

May 2024



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

This month you are in for a treat - a bumper May edition of the newsletter. It shares the wonderful experiences offered to our students throughout the curriculum and beyond, enriching all of their learning.

Pupils have enjoyed organised events such as: the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition, ISA Digital Art success, Chess success, the continuation of STEAM activities and the London Marathon. They have celebrated Shakespeare Week and thought seriously about voting during the school London Mayoral Elections, reflecting upon the difference they can make and the policies for change.

We are also now in the season of residential trips, where pupils challenge themselves physically and mentally, and surprise themselves on what they are able to achieve. It is beyond impressive to witness. The staff and I are inspired to see pupils develop their characters and resilience, going that extra mile and supporting each other to do so. Congratulations to all the pupils who have participated and shown such bravery in challenging activities.

I hope you enjoy reading the May edition; the enjoyment of learning is infectious.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS

The children learnt all about Eid in the **Early Years**. We were very lucky to have Hisham, an Early Years pupil, share an Eid song he had learnt at the mosque as well as sharing his traditional clothes with his friends.

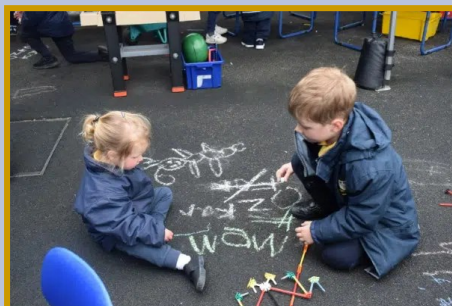
In addition to this, the children engaged in lots of fun activities linked to Eid including looking at and creating their own mehndi patterns, decorating pictures of mosques and looking at a selection of traditional clothing and decorations.

The children learnt about fasting and the word 'ifthar' and they also tried dates, as these are usually eaten when the fast is broken.



Early Years enjoying their first week back at School

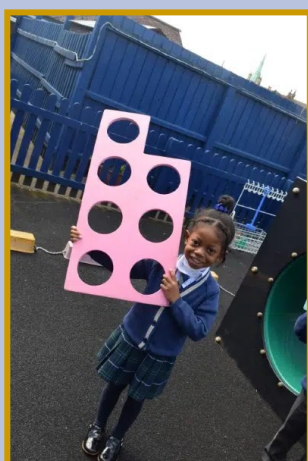
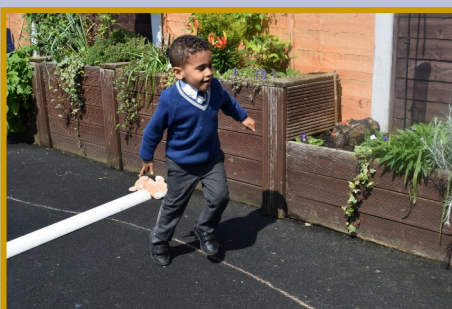
The **Early Years** children have had a great week back in school after the Easter break and have enjoyed being outside on their bikes, engaging in imaginative play and games, as well as getting creative with different materials.



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

This term, the topic in the **Early Years** is 'Once Upon a Fairytale' and the children have enjoyed many fun and creative activities based on traditional stories. A particular highlight was our Department Themed Afternoon all about 'The Gingerbread Man'. The children crafted beautiful Gingerbread Men, made bridges to keep the Gingerbread Man safe from the fox and even made a yummy snack. We finished the afternoon with an obstacle course where the children had to 'run run as fast as you can' while avoiding obstacles and animals from the story.

The Reception children have also been working hard during their Literacy lessons to write alternative fairytale endings. Hermione thought of a lovely ending to her 'Gingerbread Man' story by saying: "The fox kissed the Gingerbread Man and said 'I love you'".



In maths, the **Kindergarten** children have been learning all about Numicon.

Over the last week, there have been daily activities to develop understanding of numbers where the children have been encouraged to count the physical holes in the tiles to work out which number they represent.

The class discussed the size, shape and colour of the tiles and pressed them into playdough, matched them to a puzzle and even planted them in the garden and watched them grow!

EYFS AND JUNIOR NEWS

The pupils from **Early Years to Year 6** participated in an exciting animal workshop led by Safari Pete, who taught the pupils about all different kind of animals and brought some exciting and exotic animals with him that some of the pupils got to hold! Just to name a few, he had Juliet the Barn Owl, Drake the Snake, Tallulah the Meerkat and 'Lady Gaga' the Tarantula (the biggest spider we have EVER seen!). The pupils learnt a lot about the different animals, where they live, what they eat and what they look like. The pupils had this to say about the workshop:

Leo C in Lower Kindergarten: I liked the lizards because they run fast.

George in Upper Kindergarten: I liked the spider because I love spiders!

Konur in Reception: The barn owl was really heavy and I was happy I got to hold it.



Lenna-Mae in Year 1: The meerkat was my favourite because she was so cute!

Esme in Year 2: The whole thing was amazing because I got to see lots of cute animals.

Henry in Year 3: I thought all of the animals were really good but my favourite was the scorpion!

Aryaan in Year 4: I liked how funny Safari Pete was!

Emily in Year 5: When I held the meerkat, I was nervous in case I dropped it but it felt very fluffy and it was cute!

Romy in Year 6: I really enjoyed Safari Pete's enthusiasm. You could tell he really enjoyed showing us the animals.

Poppy in Year 6: I chose to hold the tarantula as I felt like there would not be another opportunity like this and when I did it I felt proud because I am usually scared of Spiders.



EYFS AND JUNIOR NEWS continued

Pupils in the **Early Years and Juniors** wore an item of purple to raise awareness for Deaf Awareness Week. Deaf Awareness Week is an annual event that aims to raise awareness about the deaf community, their language, culture, and history. Pupils across the school were taught letters of the alphabet in British Sign Language (BSL) by members of the BSL club. During their snack time, they went round to each classroom and supported other pupils to form the signs for the alphabet.

Well done and thank you to the pupils who went round to each class to support this message.



JUNIOR NEWS

Eco News

Well done to the **Year 1** pupils at Normanhurst who, with the help of Mr Whyte, planted up a trug with herbs and vegetables for the school kitchen to use. It's lovely to see your passion for gardening and nature at school.



Year 1 has also been out in the local community litter picking! They're dedicated to their role in looking after the planet and keeping their Earth Day promises. Whilst out, pupils were complimented and thanked by members of the public for supporting their community by helping keep the environment clean.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

Year 4 had an fantastic time at Danbury, one of our regular residential trip destinations. After a sunny welcome from our group leader, the children were thrilled to settle into their cabins and spend time in open green spaces right on their doorstep.

Our day 1 activities were low ropes and archery. There was lots of laughter while trying to balance on the ropes and the children demonstrated excellent teambuilding skills while helping their team mates through obstacles or to overcome challenges. During archery, pupils learnt about the techniques that contribute towards a successful aiming process and a successful shot - we even had a couple of bull's eyes! Day 2 was an exciting one with caving activities! Pupils put on their helmets and torches and entered the darkness of the Danbury caves (with the assistance of expert instructors guiding pupils through the tunnels). They were then allowed to play a round of hide and seek in the pitch-black tunnels.

We were extremely proud of our pupils, as well as their determination and participation during their residential visit to Danbury. We are looking forward to next year's already!



JUNIOR NEWS continued

World Earth Day

The annual event of World Earth Day fell on 22 April. This year, the theme for World Earth Day 2024 was Planet vs Plastics. The theme aims to bring attention to the serious issue of plastic pollution and how it harms nature. The Normanhurst junior pupils celebrated the day by learning more about the special event with their teachers and creating some wonderful artwork.

Well done to **Year 4**, who worked together to create a World Earth Day collage.



Junior pupils at Normanhurst School celebrated **World Down's Syndrome Day** on 21 March, a few days earlier than the official April date, by wearing mismatched socks. They learnt more about Down's Syndrome by reading a book by George Webster, from CBeebies and watching some Myth Busting videos. Pupils were then given some more information about autism and ways to include people with autism and how to make them feel comfortable in new situations.



Years 3 went on a trip to Capel Manor on 10 May, where they explored the beautiful gardens and visited the petting zoo. The weather was perfect and they had a lovely day.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

Before Easter, Normanhurst School received an invitation to take some **Year 6** pupils to Stratford-Upon-Avon to witness their competition-winning school entry being transferred to the official Shakespeare Birthplace Trust archives to be stored alongside various (and very old!) artefacts.

Our pupils attended the centre on the day of the ceremony and joined many other pupils from around the UK. They experimented with quill and ink, made wax seals and had the opportunity to look closely at many artefacts which were up to 900 years old! They also met Marcia Williams who talked to them about how Shakespeare inspires her when she is writing her books.



They were then treated to a tour of Shakespeare's birthplace and learnt about the conditions in which people lived. During our visit, we also spotted the Shakespeare Week posters, one of which was designed by one of our Year 2 pupils (William).

It was a very informative and exciting day full of a variety of activities and new experiences for our pupils.



As part of our Shakespeare Week celebrations, children in the Juniors were treated to a show that involved various plots and characters from different Shakespeare plays. The Globe Players were extremely informative during their performance as their narrators gave background information about each story that was being performed.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the performances from the extremely talented actors and actresses, who recited many original Shakespeare dialogues (and monologues) on stage.

JUNIOR NEWS continued

Pupils in **Year 1-6** visited the STEM Discovery Centre in Stevenage as part of the STEAM Fortnight celebrations. They participated in 3 activities: a workshop, a 'Mission to Mars' and had the chance to discover how and why things work in the exploration room. All the pupils had a wonderful time and all learnt about something new. The workshops were interactive and all the pupils were engaged and enthusiastic throughout. The 'Mission to Mars' was a fantastic opportunity to see the prototypes of robots that have been sent into space! The pupils also really enjoyed exploring how things work and especially giving their teachers mini electric shocks from the plasma ball!



See what the pupils had to say about their trip:

Tori Year 2 – I had so much fun learning lots of new things at the Discovery Centre. The experiment about the special cotton disappearing as quick as a flash was super cool and the plasma ball was my favourite thing.

Frankie Year 3 – The trip was really fun, I learnt lots, especially in the first room. I really liked electrocuting my friends and seeing the spark from my finger!

Poppy Year 6 – It was great, I loved the different learning stations.



SENIOR NEWS

The UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) competitions are renowned for challenging **Year 7 and 8 students** with complex mathematical problems that test their problem-solving abilities and logical thinking. Using only a HB pencil and scrap paper adds an extra layer of challenge. The multiple-choice format encourages students to carefully consider each option and apply their mathematical knowledge effectively to arrive at the correct answer.

Receiving a certificate awarding bronze, silver, or gold depending on the number of correct answers is a great way to recognize and reward pupils for their achievements. Well done to our Years 7 and 8 pupils.



The senior students held their own mock election for this year's **2024 Mayoral London Election**.

Rather than being shown faces and parties, pupils got to vote on the basis of their policies (ideas and pledges) from individual plain manifestos, which were presented by students.

The students were given a voting slip where they needed to place a single x next to the party they thought would be the best choice for London and place it into a ballot box. Votes cast were counted by pupils, presenting a close victory for Sadiq Khan and the Labour Party ahead of the Liberal Democrats.

Year 11 were given a wonderful farewell day to begin their exam leave on Thursday 2 May. Pupils and teachers made emotional leaving speeches in their final assembly before distributing leavers' hoodies and farewell messages.



Students were then taken to the Toby Carvery at the Bald Faced Stag in Buckhurst Hill and treated to a buffet breakfast before being waved goodbye by staff.

We wish Year 11 the very best of luck for their forthcoming GCSE exams and, as ever, we will be there to support them throughout the exam season starting on Thursday 9 May.

LONDON MARATHON NEWS

On Sunday 21 April, around 45 of our pupils completed the one mile Mini London Marathon. It was such a privilege for students to cross the iconic finishing line supported by staff and parents. Each student who completed the race earned £10 for PE equipment for the school. What a brilliant day! Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the staff who gave up their Sunday to support our students.



Congratulations to Mr Davies and Miss O'Donnell who both completed the London Marathon.



PUPIL NEWS

Imogen in Year 9 made an amazing Easter cake for all the staff - she did such a great job and it was delicious!

Thank you Imogen for being so thoughtful and kind.



Nicolás in Year 9 and **Sofía** in Year 8, have been busy playing music with the London Philharmonic Orchestra! They were both accepted to participate in their "Junior Artist Overture Day" and Nicolás again had the immense privilege of being given the first seat viola, like in the National Children's Orchestra a few weeks ago. This was Nicolás' third time and Sofia's second rehearsing with the LPO. They played Movement 2 of Dvorak's "New World Symphony", he is a Pirate from Pirates of the Caribbean and "Howedown" by Aaron Coppland.

Well done to them both!

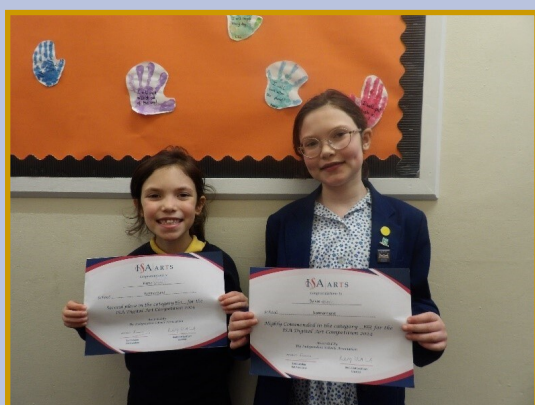
Congratulations to **William** in Year 2 who won the Shakespeare Week poster competition! His poster was chosen from almost 150 entries and the judges absolutely loved the way that William managed to get all the information in without compromising on style!

William and his family then went to Stratford-Upon-Avon and saw his winning poster all around! William was made to feel very special by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust team and he met Marcia Williams (author) who signed and presented him with a book of Shakespeare plays!

What a fabulous day!



ISA Digital Art Competition



Congratulations to sisters **Esme** (Year 2) and **Sylvie** (Year 5) for their fantastic achievements in the ISA Digital Art Competition. Their creative flair in photography and editing resulted in Esme being placed 2nd in the photo-manipulation category for pupils in KS1 and Sylvie's artwork was highly commended in the KS2 category.

PUPIL NEWS continued

Sinan (Year 7) delivered an outstanding performance at the Mark Bates Cadet National Table Tennis Championships held in Nottingham. Despite facing tough competition, he displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the tournament.

His accomplishments include impressive victories against strong opponents, showcasing not just his technical abilities but also his mental toughness under pressure. Sinan's strategic approach and ability to adapt earned him praise from both peers and spectators. Sinan's participation in the championships is a testament to his unwavering dedication and love for the sport. His success at this prestigious event underscores his potential for future achievements in the world of table tennis. Well done Sinan!



CLUB NEWS

Chess club

The top places for prizes are as follows ...

Seniors

First Place - Matias 8/9 100% score in games played, one absence

Second Place - Imogen 5/9 with 4 wins, two draws, three losses

Juniors

First Place - Francesco 6/7 100% score in games played, including beating last term's champion Ethan, with black. One absence

Second Place - Lucia 4/7 with 3 wins, two draws, two losses. Only lost to Francesco and James.

After School Club

It's all about the cakes! This week was filled with joy as the children in after school club indulged in the delightful art of cupcake baking! Each one eagerly took their turn adding their own special touch to the mixture, infusing it with love and creativity to craft these mouth watering treats. As the aroma filled the room, anticipation mounted until finally, the cupcakes emerged from the oven, golden and inviting. With smiles as bright as the frosting, they savoured every bite, sharing laughter and sweetness in every delicious moment.



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

We have a new addition to our playground - The Buddy Bench! With special thanks to the Early Years and Junior School Council, the Community Links Prefects, the Maintenance Team and the NSPA for coming together to get the bench ready for use. The School Council came up with the idea of a specific bench in the playground where pupils can sit if they are feeling lonely, worried or just need a friend. They also asked for it to be painted in the house colours! The Community Links Prefects then researched the perfect bench, pitched their idea to Mrs Job and Miss Stone and the NSPA agreed to buy it. The Maintenance team then got to work building and painting the bench. The pupils were pleased to see their ideas being put to good use and it looks great in the playground. Well done to all the pupils who helped get this put in place.



NSPA

Dear Parents

As we go to print we have just had our Summer Walk with parents, pupils and staff. The weather was marvellous and everyone enjoyed a jaunt to Connaught Waters and back for a drink and snack.

Our next big event is the Summer Barbecue and this year's theme is 'Wonka'.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 22 June from 12.30pm. It promises to be a wonderful afternoon where all the school community come together and enjoy a fun-packed afternoon. Please look out for further information and competitions.

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