



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 October 2024

Dear Parents

Re: **October Headmistress's Letter**

The pupils, staff and parents have settled into the routines of school and homework well. I hope your children have enjoyed the first half term as much as we have, especially if you have recently joined Normanhurst. It has been good to see them starting this academic year so positively and determined to do well.

We have already been able to invite parents to a number of events such as:

- Year 11 Sixth Form Information Evening
- Year 10 'Being Successful at GCSE'
- Year 7 Information Evening
- Junior 'Drop-In' Morning
- EYFS Read, Write, Inc & Maths Information Meeting
- Year 1 Read, Write, Inc Information Meeting
- Juniors Maths and English Information Meeting
- Macmillan Coffee Morning

It has been wonderful to see so many parents keen to take an active part in their children's progress.

Harvest Festival Tuesday 8 October

Our Harvest Festival will take place at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in Chingford, with the whole school attending. A number of pupils from Kindergarten up to Year 11 will help to lead the celebrations. This year's theme will be 'The meaning of Harvest'.

Parents are invited to attend, although places are limited to two per family. Parents will be seated at the back of the church and in the balcony above. This is an opportunity for us to join together as a community and to make a donation at the end of the service to support the work of the Highams Park Food Hub, should you wish to.

Open Day Wednesday 9 October EYFS & Juniors at 9.15am and Seniors at 6.00pm

Open Day is a highlight in the school calendar when we open our doors to prospective parents. Pupils become the ambassadors of the school, while conducting school tours and talking about life at Normanhurst School. I am incredibly proud of their efforts and how they are preparing for this event. They have been good role models, demonstrating our school values. Their enthusiasm for school life, their friendliness and good manners are among the best expressions of what Normanhurst School is all about.

Photography Competition

Thank you to all the staff, parents and pupils who entered the school photography competition. There were some really amazing entries and Ms Hon-Ng found it incredibly difficult to choose winners. Congratulations to everyone who entered, especially the winners below.

Weather Category

1st Place: Harini

2nd Place: Alice

3rd Place: Daanesh

Highly Commended: Nicolas

Altered Images Category

1st Place: Nicolas

2nd Place: Emaan

3rd Place: Zackariyah

Highly Commended: Sylvie

Parents & Staff Category

1st Place Antony Everitt

Highly Commended: Mr Matthew Duck

Year 3 Camp and Year Group Residential Trips

It was incredible to see the Year 3 pupils attend the annual Oak-Tree overnight camp and to hear such positive feedback. Miss Rudman, Miss Stone and Mr Masters were so impressed with the pupils. They demonstrated that they were independent, kind, thoughtful and they engaged with all of the team building activities. I was delighted to see them enjoying themselves and developing their skills beyond the classroom. A great start to Year 3!

This year, each year group from Year 3 to Year 9 will attend a school residential trip:

- Year 3 have been on their annual camping trip this term
- Year 4 will be going to Danbury Activity Centre 14-16 May 2025
- Year 5 and 6 will be going to Mersea Island Activity Centre 4-6 June 2025
- Year 7 and 8 will be going to Skreens Activity Centre 18-20 June 2025
- Year 9 will be going to Danbury Activity Centre 16-18 June 2025

Oak-Tree Fireworks Display

We are delighted to be holding the annual Oak-Tree Fireworks event again this year, on Sunday 3 November from 4.30pm to 6.45pm, in the grounds of Oaklands School. Tickets for this popular event in the Oak-Tree Group's calendar are available to families from all four schools. All profits from the evening will go back to the Parents' Associations, with the teams from the four schools joining together to help run the event. For further details please refer to the letter you received on the 18 September.

Student Leadership Team

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been appointed to their new roles. Our Student Leadership Team has already made a fantastic start by leading by example and students have shown maturity and enthusiasm in carrying out their roles around the school and in assemblies.

	Seniors	Juniors
Head Prefects	Charlie / Sophia	
Head of Houses	George (Buxton) Harini (Forest) Mert (Ridgeway) Nathan (Rangers)	Caitlin (Buxton), Emily (Forest), Amelie (Ridgeway), Kelly (Rangers)
Head of Sport	Kyle (Buxton) Aarvin (Forest) Josh (Ridgeway) Madihah (Rangers)	Belle (Buxton), Emran (Forest), Enis (Ridgeway), Zakariya (Rangers)
Charities & Community	Adam / Aleena	Shamaym & Luke
Head of Student leaders	Shayaan Ella	
Head of Arts	Joe	

	Mia Kelsie	
Head of Eco & Sustainability	Numa Esma	Sylvie & Izah
Head of Academics	Max Alya	
Prefects	Luke Tilly	
Eco and School Council Representatives	<p>Junior Eco Council: Reception – Noah, Year 1 – Mason, Year 2 – Emaan, Year 3 – Cem, Year 4 – Florence, Year 5 – Stephanie, Year 6 – Emily</p> <p>Junior School Council: Reception – Aiden & George, Year 1 – Remy & Konur, Year 2 – Isla & Lilia, Year 3 – Sula & William, Year 4 – Leah & Khalifa, Year 5 – Aryaan & Alice, Year 6 – Belle & Caitlin</p>	

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Pupil Cake Sale

On Friday 27 September our pupils hosted our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. This was organised by our Student Leadership Team and Charity Committee. It was lovely to see so many parents from all years attending while raising money for such a good cause. I am pleased to say that the coffee morning was followed by a cake sale organised by the Charity Committee to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Gift a Book

This term we relaunch with our 'gift a birthday book' scheme, where pupils on their birthday can gift one of their favourite books to the school. A certificate is placed inside the cover of the book explaining who has gifted the book and photos will be placed in the newsletter. Thank you for supporting this; pupils are very proud to donate their books in assembly and explain their choice of book.

Diversity, Black History Month, Dyslexia Awareness Month and Diwali

In October we begin to celebrate Black History, Diversity Month and pupils will have a variety of lessons across the school learning about some of the many significant black people in history and in modern day. Pupils will also celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Day on Tuesday 8 October by wearing something red with their uniform and donating money to the British Dyslexia Association. The pupils will learn about the many attributes of dyslexia and participate in circle times, poetry readings, role play and solving riddles. The newsletter and our social media pages will celebrate the pupils' learning as part of their understanding of diversity and inclusion. Pupils will also be learning about Diwali this month in preparation of the Festival of Light celebrations on Friday 1 November. Pupils will be participating in a number of activities to celebrate the event.

NSPA Events

The Normanhurst Schools Parents Association is very much part of our school community. The committee are always looking for parents to join and support events. To join the NSPA please email: normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com. The next event will be the NSPA Music Bingo Night on Friday 29 November. Further details will be shared by the NSPA.

Online Safety

Each year we continue our partnership and commitment with parents to safeguard our pupils and children online.

Each term through the curriculum and engagement in activities and discussion, we will refresh and upskill our pupils' knowledge and behaviour of being online and engaging in social media. If you have recently given your child their first mobile phone, the following EE link below may be helpful:

https://ee.co.uk/do-more-with-ee/learn/how-to-get-your-child-set-up-safely-on-their-first-device?s_cid=con_ee_dg-home_ess_ppc-generic&esskwid=p80436889471&ess_sacid=71700000119130197&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI8bf_ob7biAMVHJdQBh3W4SqDEAAYASAAEgJW-fD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Annual Parent Coffee Mornings

Every year we invite parents to a coffee morning to discuss school life and for you to share your experiences with me and either Mr Hagger, the Group Managing Principal, or Mrs Osborn, the Group Education Principal. The office will send an invitation the week before. Coffee mornings will take place on a Friday morning from 8.45 – 9.45am on the following days:

Friday 22 November	Years 3-6 Coffee Morning
Friday 29 November	Lower Kindergarten – Year 2 Coffee morning
Friday 17 January	Years 7-11 Coffee Morning

Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Every year as a school we make an amazing effort to support the work of Operation Christmas Child by filling shoe boxes with gifts to send to children overseas in need of support. It is a wonderful charity, which brings joy to many children and young people in significant need. This year we are having a Shoe Box House Challenge once again to see which house can donate the most boxes in the juniors and seniors. The deadline for these boxes is Friday 8 November, We aim to send at least 75 boxes and your help will be much appreciated. Please look out for the information leaflets when they come home. Half term is a good time to collect items for a shoebox, ready to bring into school after the holiday.

Last year we were fortunate enough to be able to volunteer to pack the shoe boxes in the warehouse. I know that year 7 and 9 pupils have previously enjoyed doing so and developed a better understanding of the process from creating a box, checking each box to packing these for shipping. This year, Year 7 will have the opportunity to do this in the second half of the Autumn term.

Access to Portals

As requested at the start of term, please access your Parent Portal for ongoing information and to update any details that may have changed. This includes contact details (we need at least two current emergency contacts) and medical information. We upload key information to the Portal so that it can be accessed at your convenience.

Please contact the school office if you have misplaced your login details.

Uniform Reminders

Please remember that pupils come back to school in winter uniform after the half term break. I would like to provide some important clarity regarding socks and tights.

- As part of the summer uniform, pupils are permitted to wear White ankle or knee length socks (White cotton tights permissible in inclement weather).
- The winter uniform for girls states they should wear Navy knee length socks or opaque navy tights.

The full uniform list can be found through the link: www.normanhurstsch.co.uk/parents-pupils/school-uniform/ Junior pupils should all wear the regulation school coat, scarf and winter hat. From Year 7 upwards pupils may wear either the regulation coat, or a plain navy or black coat, without any logos or decoration. Pupils are only allowed to wear plain navy or black scarves, hats and gloves.

Please can I remind parents and pupils that hair should be neatly cut for school, or tied back if long. It isn't suitable to have long hair over the eyes in school. All long hair must be secured in a hair band throughout the day.

Can I also kindly remind parents that earrings are only allowed to be worn by pupils from Year 5 upwards. Earrings should be plain round gold or silver studs, and must not be worn on PE days.

Tue 1 Oct	17:30 – 18:00	Battlefields Trip Parent Information Meeting
Wed 2 Oct	09:15 – 15:30	Y6 Docklands Museum
Mon 7 Oct	16:00 – 18:30	EYFS/Junior Parents Evening
Tue 8 Oct	09:30 – 10:30	Harvest Festival at St Peter & St Paul Church
Wed 9 Oct	09:15	Open Day – EYFS/Juniors
	18:00	Open Day - Seniors
Fri 11 Oct	14:30 – 15:30	Y1-10 Chingford Fashion Week Show, URC Church
Thu 17 Oct	09:15 – 15:45	Y7 Museum of London Docklands Museum
Mon 21 Oct – Fri 1 Nov		Half Term
Sun 3 Nov	16:30 – 18:45	Oak-Tree Fireworks
Tue 5 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Y4 Young V&A Museum
	17:30 – 18:30	GCSE Presentation Evening (hall)
Wed 6 Nov	09:15 – 15:30	Y3 Science Museum
	09:15 – 15:30	Y5 V&A Museum
	09:15 – 15:30	Y6 Science Museum
Thu 7 – Sun 10 Nov		Y7-9 Battlefields Belgium trip
Mon 11 – Fri 15 Nov		Junior Assessment Week
Mon 18 – Mon 25 Nov		Y11 Mocks
Fri 22 Nov	08:30 – 09:45	Y3-6 Coffee morning
Tue 26 Nov	17:00 – 22:15	Y10+ 1xY11 A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic Theatre
Thu 28 Nov	09:00 – 15:00	EYFS Festive Fun Day
	12:15 – 17:00	Y1-8 Hackney Empire Theatre trip Dick Whittingham
Fri 29 Nov	08:30 – 09:45	LK-Y2 Coffee morning

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.

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
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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