



Normanhurst School

Newsletter

Headmistress's Message



Dear Parents,

The Spring term is always an exciting time, with lots to celebrate; from Parents Evenings, Chinese New Year, ISA competitions, Safer Internet Day and Mental Health Week, to name a few.

This term our 11+ entrance exams and interviewing have returned and we are busy finalising our Year 7 offers for September. Year 11 pupils have sat their final round of Mock exams and they are focused on the Summer exam series and targeted revision. Pupils across the school are focused on making progress and challenging themselves in lessons.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights the richness and diversity of the curriculum and the value of learning beyond the classroom. I am proud to see so many of our pupils taking ownership of their learning and through pupil voice leading change for the future.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job

Table of Contents

1-2	Early Years
3-6	Infants & Juniors
7-8	Seniors
9-14	Whole School News

Our Local High Street

The Early Years children have been learning all about our local High Street, exploring the different types of shops we have. On our walk, we spotted shops that sell food, places to get your hair cut and even went into the flower shop!

It was great to see so many different shops!



All aboard the WOW at the Normanhurst forest school

The Early Years children wanted to have a re-look at worms, so they walked to the green in search of them and found out some interesting facts:

- Worms do not have a backbone (invertebrates)
- We worked out the length of the longest worm, being 22ft long
- Do you think worms produce eggs? They do!
- If a worm's tail is cut whilst digging, it will regrow
- How many hearts do you think a worm has? A whopping 5 hearts!

The class did some 'worm charming' to try to coax the worms to the surface.

Worms come to the top of the ground when it rains, so mimicked the rain and jumped on the spot, counting to 20 and more. The children waited and the worms began to appear. Some children were brave enough to hold a worm and feel it moving. They used our subitising skills with the help of some 10's frames to help the children count the number of worms. Each time a child found a worm, they placed a wool worm on the 10's frame and by the end of the experiment there was a full 10, another full 10 and 4 and the children correctly answered that there were 24 worms in total.

What a fun time everyone had while learning at the same time.



Year 1 Assembly

Year 1 did a fantastic job of acting out the Chinese New Year story for their class assembly. They learnt how the order of animals was chosen for the Chinese calendar, created some fantastic Chinese dragons, and sang songs about lucky red envelopes. Well done on a great performance!



Y2 Assembly

Year 2 dazzled the audience with their fantastic class assembly, all about Friendship—one of our school’s core values! Parents and children from Years 1 and 3 gathered to watch as the assembly kicked off with a beautiful sign language performance. Through heartfelt moments and thoughtful reflections, the children explored why friendship is so precious, even when things get a little tricky! They brought the poem The Crayon Box That Talked to life and shared their own brilliant ideas on what it means to be a good friend.

To wrap up this wonderful celebration of friendship, the children delivered a heartfelt rendition of Count on Me by Bruno Mars. It was a joyful, engaging, and truly uplifting performance—one that left everyone smiling!



Year 3 Assembly

Year 3 recently delighted their parents with an engaging assembly all about penguins and the power of teamwork. Pupils shared fascinating facts about these remarkable birds, including how they work together to survive in the harshest environments. The highlight of the assembly was when the children acted out different penguin behaviours, showing how teamwork is essential in their daily lives—whether it's huddling together for warmth or working in unison to catch food. The assembly ended with a lovely penguin dance and song. Well done, Year 3, for a fantastic and educational performance!



Y4 Trip to Highams Park Food Hub

“First, we entered the Food Hub and sat down. Sharon (the manager) explained to us that people/families who don’t have money get referred by someone like the council or doctor. She told us that it is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and that people come in 5 invites at a time, this is so that people don’t feel embarrassed. The people can even get a jacket potato and hot drink.

Sharon then showed us how it works when people come and what they can choose because they only get a certain amount of food. We then went to the stock room and she explained that she has to keep an eye on expiry dates. Then someone asked what the most popular food was and she said Nando’s, which was expected. The volunteer explained that they check temperatures every day because hygiene is important. The Food Hub relies on donations and she said she was grateful for ours at Christmas.

I enjoyed the trip and realised it was more complicated than I thought. I would like to help out there.”

By Nehanda



TFL Workshop

Recently, the Year 4 pupils had the opportunity to go on a special training session with TFL (Transport for London) trainers to learn about pedestrian safety. The session, held outside the school, was packed with fun and practical lessons on how to stay safe while walking near busy roads.

The TFL trainers taught the children the importance of looking both ways before crossing, using pedestrian crossings, and the dangers of distractions like mobile phones. They also practised crossing safely at different types of crossings and learned about road signs.

The children enjoyed interactive activities and demonstrations that helped them understand how to be alert and aware of their surroundings. This training was a fantastic way to remind everyone how important it is to be cautious and make smart choices when walking in our busy city.



Crazy Hair Day

Our Early Years to Year 6 pupils let their imaginations run wild for Crazy Hair Day—and what a spectacular sight it was! From brightly coloured locks to gravity-defying styles, pupils embraced the chance to express themselves with fun and creative designs. There was an array of accessories, temporary dyes and inventive themes that made for an unforgettable day filled with laughter and excitement.

The enthusiasm was so high that many pupils are already asking for Crazy Hair Day to become an annual tradition! A huge thank you to our Junior School Council Members for reintroducing this fantastic event—we can't wait to see what wild and wonderful hairstyles appear next time!



Children's Mental Health Week 2025

Normanhurst School participated in Children's Mental Health Week 2025.

This year Place2Be is exploring the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters. The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs!



Y7 Bank of England Museum Trip

Our Year 7 pupils recently had an exciting visit to the Bank of England Museum in Bank where they explored the fascinating world of money, the economy, and the history of banking.

A highlight of the visit was the chance to lift – or at least attempt to lift – a gold bar made of 99% pure gold! Pupils were amazed by its weight and the value it holds. They also gained valuable insights into how money has evolved over time and the role of the Bank of England in shaping the economy. Additionally, pupils enjoyed seeing how the bank notes changed over time too.

The trip was an engaging and educational experience, helping pupils see the real-world applications of their learning in a historic and inspiring setting.



Y11 Geography Field Trip

Our Y11 geography pupils recently visited Epping Forest for a one day field trip investigation into River Processes. The day was run by staff from the Epping Forest Field Studies Centre.

This was a valuable learning opportunity for the students as, in addition to a day in the country run by field study experts, they were also able to take measurements to provide the primary data and techniques required for the Geographical applications unit of the GCSE course.



Young Voices 2025

On 5 February pupils from The Oak-Tree Group of Schools had an amazing time at 'Young Voices' at the O2! The atmosphere was electric and we couldn't be more proud of their incredible performance. They loved every moment of singing in a choir of over 8000 children!

Their hard work practising over the last few months well and truly paid off. A special thank you to all of the staff who helped put this together.



Chinese New Year

The pupils at Normanhurst School recently celebrated the Chinese New Year with a vibrant range of art activities, marking the arrival of the Year of the Snake. Engaging in hands-on creative projects, the children embraced the spirit of the festival by designing colourful snake-themed artwork, from intricate drawings to paper sculptures.

Teachers guided the young artists through the history and significance of the Chinese zodiac, helping them understand the symbolism behind the snake and its characteristics. The children produced some fantastic work and should be proud of their efforts!



British Sign Language Club

The British Sign Language Club had the pleasure of welcoming a very special guest at their most recent session—Rose! Rose is a local resident who is deaf, she also teaches BSL in the community and kindly joined the pupils to help them put their signing skills into practice. The pupils greeted Rose by signing their names as an introduction before showcasing some of the songs they have been learning. Rose then challenged them by signing facts about her life to see how much they could understand. She also introduced them to new signs, including those for exotic animals they had not yet encountered. The session was a fantastic experience, and the pupils were amazed by how much they already knew. Many described it as ‘amazing,’ ‘surprising,’ ‘heart-warming,’ ‘very good,’ and ‘so cool’! We are incredibly grateful to Rose for sharing her time and expertise with us—it was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.



School Disco

Normanhurst Pupils danced the night away at our School Disco on Friday 7 February. The event was hosted by our wonderful NSPA. The children turned up in their bright, sparkly and dazzling disco outfits. Miss Chaudry was our DJ playing excellent tracks all night and ensuring everyone had a great time on the dance floor.

Nirvana and Casey won the raffle prizes and we were really impressed with all the dance moves the pupils showed us. We are already looking forward to next year’s disco!

Thank you to the NSPA for organising this successful event.



Spinney Care Home Visit

A number of senior pupils in years 7-9 attended a lovely tea and games afternoon in the Spinney local care home. Elderly residents loved having young people in to chat to and reminisce about school.

The boys and girls who attended particularly enjoyed chatting to a 100 year old man who had been in the RAF during World War Two and a lady whose grandson had been an ex pupil and was able to relate stories about the old Normanhurst days.

Junior students will be attending the Spinney in the coming weeks for tea and cakes.



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 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. 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.

If you have suggestions, we want to hear them!

With kind regards

Normanhurst School Parents' Association



Tap and give us a follow on our social media accounts