



Normanhurst School

Newsletter

Headmistress's Message



Dear Parents

Welcome to the November edition of the Normanhurst Newsletter.

I was extremely proud to see our pupils in action on Open Day, representing the school so well and being great ambassadors. It is wonderful to hear the pupils talking about their learning.

Pupils have enjoyed participating in ISA events, trips to the theatre and the Chingford Fashion Week House competition. We have celebrated Diversity and Black History Month in conjunction with Dyslexia Awareness Week, enjoyed Cultural Day and much more. We have also been able to celebrate European Languages Day looking at the power of languages around the world. We are now working on performances and activities that celebrate the Festive Season.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and thank you to those who have been able to attend school events or supported the school to date.

With my best wishes



Mrs Jacqueline Job

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Science

The Early Years children have learnt all about the moon in Science, including the different phases and they even made a crescent moon and full moon pizza for snack.

What a lovely afternoon!



The Early Years children had a lot of fun in Science this week learning all about shadows. They created exciting shadows by moving their hands and bodies, with a favourite hand pose being 'the spider'.

The children finished the afternoon by creating their own stick people and making shadows using a torch. We noticed that the shadows changed in length depending on where we held the torch.



Recycling in Action

Early Years had a fantastic afternoon exploring the world of recycling! Our young learners ventured out on a walk down the high street to observe different types of recycling in action.

We saw charity shops, where we learnt about the importance of donating unwanted items to reduce waste and support good causes. We identified different types of recycling bins and discussed the proper way to dispose of various items. Additionally, we learnt about the environmental impact of food waste and the importance of composting or recycling food scraps.

Finally, we discovered the benefits of repairing broken items rather than throwing them away, helping to conserve resources and reduce waste.

Diwali

Happy Diwali. The Early Years children learnt all about Diwali and how it is celebrated. They decorated biscuits, decorated hands with mehndi and even had their very own fireworks display using colourful wands.



Year 1

Writing Competition

The Junior pupils were asked to take part in a competition to design and write a letter to the Prime Minister to highlight the importance of cycling to school.

Well done to Musa in Year 1 who won the competition receiving house points for Buxton House.



Year 1

Writing Competition

Year 1 enjoyed the African head scarf workshop in which they participated as part of diversity and black history month. They learnt about the different patterns and fabrics and created their own beautiful collages.



Year 2

Remembrance Day

Year 2 explored the significance of Remembrance Day and learnt why the poppy is an important symbol. They enjoyed expressing this understanding through painting poppies in our Art lesson, creating thoughtful and beautiful artwork.

Year 3 Science Museum Trip

Year 3 visited the Science Museum in London for an exciting day of learning and fun this term. The first stop was the Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries, where students discovered how medicine has changed over time. They explored ancient medical tools, learnt about famous figures like Florence Nightingale, and saw real historical items, like old medical cabinets.

Next, the class headed to the hands-on Wonderlab, where they enjoyed interactive science experiments. From creating mini tornadoes to experimenting with magnets, the students had a blast exploring the world of science. The Wonderlab offered the perfect chance to see science in action and ask lots of questions.

It was a fantastic day full of learning and discovery, and everyone left with a greater appreciation for both science and medicine.

A big well done to the pupils for their fantastic involvement and behaviour.



Year 4 Young V&A Museum Trip

On 5 November, Year 4 visited the Young V&A Museum, where they learnt all about the history of toys and how they have progressed over time. They also played, built and explored a range of activities.



Year 5 V&A Museum Trip

Year 5 recently went on an exciting trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum, diving into the world of the Tudors! As part of their history curriculum, the pupils explored many artifacts from this period, deepening their understanding of Tudor life, fashion, and culture.

The highlight of the visit was the museum's collection of Tudor-era items and interactive displays where pupils designed their own coat of arms. They also looked at various decorated clothing items, intricate jewellery, and grand portraits of key historical figures from the Tudor era. The interactive activities also allowed them to imagine what life was like during this remarkable time in British history.



Year 6 Science Museum Trip

On 6 November Year 6 had an exciting and educational trip to the Science Museum, where curiosity and discovery took centre stage! The students explored interactive exhibits, engaged with fascinating science demonstrations, and even got a chance to step into the world of space exploration.

The highlight for many was the Wonderlab room, which made science come to life like one big scientific playground!



Year 6 Museum of Docklands Trip

On 2 October Year 6 went on a school trip to the Museum of London Docklands. This was an enriching and educational experience, providing students with a deep insight into London's rich maritime history. The museum's well-curated exhibits, engaging activities, and interactive displays offered a memorable learning opportunity outside the classroom.

One of our students exclaimed: "It was amazing. I really enjoyed the trip and would highly recommend it!" This comment was echoed throughout the class.



Cultural Dress Day, Asian and Jamaican Food Tasting



To start the celebrations of Diversity and Black History Month, the junior pupils came to school wearing traditional dress from around the world as part of Cultural Dress Day.



The first workshop of the month was an Asian food tasting provided by Almaida & Co, where the pupils tasted delicious food such as pani puri, spring rolls and naan bread. Enis said, 'The food was amazing with lots of flavours in the spring rolls'. Siddhant said, 'The mixture of the pani puri was excellent.'

Another exciting event was the Jamaican food tasting and cooking demonstration, hosted by St Best Jamaican Food, which aimed to deepen the children's understanding of Jamaican culture through its rich culinary traditions. The children learnt to cook and prepare jerk chicken and rice and peas, and they then had the opportunity to sample these delicious foods cooked on a traditional oil drum BBQ.



Black History Month Writing Workshop

In this engaging and interactive poetry workshop, the pupils of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 celebrated Black History Month by exploring the richness of Black culture and history. Hosted by the fabulous poet and rapper Kimba, the pupils took part in a series of fun activities and guided discussions, and learnt about influential figures, events, and themes that have shaped the Black experience. They then created their own poems inspired by what they'd learnt.



Hair Braiding

In honour of Black History Month, Normanhurst hosted an engaging Hair Braiding Workshop that brought together students from Year 1 to Year 6. Led by local hair braiding expert Ms Donnalee, the workshop highlighted the rich history and significance of hair braiding in Africa.

The event began with an informative demonstration, where Ms Donnalee shared the origins of various braiding styles, explaining how they reflect personal identity, community and heritage. Pupils were captivated by stories of how different styles, from cornrows to box braids, convey important cultural messages.

Following the demonstration, pupils paired up to practise their new skills with brilliant results!



Cultural Dress Day

In October our seniors had a Cultural Dress Day to celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions of our senior community. This special occasion provides an opportunity for seniors to showcase their heritage, connect with their roots, and share their unique stories with others.

Cultural dress day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate diversity, promote understanding, and connect with our heritage. By embracing our cultural roots, we can create a more vibrant and inclusive community for all.



Lyrical Legends Workshop

Pupils in Years 7 to 10 enjoyed and explored the recent history and development of Black British music, using Spoken Word Poetry to open up a world of lyrical expression. The school celebrated the achievements of Black British artists, and were inspired to follow in their footsteps as trailblazing poets.



Carribean Food Tasting

Senior pupils also got to taste delicious Asian food provided by Almaida & Co. Pani puri, spring rolls and naan bread were among some of the favourites.



Y1-10 Chingford Fashion Week House Fashion Show

Chingford Fashion Week 2024 went off with a bang! This year's theme was Rock Star, where students from Year 1 to Year 11 showcased their creativity and flair by representing their houses through fantastic outfits inspired by iconic rock legends and bands. Well done to the individual winners Esme from Buxton, Inayah from Rangers, Angel from Ridgeway and Khalifa in Forest. Finally, congratulations to Ridgeway for the overall house win.



Y6-11 PSHE

A boy band called ABSNT Mind came to talk to the pupils about mental health, resilience and coping with school life.

The session started off with a performance, followed by a talk and Q&A session. The pupils then had a chance to meet the artists and get a signed picture. The buzz in the afternoon was electric and the band was very relatable to the students.



Harvest Festival

The whole school joined together to share the meaning of Harvest. The school enjoyed different presentations by the members of the Junior school. They presented harvest around the world, and we even had a rendition of the harvest haul to the soundtrack of Oasis 'Wonderwall'. It was lovely to have the whole school together to share readings, prayers and information and be blessed by Mother Marilyn. Thank you to everyone who donated food, toiletries and resources for the Highams Park Food Hub. The retiring collection also raised £86.00.

We, as a school are making a difference, thank you.



European Day of Languages

In a recent assembly, the Year 10 pupils studying French and Spanish made a presentation about the 2024 European Day of Languages. Both junior and senior students were quizzed about some fun traditions, as well as titles of Disney films in another language. For example, did you know that "Biancaneve" is the Italian version of *Snow White*? And did you know that "L'histoire des jouets" is the French version of *Toy Story*? Year 10 languages pupils then taught the rest of the school some other words that do not exist in English. For instance, we discovered that Hygge is the pleasant, genial, and intimate feeling associated with sitting around a fire in the winter with close friends, in Danish and Saudade is the feeling of longing for an absent something or someone that you love but might never return, in Portuguese. Well done, Year 10!

Mrs Kimpton & Mrs Huxford-Bonella



World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is celebrated annually on 10 October. The day is a chance to raise awareness of mental health issues, promote positive mental health, and break down the stigma that still surrounds mental health. Our school recognised this and all wore a yellow accessory. We positively promote positive mental health.



World Dyslexia Day

On 8 October our school proudly celebrated World Dyslexia Day, a special occasion dedicated to raising awareness and understanding of dyslexia. Pupils and staff came together to show their support by wearing red. During snack time, children in the Early Years and Juniors watched videos highlighting personal stories and informative content about dyslexia. These resources helped the pupils to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and strengths associated with this learning difference. Thank you to the staff and pupils for wearing red on this day.



Imogen Sails in ISA National Regatta

Imogen (year 10) represented Normanhurst again at the ISA National Regatta at Draycote Water, Warwickshire in October. After her success last year winning the Rookie Fleet, she moved up into the more challenging Main Fleet (open class). She did 4 x 1 hour races over the course of the day in great sailing conditions and was pleased to come 10th overall against a strong field.

In addition, following 2 trial weekends, she was delighted to be selected for the RYA British Youth Sailing regional squad in September, 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 Imogen!



Charley & Poppy at Disneyland

Charley (year 4) and Poppy (year 7) recently went on a trip to Disneyland Paris, where they competed in a Gym Fusion competition in both solo and group categories.

The girls won gold in their big group performance, which was to "Mary Poppins", and they also got to participate in the Disneyland pre-parade at the park.

Well done Charley and Poppy!



Henry at Buckhurst Hill Football Club

Henry in Year 4 was recently successful in gaining a spot on the Under 9s team at Buckhurst Hill Football Club and has so far played three matches for them.

At a recent weekend game, he was named Man of the Match! Henry has said that he is really happy that he has made the team and feels like it is a step closer to being a professional footballer. Henry also said that he is proud of himself for getting named as Man of The Match and that his team mates also supported him. He said that "even if I didn't get it I felt proud of myself for how I played as I scored my first two goals for the team and my second goal meant that the end score was a draw, 3-3."

Well done Henry, we are impressed!



Gift a Birthday Book



Penelope (year 4) kindly donated a book to the school for her 9th birthday. This will be presented in a weekly assembly and then take its place in the library for other pupils to read and enjoy.

Thank you Penelope!

Crochet Club

All the regular attendees are making super progress in crochet club and Mrs Ridge just wanted to share one example in particular - please see attached Stephanie's (year 5) handbag made from granny squares!

From starting with basics in crochet club, she has made a fantastic effort to continue her learning and practice at home, and this is reflected in her outstanding results!

Well done!



Oak-Tree Football

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the annual Oak-Tree U11 Football Tournament at Oaklands on 15 October. The team played honourably, taking on both Coopersale Hall and Oaklands in highly competitive matches.

Well done to all the boys who competed and showed off their football talents.



Oak-Tree Netball



Normanhurst Years 5 and 6 girls also travelled to Oaklands on 15 October for the Oak-Tree U11 Netball Tournament. Competing against the other three schools in the group, the girls displayed strong sportsmanship.

Well done!

Years 7&8 Netball vs. Braeside

Well done to the Year 7/8 Netball team who played and won against Braeside last half term with a 7-6 win! All students showed great effort and skill in all four quarters demonstrating huge amounts of progress. We are looking forward to the next matches this month!



The Normanhurst School Parents Association are keen to recruit more volunteers! We are a friendly group of parents and staff who seek to fundraise for the school. In the past, we have raised money for playground equipment, a class set of iPads and the sound system, with our most recent purchase being extra beanbag chairs for the school library.

As a committee, we are always looking for parents to join and support our events. We love our school community and are seeking fresh ideas and to broaden our skillset and widen our expertise. As such, we will be holding a coffee afternoon at 2pm in Wake Up on Friday 15 November for you to come along and find out more about how you can get involved and support the school. We would love to see some friendly faces and it is a great way for new families to get to know other parents. We can also be contacted on normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com. You don't have to come to every event or join the committee - you might be able to volunteer by helping at an open morning with serving drinks or by providing something we need for an event. Perhaps you can donate a prize for a raffle or suggest a great company for the junior disco (held in February). If you have suggestions, we want to hear them!

Our next event will be the NSPA Music Bingo Night on Friday 29 November and tickets can be purchased at the school gate (when we have volunteers available) or from the school office. We hope to see you there!



NSPA
PRESENTS
Christmas
"SING ALONG BINGO!"
Jingle All the Way to a Bingo Win!
..Playing "Name that Tune" Music Bingo.

Sing along
&
win **PRIZES!**
There will be a full **BAR!**

Nov 29th
7pm
School Hall

Tickets - £5 per Child - £10 per Adult
Including
PIZZA

NSPA registered charity no. 1150836



Tap and give us a follow on our social media accounts