



January 2025



# Normanhurst School

**Newsletter**

# Headmistress's Message

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Dear Parents

Despite the chilly and windy weather, our pupils have continued to demonstrate that they are invested in their education, showing a good 'attitude to learning' and mindset. Every day they make valuable and insightful contributions underpinning the Normanhurst School values.

As always, I have really enjoyed the 11+ interviews with our internal and external pupils wishing to join the senior school in September. I am in the process of finalising our Year 7 offers and scholarships.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank the Normanhurst Community for their generous food bank donations. These donations have all gone to the Highams Park Food Hub and they have asked me to pass on their thanks.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights the opportunities available in school.



Mrs Jacqueline Job

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## Space

Back to school with a 'whoosh'!

The Early Years children travelled to space, spotting the moon, stars and some planets too! Spaceships and aliens were created to add to our space area!



## Boarding Normanhurst Airways

All aboard the Normanhurst airways! We loved role-playing boarding an aeroplane with our passports, preparing for take off and travelling all the way to America.



## Early Years Discover the Cello

The Early Years children discovered the cello in music last week.

They learned how the cello is played and felt the vibration of it being played. They all really enjoyed the sound and sensations.



## Chinese New Year

Our Early Years classes enjoyed an afternoon themed around the Luna New Year.

Each child rotated around a series of activity stations, creating noodles in their kitchen, making brightly coloured lanterns decorated with glitter and flowers, colouring in themed sheets and acting out the story of the festival in an interactive play zone. All whilst wearing fabulous Chinese outfits.

They also got to find out the animal that represents their birth year in the Chinese zodiac calendar, either being the Mouse or the Ox.

There were smiles all around as the children enjoyed the wonderful festivities!



## Music in Year 1

Children in Year 1 were using claves to learn about keeping time and playing as a group plus listening to one another.

This is a great exercise in hand to eye coordination as well.



## Music in Year 5

Year 5 in their music lessons are busy preparing themselves to take part in the Young Voices concert later this month at the O2 Arena. They are very excited and their enthusiasm is infectious.

The concert includes a wide variety of songs from many eras and has fun dance moves which we are practising in lessons too as can be seen here.



## Times Table Rock Stars Tournament

Over the holiday period, we held an exciting Times Table Rock Stars Tournament, encouraging pupils to sharpen their multiplication skills in a fun and engaging way. The tournament saw all year groups compete fiercely, but it was Year 4 who claimed a narrow victory. All pupils showed outstanding dedication and lightning-fast times table recall. The volume of pupils participating is a testament to their hard work and enthusiasm for Maths, and the school community is thrilled to celebrate this achievement. Congratulations to Year 4, and all the other pupils who participated over the festive period.

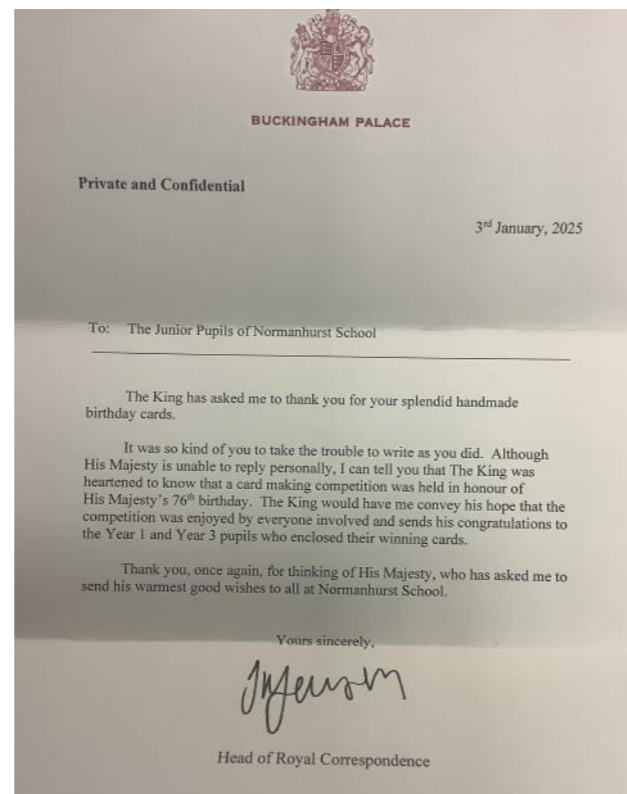


## King Charles' Birthday

Last term, the Junior pupils in Year 1 and Year 3 participated in a birthday card competition to celebrate King Charles' 76<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The winning entries were sent to Buckingham Palace.

In response, the pupils received a lovely letter of thanks from the Head of Royal Correspondence.



## Holiday Projects

Pupils across the Juniors embraced their creativity during the holiday break, producing some truly remarkable projects that showcased their imagination, effort, and enthusiasm.

In Year 1 pupils explored Science – Animals Including Humans – by creating dioramas of habitats, complete with food chains. Their thoughtful work demonstrated a clear understanding of the interconnections within nature.

Year 2 took to the skies with an exciting History of Flight project. Pupils researched aviation pioneers like the Wright brothers, inventors of the first airplane, and Amelia Earhart, the trailblazing aviator who inspired the world with her daring accomplishments.

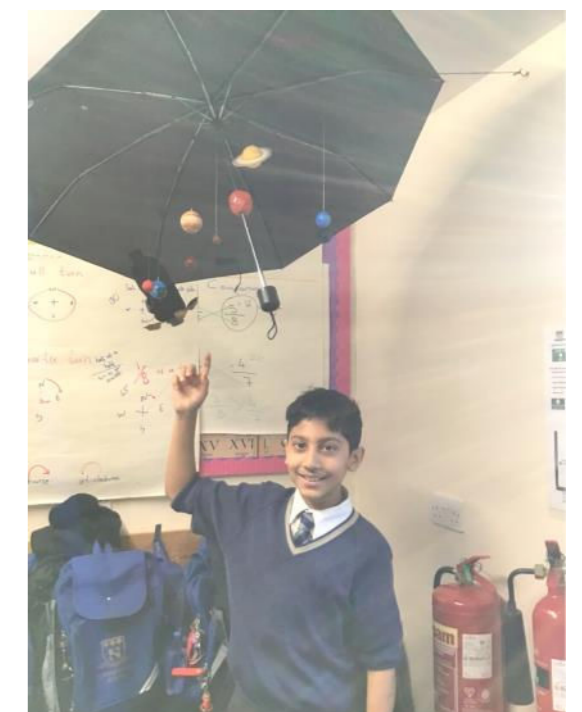
Year 3 pupils delved into the icy wonders of Antarctica. Pupils investigated this unique habitat, answering questions such as: What is Antarctica like? Who, if anyone, lives there? Which animals call it home? They then brought their findings to life by crafting detailed dioramas of this frozen continent.

Pupils in Year 4 embarked on a deliciously creative challenge, researching the topic of chocolate. Pupils compared different types of chocolate, designed inventive wrappers complete with names and ingredients, and devised catchy adverts, taglines, or slogans. To top it all off, they made their own chocolate bars, ensuring their creations perfectly matched their packaging and ingredient lists.

Year 5 pupils looked to the stars, creating dioramas of our solar system. Each pupil's project included the sun and all the main planets, beautifully illustrating the wonders of space and their understanding of the celestial bodies.

Year 6 turned back time to World War II, crafting detailed dioramas that depicted pivotal moments such as the Blitz, trenches, and D-Day landings. Their projects masterfully combined historical research with artistic expression, vividly bringing history to life in miniature form.

The teachers were incredibly impressed by the dedication, creativity, and quality of the work produced across the Juniors. A huge well done to all pupils for their hard work and fantastic creations!



## BETT ExCel Exhibition Trip

On 23 January, we took a group of senior students to the BETT ExCel Exhibition, an internationally recognised event that showcases the latest innovations in educational technology. This trip was all about immersing them in the cutting edge of how technology can transform learning—and it didn't disappoint!

Here's a quick snapshot of what we got up to:

**Hands-on with the latest tech:** Pupils explored tools and gadgets designed to enhance the learning experience. **Learning digital strategies:** They discovered new approaches that schools worldwide are using to embrace technology effectively.

**Spotlight on AI:** One of the big themes was how Artificial Intelligence is being used in education. Pupils got a first-hand look at how AI can transform classrooms and the potential it holds for the future of learning.

The trip was specifically geared towards giving our pupils exposure to innovative tools and ideas. Our goal was to inspire them, broaden their horizons, and help them see how technology can be a powerful tool in their education. Judging by their excitement and engagement on the day, I'd say it worked!

We're incredibly proud of how our pupils represented the school at the event, and we're thrilled they had this opportunity to gain new perspectives.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us provide enriching experiences like this one. We're already looking forward to next year's BETT Exhibition and can't wait to see what it has in store!



## KS4 Geography Field Trip

The Years 10 and 11 GCSE cohorts visited Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford for their field trip investigation on 'Challenges in the City' focusing on urban regeneration.

The day was led by staff from the London Region Field Studies Centre, and supported by Normanhurst teachers. Our focus was based on urban regeneration around the Olympic Park and the legacy left by the 2012 Olympics.

It was a valuable learning opportunity for the pupils as, in addition to listening to field study experts, we also undertook different sampling methods to provide the primary data and utilised techniques required for the new Geographical applications unit of the GCSE course.



## Sports News

### Congratulations to our Year 4 Netball & Football Teams

What an incredible performance by our Year 4 teams against King's School on Monday 20 January! Both our Netball and Football teams played with passion, skill and determination, securing well-deserved victories in their matches!

A huge shout out to our young athletes for their teamwork, sportsmanship and relentless effort. You make us so proud!



### ISA Table Tennis Competition

Congratulations to our U16, U13 and U11 Table Tennis teams who represented Normanhurst at the ISA London North tournaments this month.

After intense matches with our students displaying outstanding skills, our U16 and U13 teams proved to be the ultimate champions. The U16 team walking away with 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places and the U13 team walking away with 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places. Our U11 team also performed well with all their matches in the top 20 finishes.



### ISA National Table Tennis Champions 2025

On 23 January our players travelled to Nottingham to the ISA National Table Tennis Finals. They fought hard, showing immense talent, determination and passion to bring home the **ISA National Table Tennis Gold and Silver Medals** in the singles this year!

Following on from a successful morning, all students went on to compete in the Double's Competition. In a nail-biting Semi-Final, our pupils went on to secure the bronze medal in the afternoon cup competition.

What an incredible achievement!



## Gift a Birthday Book

Our 'Gift a Book on Your Birthday' is going strong!

Luke from Year 6 donated this brilliant book to our library on his 11th birthday!

Many thanks and a very 'Happy Birthday' from everyone! We hope you had a lovely birthday!

If anyone else would like to participate, please gift a new book to our school library on your birthday!



Dear Parents

The Normanhurst School Parents Association 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, iPads, a sound system and extra beanbag chairs for the school library.

*The NSPA has a pre-loved uniform shop and it has lots of new items in stock. We are planning an actual sale in March (details to follow). However, if you require any items in the meantime, please complete an order form, which can either be handed into the school office or emailed to [info@normanhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:info@normanhurstschool.co.uk) and we will try and fulfil your requirements.*

*School is increasingly expensive and we offer quality pre-loved items at a fraction of the price of the uniform shop! All proceeds are also fed back into improving the school experience for our children, so please support us.*

*Warm Regards*

*NSPA uniform team Lizzie, Nora and Tina*

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 to broaden our skillset and widen our expertise.

We can be contacted on [normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com](mailto: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!

With kind regards

Normanhurst School Parents' Association



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association

## NSPA Members

Your Parent's Association Committee members are:

Sinead Greenaway

Ali Delbourgo

Johanna Hardy

Nicola Masters

Claire Fernandez

Lizzie Taylor

Nora De La Quintana

Tina Holmes







**Tap and give us a follow on our social media accounts**