



# Norman Hurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.SC., M.Ed., CMgr FCMI, NPQH

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4 November 2024

Dear Parents

### Re: **November 2024 Headmistress's Letter**

The positive energy and drive that comes along with a start of the second half term is always uplifting and encouraging. I hope you and your families have enjoyed the holiday and a well-deserved break. Last half term we enjoyed seeing the children partake in an array of activities for Black History and Diversity month, Dyslexia Awareness day, Harvest Festival and the wonderful Festival of Light, Diwali. We are very much looking forward to the rest of the term, which includes a number of special events including the Battlefields Trip for key stage three, Early Years Festive Fun day, Festive activities and House Competitions. Please make a note of the dates at the end of this letter and online on the school calendar.

### **Junior Parents Consultation Evenings**

Thank you to all the parents for attending the junior parents' evenings. We very much enjoyed meeting you all face-to-face and thank you for your positive feedback. Please remember, if you were unable to attend the event, to contact the class teacher who will be able to arrange an alternative time to meet with you. Specialist teachers who teach your children were also available to meet parents. If you were unable to meet any of the specialist teachers, feel free to make contact with them via email. All specialist teachers email addresses are available on the school website.

### **Mental Health Day, Black History and Diversity Month and Dyslexia Awareness Day**

This month we continue to celebrate Black History and Diversity Month celebrating the national theme of 'reclaim the narrative'. Pupils will also look at mixed heritage alongside the national theme. We have welcomed in successful authors, business owners to run workshops and had lots of fun tasting different cultural foods. If you would like to come in and talk about your culture or tradition please contact Ms Rudman for the Juniors [rudman@normanhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:rudman@normanhurstschool.co.uk) and Mr Clair for the seniors [pclair@normanhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:pclair@normanhurstschool.co.uk)

Pupils in a variety of lessons across the school learned about tolerance and respect. We also celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Day by wearing red and Mental Health Day by wearing yellow. The pupils learnt a lot about the many attributes of dyslexia and participated in circle times, poetry reading, role play and solving riddles. We have also been reminded about the importance of self-care and using effective strategies to maintain good mental health.

### **Music Bingo Night (NSPA)**

We are all very much looking forward to the annual Music Bingo Night organised by the NSPA. It takes place on Friday 29 November at 7pm, in the school hall. It will be wonderful to see members of the school community coming together socially.

### **ISA Success**

We have had much success this year entering ISA competitions. Imogen (Year 10) competed for Norman Hurst at the ISA National Sailing Competition and was placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Imogen has also now been selected for the RYA British Youth Sailing regional squad representing London and the South East. As a member of the squad she will attend a series of weekend training camps and races around the region which will help her develop her sailing skills further.

Well done and congratulations to all the pupils who have represented the school in ISA competitions this term. The ISA Art Competition results are as follows:

EYFS 2D – Placed 2<sup>nd</sup>

KS3 2D – Orson Received Highly Commended

KS3 Textiles – Matias Placed 2<sup>nd</sup>

EYFS/KS2 Textiles – Elin Received Highly Commended

KS3 Fashion – Callan Received Highly Commended

KS3 Photography – Zackariyah Placed 2<sup>nd</sup>

Well done to everyone who made an entry; the standard of art was incredibly high.

### **Armistice Day and the Poppy Appeal**

Every year in school we remember those who have died in wars by supporting the Poppy Day Appeal. Remembrance poppies will be available from Monday 4 November at the front of the school in the mornings. Please feel free to make a donation. We will have a minute's silence on Monday 11 November at the front of the school and in the playground. Our school have also been invited again to lay some flowers and a wreath at the Chingford Mount Cemetery on Friday 8 November and we will be taking Year 11 and 7R pupils to represent our school. Pupils will leave school at 1pm and return to school for their normal dismissal time.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

I am delighted to report that Normanhurst will be participating again in Operation Christmas Child, a project coordinated by the UK charity Samaritan's Purse. Normanhurst will be joining many other school across the country by wrapping, packing and sending shoeboxes full of gifts, for example: tooth brushes, toothpaste and soap, hairbrushes, pens, pencils, something to write on, toys or games, to children in need around the world. This continues to be a house competition across the four houses: Buxton, Rangers, Ridgeway and Forest.

Taking part in this project is optional, but will give your child the opportunity to not only transform a shoebox, but to make a difference to a life. By donating very simple and yet practical gifts you can make a huge difference in the life of another child this Christmas. We hope that your child will want to get involved with us in this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign and help us reach children in need with shoeboxes of gifts to enjoy. We have the shoeboxes for sale in the office for £1.50. Please could all shoeboxes be in school by Friday 8 November.

Should you have any questions or concerns about Operation Christmas Child, or Samaritan's Purse, please visit: [www.samaritans-purse.org](http://www.samaritans-purse.org) or speak to Mrs Saint.

### **Year 9 Options Evening**

We have already begun to prepare for the transition to GCSE courses with the pupils in Year 9. They have this term been tackling GCSE style work and questions in lessons. It will ensure pupils are prepared for the rigour and challenge of the GCSE examinations. Parents have received a GCSE booklet, which provides important information about the GCSE courses, both the compulsory 'core' courses for English, Maths and Science and the wide range of option subjects from which pupils will study four courses.

Please read this booklet together at home with your child in preparation for the Options Evening, which takes place on Tuesday 12 November at 5.00pm in the school hall. During this event you will have the chance to hear about the process and deadlines. There will be a talk about the GCSE programme and you will have the opportunity to hear from subject teachers about their courses.

This is to be followed by the Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening on Tuesday 3 December, during which parents will have academic feedback on their child's progress to inform their subject choices. This will help the pupils to make the best choices of subjects for them when that time comes in the Spring Term.

Your son or daughter will need to select their 8 preferred options from the list of GCSE option subjects and to rank them from 1 to 8. These should be 8 GCSE subjects they would potentially be interested in studying, in which they show aptitude and which they are happy to take. Option blocks will then be created to best fit the cohorts' preferences. The deadline for returning the Option form will be Friday 17 January 2025.

### **Early Years Events**

The Early Years department will be having their annual 'Festive Fun Day' on Thursday 28 November. This has become an Early Years tradition where the children discover how this special time of the year is celebrated in many different ways across the world.

This year we look forward to the Early Years nativity performances. There will be two performances to our parents:

- Wednesday 4 December at 9.30am for our Early Years
- Wednesday 4 December at 2.30pm for our Year 1 and 2 parents

Rehearsals and preparations have already begun and it promises to be wonderful event as usual.

### **School Production – Into the Woods**

I am delighted that Mrs Bunting and Mrs Scott along with the cast have already started rehearsals for 'Into the Woods'. The production will take place on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 March 2025 at 7pm at the Redbridge Drama Centre - please remember to save the date.

### **Celebrating Christmas Together**

December is busy as usual with a number of seasonal highlights:

- Christmas lunches will take place on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 December across the school with the Junior Christmas parties on same day as their Christmas lunch. Further details will follow.
- Year 1 to Year 8 will go to see 'Dick Whittington' at the Hackney Empire on 28 November
- Christmas Carol Service will be on Wednesday 11 December at 2.30pm at St Peter and St Paul Church

### **Winter Uniform Reminders**

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school, and as we return to wintery weather I would like to remind you of the school's uniform expectations:

From November all pupils should be wearing the winter uniform, this includes navy tights. Juniors from Reception class upwards are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop.

Seniors must wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat. Coats should not have design features and should be appropriate for school. I suggest coats should be practical and not expensive.

Senior girls have the option to wear navy leggings with their PE skirt. Please all pupils ensure these are plain navy and not black. If pupils do not want to wear leggings, they may wear the school tracksuit bottoms.

Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, a plain black or navy scarf or gloves are to be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves. Please be aware that seniors will have non-uniform items confiscated and these will need to be collected from the school office.

Boots are not a part of school uniform in any area of the school, including the Early Years classes, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes throughout the winter. If it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school, but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

Please could I also remind parents and pupils to ensure clothing items are labelled. We have a growing box of lost property containing unnamed items.

### **Reporting throughout the Academic Year**

This year we will continue to provide parents reports about their child's progress at the following times of the year:

- Lower Kindergarten (Summer term)
- Upper Kindergarten (Summer term)
- Reception (December and Summer terms)
- Junior (December and Summer terms)
- Senior (December, Spring and Summer terms)

Parents will continue to receive feedback on subject areas across the curriculum with targets. In the juniors, the reports will include an achievement grade for English and Maths, as well as an attitude to learning grade. For all other subjects an attitude to learning grade will be included. In the seniors, we will be providing more detailed feedback including an attitude to learning grade three times during the year. As we continue to have an open door policy for parents, please do not hesitate to contact staff if you have any questions about how your child is doing.

### **Year 11 Mocks Wednesday 13 November – Friday 30 November**

GCSE Mock Exams for Year 11 begin on Wednesday 13 November. These will take place at school and in the United Reformed Church hall. I am pleased to see that pupils have been working hard during the school's booster classes and engaging well with their independent study. It is important that pupils continue to log their independent work alongside revision and homework. These are important preparations and the results will give the school a clear indication of their progress towards the final exams. There are a few October half term revision sessions happening. May I thank all parents in advance for their support.

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you to all the families that were able to either make a donation or attend the Macmillan Coffee Morning held last month. The coffee morning was followed by a student led cake sale and raised £270.00 It was good to see so many parents enjoying the opportunity to stop for a hot drink and a chat, all in aid of a good cause.

### **Coffee Mornings for Parents**

Our programme of Coffee Mornings will start very soon to provide you with the opportunity to chat to us informally about life at school. This time, we will be inviting you to join Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and myself in school.

- Friday 22 November 2024 - Years 3-7
- Friday 29 November 2024 - Lower Kindergarten – Year 2
- Friday 17 January 2025 - Years 7-11

Parents will receive a Groupcall text message the week before so that you can confirm if you are able to attend.

### **Normanhurst School Parents' Association (NSPA)**

I would like to say thank you to NSPA who have agreed to support the Year 11 Prom, Year 6 Graduation and Yearbooks, bean bags for the library and playground equipment. The NSPA recognises that family lives are busy, but appreciate any time and ideas parents are able to contribute. If you would like to know more or would be interested in joining, please contact Sinead Greenaway or Ali Delbourgo, the Chairs at: [normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com](mailto:normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com). They would be delighted to let you know more about the NSPA. It is never too late to get involved.

## Reflections on Events this Term

It has been incredibly heart-warming to see and be able to meet so many parents and prospective parents since the start of this term. Junior Drop-In morning, Open Days, Macmillan Coffee Morning, Parent Information evenings along with our annual Harvest Festival. I am incredibly proud of our pupils and staff as once again they continue to be fantastic ambassadors for the school. Equally, I am incredibly grateful and appreciative of the unwavering support we receive from our parents. I hope you have also enjoyed attending school events this term; it has been wonderful to have such good attendance at events.

## Important Dates for the Diary

Tue 5 Nov	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Drop In Morning
	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
Tue 12 Nov	17:00 – 18:00	Y9 Options Parent Meeting
Mon 13 – Fri 30 Nov		Y11 Mocks
Wed 20 Nov	16:00 – 17:15	Oak-Tree Maths Bee
Fri 22 Nov	08:30 – 09:45	Y3-6 Coffee morning
Tue 26 Nov	17:00 – 22:15	Y10+ 1xY11 A Christmas Carol Old Vic Theatre
Thu 28 Nov	09:00 – 15:00	EYFS Festive Fun Day
	12:15 – 17:00	Y1-8 Hackney Empire Pantomime
Fri 29 Nov	08:30 – 09:45	LK-Y2 Coffee morning
	18:45 – 22:00	NSPA Music Bingo Night 6.45/7pm start
Tues 3 Dec	16:00 – 18:30	Y9 Parents' Evening
Wed 4 Dec	07:00 – 15:45	Y8 Williams Racing Museum Oxfordshire
	09:30 – 10:30	KG-Rec Nativity to parents
	14:30 – 15:30	Y1-2 Nativity to parents
Wed 11 Dec	14:30 – 15:30	Carol Service St Peter & St Paul Church
Fri 13 Dec	11:30 – 12:00	Last Day of Term

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



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