their own rockets using blocks and enjoyed a delicious rocket-themed snack to wrap up the afternoon.

STEAM Fortnight - Early Years and Juniors continued

Year 3 have been very creative with their STEAM knowledge and made pendulums in their classrooms. They worked in small groups and carefully followed instructions to ensure that their pendulums worked and they were all a success!



Junior pupils became Potters for the day in a workshop led by Mrs Scott. Pupils learnt new skills and made individual items from clay. The pupils enjoyed getting messy and experiencing something new. There have also been some exciting British Science Week Competitions that the pupils have been working on their entries for.



STEAM Fortnight - Early Years and Juniors continued

Reception Class ended week 1 with a fantastic class assembly about Space! They used their knowledge of the planets and sang songs to tell the other pupils and their parents all about what they had learnt.

Here is what some of the pupils have enjoyed in the first week:

Lachlan Year 6 – 'I enjoyed making the posters for the Competition.'

Emran Year 5 – 'In the Maths Workshop, the code-breaking was the best bit.'

Morven Year 4 – 'I enjoyed the Pottery Workshop because it's new to STEAM fortnight and was so fun.'

Eloise Year 3 – 'I loved seeing the ducklings because they were so cute!'

William Year 2 – 'I enjoyed making the puzzles in the Maths Workshop.'

Emaan Year 1 – 'I enjoyed my Art lesson and holding the ducklings because they are adorable.'

Olive Reception – 'I enjoyed making our faces in the Pottery Workshop because I like making faces.'

Hisham UKG – 'I enjoyed holding the duckling because it kept trying to eat my freckle.'

Casey LKG – 'I made a rocket with blocks with Mrs Papa and it has gas and oxygen which makes the rocket go zoom!'

What a fantastic first week for STEAM fortnight, the pupils are looking forward to seeing what the second week has in store for them.

MATHS BEE - Years 5 to 10

A massive Well done to all students and Heads of House for the amazing Maths Bee event. Students from **Years 5 to 10** had to battle it out and get through some very tough Maths questions.

After a very competitive round between the houses combining an algebra and area question, the Teachers' round was the decider for the overall winning house. Huge congratulations to Buxton house for coming first in the Maths Bee. A superb effort from Mr Marsden and all students.



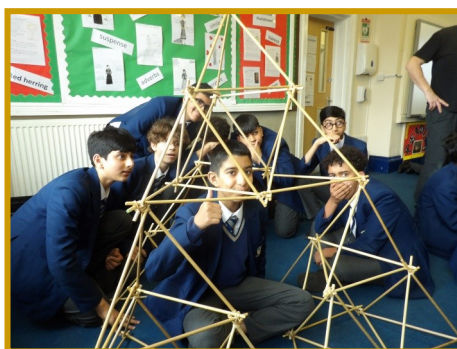
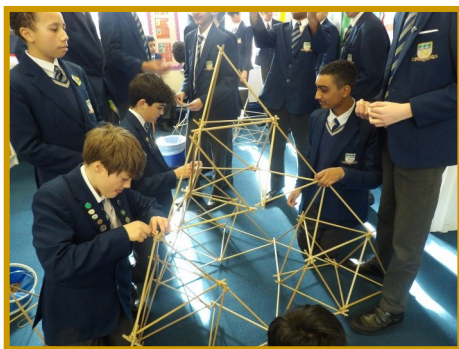
STEAM Fortnight - Seniors

Maths workshop

The senior STEAM fortnight got off to a code cracking start when year 9 took part in a maths workshop on Tuesday. They were given a locked box, which had 12 compartments to open using code cracking, co-ordinates and maths calculation which gave them the code to open each padlock. The last compartment held a key which opened the box to stop the clock. Each year group competed in houses and the overall winners were Year 8, Ridgeway house, who stopped the clock at a very impressive 28mins and 3seconds.

Architecture Workshop

On 15 March Years 7 to 9 took part in an architecture workshop. Working in teams, the pupils made pyramids or tetrahedrons that then joined together to make giant structures.



Years 7 to 10 Centre of the Cell Science Workshops

On Thursday 14 March years 9 and 10 travelled to St Marys University in London to visit the "Centre of the Cell". They attended an infection, invasion and immunity workshop where they learnt about herd immunity and pathogens. They also got the opportunity to talk to a research scientist about what her job entails. After that they entered the "Centre of the cell", a specialised pod which contained lots of hands on interactives games and demonstrations on cells and the way our bodies use specialised cells for specific functions.

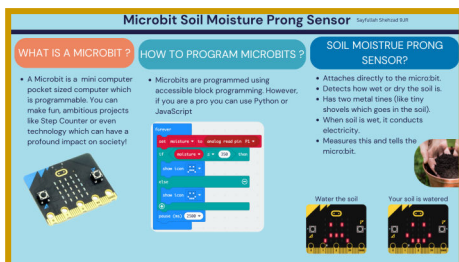
On Monday 18 March years 7 and 8 also visited the "Centre of the Cell". After visiting the "pod" they attended a Snot, Sick and Scabs workshop which they found gross, but thoroughly enjoyed, and the hands on experience made learning fun.



STEAM Fortnight - Seniors continued

STEAM Assembly

Farrell, a year 11 Triple science student wrote this account of the STEAM Assembly: 'This year's STEAM Assembly had the theme 'Time' and began with Dylan's description of the science behind clockwork. I was particularly impressed by the 'Elephant's Toothpaste' demonstration which showed how with time, a catalyst and a mix of ingredients can lead to a breathtaking reaction.'



The assembly also showcased Sayfullah's incredible work designing a soil moisture detector using Microbits and the year 9 practical on using Timelapse Photography to study plants they cloned learning about Stem Cells.



RAF Hendon Trips

On Tuesday 19 March years 7 and 8 were off to the RAF Museum in Hendon. They got the chance to experience a thrilling simulator ride where they were virtually put into the pilot's seat and experienced the view and movement of the plane as they flew through the skies. They then attended a workshop where instructor Mike talked them through the history of flight and then explained how we can survive and breathe at high altitude and how science and engineering have produced clothing and infrastructure to combat these issues. Audience participation was encouraged and even Mr Clair got involved, with Evan, year 7, demonstrating an exoskeleton made up of air tubes that stopped the effects of air pressure on our bodies. It was really funny when Mr Potato Head was filled with shaving foam and put into a vacuum and his insides became his outsides!



Finally, on Wednesday 20 March, it was the turn of years 9 and 10 to visit the RAF Museum. After experiencing the flight simulators, they had a workshop challenge to make an aerodynamic plane wing using just paper, paste and cable ties. They were shown a really cool machine which turned flimsy newspaper into strong tubes called STIXX which they then used to make a wing of an aircraft that would be rigid enough to stand alone and withstand a certain amount of weight. The winning team in Year 10 were "The Fokkers" (aptly named after the German war plane which used the tube technique to make their aircrafts lighter).

A busy fortnight, but one full of fun, learning activities and great experiences.

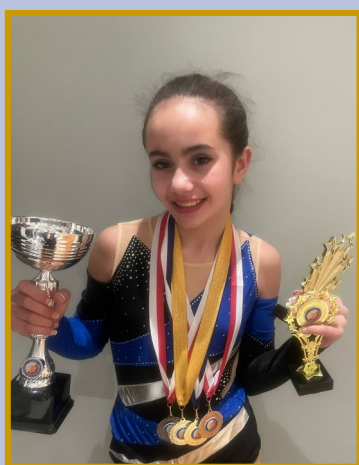


PUPIL NEWS

Nina in Year 6 and her Cyanide Flyers Elite L2 Cheer Team achieved an amazing 2nd place at ICC Southern International Championships in the Junior Small/Medium category! This was an amazing result for their first competition of the season! Well done Nina!

One of Nina's coaches wrote this after the competition:

"The highlight of my day was without a doubt watching Cyanide perform. It's got to be one of my top moments in 10 years of Flyers. The skill, confidence and execution demonstrated was exceptional and we are so proud of them. They have truly put in the work for this result and it shows."



It was another amazing weekend for Nina as she competed at the British Theatre Dance Association competition for London and Essex in Class C Tap, Modern, Lyrical and Acro dance. Nina was awarded gold medals for her Tap and Acro dances winning her an invitation to the Open Championships!

Nina also got silver medals for her Modern and Lyrical dances. In addition to her 4 medals Nina was awarded 3 trophies:

- ♦ Winner of the overall Class C Junior category
- ♦ Winner of Acrobatic Dance across all age categories
- ♦ Championship winner for the highest score of the entire competition out of hundreds of participants of all ages and styles over 2 days!

Well done Nina! Normanhurst is very proud of your achievements.

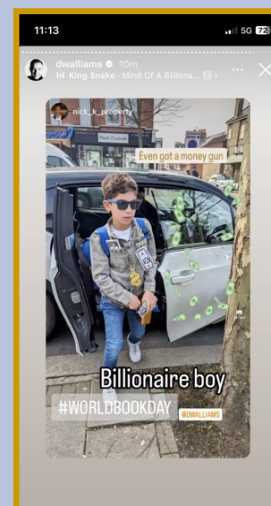


On Sunday 17 March **Ali Can** (year 2) and **Erdogan** (year 6) participated in a karate tournament with other karate associations.

Ali Can achieved second in the Kata and Erdogan achieved third place in the fighting tournament.

Well done to both boys!

Ronnie in Year 6 made it onto David Walliams' Instagram story on World Book Day.



CLUB NEWS

Pupils in After School Club have been getting creative. They started the week making white chocolate and raspberry Rice Krispy cakes and later on in the week they used their skills to create beautiful artwork. They learnt about Picasso's Artwork and created their own images in his style. They have also been busy making collages!



After School Club has been busy again with their artistic skills. The pupils were getting creative for Mother's Day making some tissue paper flowers. They used their fine motor skills to create a fan effect and then pulled it back out again to create a flower effect. They also made some Mother's Day and Easter themed collages. Keep up the good work After School Club!



SPORTS NEWS

Oak-Tree Cross Country Competition

On 13 March, Coopersale Hall School hosted a cross country competition. Alongside the three Oak-Tree Schools, St Aubyn's and Avon House were also in attendance. The rain held off and it was a dry, albeit very muddy, afternoon.

Notable achievements from the Years 3 and 4 girls, who kicked off the event with an amazing start, securing second in their event. A huge well done to Sophia, Morven and Elin. Years 5 and 6 boys were our second team medal winners this year with an impressive race completed by Francesco, Ronnie, Ethan and Enis.

All students competed incredibly well on a tough course and should be extremely proud of their achievements.



Oak-Tree Girls Football Competition

On Thursday 21 March the weather was definitely on our side and all the girls had a lovely morning at the Oak-Tree Girls' Football Tournament.

Player of the match:

U9 - Etta Howlett

U10 - Elin Hacimusa & Stella Holmes

U11 - Erin Fernandes



Miss O'Donnell is completing the London Marathon for The Stroke Association on Sunday 21 April 2024. Please see the link below if you would like to support her fundraising effort:

<https://events.stroke.org.uk/fundraisers/louiseodonnell/london-marathon-2024>

We also wish Mr Davies the best of luck as he is also completing the marathon.

MUSIC NEWS



The Senior Choir had a wonderful time participating in the ISA A Cappella Competition on 6 March at Leighton Park School in Reading. The event was split into three age categories: Junior, Middle and Senior. The Senior choir participated in the Middle age group (KS3) and competed against five other choirs who were all of an excellent standard. The judges, Lisa Lynn and Pascal Blashta, were professional singers and actors who brought their expertise to the event. At the end of the competition, the judges gave the choirs a singing workshop, including beatboxing techniques, which our students enjoyed immensely.

Finally, they announced the long-awaited results, and we were thrilled to hear that Normanhurst was placed third/highly commended. Given the high standard of competitors, this is an incredible achievement that we are all proud of. Our students were inspired by the other competitors and are already excited about trying out a new A Cappella repertoire. They can't wait to compete again next year. The competition was an excellent opportunity for our students to showcase their talents, and we are looking forward to participating in more competitions like this in the future.

NSPA

Dear Parents

The NSPA facilitate at many events and fund trips to enhance the children's learning experiences at school and we need your continued support to make this happen.

We would love to see you at future events and the next one is our Summer Walk on Sunday 12 May. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please do 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

normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association