



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 July 2023

Dear Parents

Re: **Headmistress's Letter**

As we reach the final stages of this busy term there is much to celebrate, including our pupils' resilience, positivity and gratitude, which have been wonderful to see. The pupils have very much enjoyed the build up to performances, trips, concerts and workshops. It has been lovely to see so many parents and extended family at events including the Summer Barbecue, and we are all very much looking forward seeing you at our annual Speech Day.

Speech Day: Thursday 6 July

This year at Speech Day we will be celebrating the pupils' hard work and success. Best of luck to all of our pupil performers and speakers; their performances no doubt will be inspiring and heartfelt. The Reception to Year 6 Speech Day event will start at 2pm and the Senior Speech Day event will start at 4pm. The venue is St Peter & St Paul Church, The Green Walk, Chingford E4 7EN.

Whole School Sponsored Walk: Tuesday 5 July

The annual sponsored walk is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5 July. The children from Kindergarten to Year 1 will be walking to Connaught Waters and parents are invited to join us. The rest of the school from Year 2 to Year 10 will walk to High Beech. All children are to come to school that day wearing their PE kits and are to bring a bottle of water and a healthy snack. Pupils will be back at school for normal end of day dismissal.

NSPA School Barbecue: Saturday 1 July

The sun was shining, the pupils were performing, the school community applauding and the barbecue was sizzling. I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who attended this special barbecue, celebrating 100 years of Normanhurst School. We dusted off the memorabilia and the photos from the past to make this a truly special event. As usual, it delivered much laughter, some wonderful performances, and great food and drink. A special thank you to the NSPA, staff and pupils for making this happen. We have created many special memories.

Matilda and the Summer Music Concert: Thursday 22 June

Thank you to all of the parents and extended family who attended the annual school production of 'Matilda' and the Summer Music Concert. It was wonderful to witness the confidence and talents of our children. The much loved songs of Matilda and a mixture of individual and group performances, showcasing the many talents of the pupils. I hope all of our families have enjoyed these wonderful events.

Information for Parents

Parents will be receiving the updated Parents' Handbook towards the end of the summer holiday, ready for the start of term in September. Parents will also receive a copy of their child's timetable for the new school year.

GCSE Results Day: Thursday 24 August

This year our Year 11 have worked hard to perform in GCSE exams and demonstrated their commitment towards their future education. I would like to thank the staff for their ongoing support and commitment to helping Year 11 remain focused and driven. These thanks are shared with parents of Year 11, who have supported their children on this journey. Once again, it highlights the special partnership between the school and our families.

We wish all the Year 11 pupils the best of luck for results day on 24 August. Parents will be welcome to attend with their children and results will be available on site from 8.30-10am in the school hall.

New Year 7 Induction Day and Early Years 'Stay and Play'

We look forward to seeing the Year 7 pupils for part two of their Induction Day on Tuesday 5 September. The day will begin at 8.30am and finish at 12pm. Pupils should come to school in their full school uniform and bring their schools bag and pencil cases with them. Please ensure all items, including PE kit, are named before the start of term.

Pupils joining Kindergarten have a 'Stay and Play' session with their teachers on the same day from 10.00-11.00am.

Arrival Time in September

Pupils can arrive at school from 8.30am. Years 5-11 should go straight to the playground, Years 1-4 should go straight to their classrooms, and Early Years including Reception will be collected from the main gate. All pupils should be in class by 8.40am at the latest for registration. We will also continue the staggered end to the day and lining up at dismissal:

- Early Years and Reception at 3.15pm
- Years 1-3 at 3.25pm
- Years 4-6 at 3.30pm
- Years 7-9 at 3.40pm
- Years 10-11 at 3.45pm

Pre-loved Uniform

We are very grateful that the NSPA organise a number of pre-loved uniform sales throughout the year. We wanted to remind parents that the NSPA have lots of good quality uniform available. If you are looking for items with the school logo on, please contact the school office and they will be able to make contact with the NSPA to help you. The NSPA are keen to support parents and provide sustainable uniform as part of their group aims.

NSPA

The NSPA have continued to provide unwavering support. This year they have made the following contributions:

- Revision Workshops for Years 9 to 11
- Years 7 and 8 Early Study Skills Workshops by Elevate
- Year 11 Leavers' Breakfast/Prom and Year 6 Graduation event
- Contributions towards the Yearbooks for Years 6 and 11
- Year 6 Special 11+ Trip to the movies
- Contribution towards the House Trips for Juniors and Seniors
- Support with the Winter Fayre, Oak-Tree Fireworks, Autumn and Summer Walks, Quiz night, Open days, Sports Day refreshments and, of course, the Summer Barbecue

This year, thanks to the work of the NSPA, we will also be receiving 22 new iPads arriving in September. This will enable further technology to be used across the curriculum.

NSPA Dates for your Diary

- NSPA Meeting **Monday 18 September 7pm** via Zoom
- Autumn Walk **Sunday 24 September 11am-1pm**
- NSPA Quiz Night **Friday 6 October 6.30-9.30pm**
- NSPA Meeting AGM **Wednesday 8 November**
- Winter Fayre **Monday 11 December 4-6.30pm**
- Junior Disco **Friday 2 February 2023**

All parents are welcome to join the NSPA by contacting normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com.

Enterprise House Competition

This year we hosted the second Dragon's Den style House Competition on Monday 26 June. The presentations were incredible, both professional and engaging. I would like to thank our two Heads of House – Ms Rudman and Mr Botha for organising such a fantastic competition, and our visiting judges Mrs Kudzi and Mr Kelley for judging the competition. This year the winning entrepreneur is Yusuf in Year 9. He delivered an impressive, thought-provoking presentation on prescription deliveries by drones. Well done and Congratulations to all senior and junior pupils who participated.

Shakespeare Week Success

At Normanhurst School, we take part in the annual Shakespeare Week Competition. This competition gets our pupils very excited and stimulates their critical thinking as it enables them to approach various lines in plays in new ways. In previous years we have received 'Highly Commended', and 'First Runner Up' for the pupils' entries. I am pleased to share that this year we have been awarded **Joint First** in the 'Whole School' category for our class books based on Shakespeare plays.

Congratulations to all the junior children involved. After celebrating our success this year, we will be looking forward to taking part in next year's competition!

Last Day of Term

On the last day of term, pupils will be allowed to wear their own clothes to school for £2. All monies will be donated to Mind, a cause the charity committee and school community feel strongly about.

Please note the dismissal times for the last day of term after the final house rewards assemblies:

- EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 3 at **11.30am**
- Years 4, 5 and 6 at **11.40am**
- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 at **11.50am**

Online Safety

As the holidays approach, we are reminding pupils across the school about online safety. It is also important to remind parents to check firewalls and permissions on mobile devices to ensure pupils are able to stay safe. It is also an opportunity to provide a friendly reminder of the age restrictions.

- Tik Toc
- Snap Chat
- Discord
- Instagram
- Kickz

The UK Safer Internet Centre has some helpful tips for parents <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> and there are also many up-to-date resources on our website.

Staffing Update

This term has been incredibly busy and I am pleased to update you with some appointments made. The calibre of candidates has been extremely good and of a high standard. I am delighted to say that Miss Francis will be joining the school as the new Head of Maths in the seniors from Leytonstone School where she has led both Key Stage 3 and 4. She is excited about joining the school and continuing the good work of the maths department.

We also wish Miss Elwis, a Teaching Assistant in Early Years department, the best of luck as she leaves us to start her teacher training. I would like to thank Miss Elwis for her commitment and the support she has provided in the juniors and early years department.

On Moving Up Day this year, the pupils had the opportunity to meet the new staff joining Normanhurst in September. The new teachers have already taught or met many classes and have enjoyed getting to know the pupils. Junior parents also had the opportunity to meet the new teachers on Moving Up Day.

Prefect Applications

Congratulations to all the pupils in Year 5 and Year 10 who have been successful in obtaining a leadership post for next year. I was extremely impressed with the pupils in their interviews: they were articulate, showed enthusiasm and were very persuasive - transferrable skills for the future.

Congratulations to all pupils who applied, I know they will do a fantastic job. I very much look forward to making this announcement on Speech Day.

Oak-Tree Fireworks

The Oak-Tree Firework Display is booked for Sunday 5 November 2023, which is the final day before we return to school from the October half term. Please do put the date in your diaries and join us for this enjoyable family event. Mr Hagger will be writing to parents in September with further details.

Residential Trips

As you know, we are keen to take the pupils away on residential trips to continue their personal and character development. Please see below dates:

- **Year 3** Camp at Oaklands - 14-15 September 2023
- **Year 4** to Danbury - 29-30 April 2024
- **Years 5&6** to PGL - 15-17 May 2024
- **Years 7&8** to Skreens Park - 22-24 April 2024
- **Year 9** to Danbury - 12-14 June 2024

Complaints and Concerns

As you are aware, we have an open door policy throughout the school and we make every effort to respond quickly to any queries or concerns you may have. I thought you might like to know that over the course of the last academic year we had one formal complaint that was resolved quickly and to the satisfaction of all parties. Any informal concerns were also resolved quickly with positive outcomes.

Important Dates for the Diary

Mon 3 July	19:00 – 22:30	Year 11 Prom at Prince Regent Hotel
Tue 4 July	12:15 – 15:30	Year 6 Lea Valley Cinema trip
Wed 5 July	15:45 – 16:45	Year 3 Camp (current Y2) Parent Meeting
Thu 6 July	14:00	Reception to Year 6 Speech Day
	16:00	Years 7-11 Speech Day
Fri 7 July	09:00 – 15:45	Year 10 Careers Day
Mon 10 July	09:30 – 15:00	EYFS-Year 6 Summer House trip at Chingford Plains
	09:30 – 15:45	Senior House trip to cinema and jump session
	17:00 – 18:30	Year 6 Graduation Party
Tue 11 July	13:30 – 15:30	Whole School Sponsored Walk
Wed 12 July	11:30 – 11:50	End of Summer Term
Tue 5 September	08:30 – 12:00	New Year 7 Induction Day (Second Part)
	10:00 – 11:00	Kindergarten 'Stay and Play' session
Wed 6 September		First day of Autumn term
	17:00 – 18:00	Year 11 Post 16 Education Parent Meeting
Thu 7 September	15:45 – 16:45	EYFS RWI/Maths Information Parent Meeting
Mon 11 September	15:45 – 16:45	Year 1-6 Maths Information Parent Meeting

Wed 13 September	15:45 – 16:45	Year 1 RWI Parent Meeting
Thu 14-Fri 15 September		Year 3 Overnight Camp at Oaklands
Fri 15 September	09:30 – 15:30	Year 5&6 trip to Powerday
Thu 21 September	08:30 – 11:30	Individual School Photos
	09:30 – 15:45	Year 7 trip to London Zoo
Fri 22 September	08:30 – 09:00	Kindergarten-Year 6 Drop In Morning
Tue 26 September	16:30 – 17:00	Year 7 Meet the Teacher Parent Evening
	17:00 – 17:30	Year 7 Supporting your child at home/MidYIS Parent Meeting
Thu 28 September	20:00	Year 7 trip to The Lion King

The Leadership Team, your child's form tutor or I are very happy to discuss any questions or concerns that may arise. Please do feel free to email or contact the school office if you would like to meet with us and discuss any issues. In the meantime, I hope your child has a lovely end to this academic year.

I wish you all a lovely summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another busy and exciting year.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

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