



# NEWSLETTER

February 2020

Item	Page
Headmistress’s Message .....	1
Kindergarten’s Field of Grass .....	1
Thorndon Country Park Trip.....	2
Chinese Art.....	2
Chinese New Year Experience .....	3
Year 1 Recreate a Masterpiece .....	4
Wild Trails.....	4
Year 1 Q&A on China.....	5
iPad Learning in Year 2.....	5
Dancing to Success .....	5
Judaism Workshop.....	6
2G Assembly on Child Evacuees.....	6
The Stories that Spoke .....	6
2A Assembly on ‘Strictly Come Writing’.....	6
Ewan’s Running Success.....	7
Animal Art .....	7
Learning the Time .....	7
London Zoo Trip .....	8
Year 5 Class Assembly .....	8
Chinese New Year .....	8
Year 5 Science Museum Trip.....	9
Moon Munching.....	9
Space Dioramas.....	9
Year 6 Tate Modern Trip .....	10
The Great Languages Challenge .....	10
A Musical Valentines Day at the Spinney ....	10
News from the Senior Science Department.....	11
News from the Art & Design Department... ..	12
Royal Festival Hall Trip .....	13
Norman Hurst Sports Report.....	13
Norman Hurst Sports Report Continued .....	14
Social Networking .....	15
NSPA.....	16

## Headmistress’s Message

What an interesting edition of the newsletter this is! Pupils at Norman Hurst have a diverse range of opportunities and experiences whether they are in the Early Years, Juniors or Seniors. Reading the newsletter will give you an insight into just some of what the pupils have been doing.

Despite some very challenging weather, a good number of fixtures and sports events have been taking place and it’s great to see the progress some of our newer teams are making, rugby being one example you can read about in the sports report.

I am very grateful that our teachers at Norman Hurst give over and above to make the learning exciting, inspiring and challenging. The number of trips and educational experiences the teachers are providing really enhances both school life and the pupils’ personal development. I hope you agree as you read about them.

If you are a new family to Norman Hurst, or joining in September, I hope you enjoy reading about the school, and I hope you are excited about the future, when you’ll have the chance to experience some of these things for yourself.

Finally, there are a number of opportunities in the coming weeks to meet the new Headmistress, Mrs Job, who also joins us in September, as well as a ‘School in Action’ Open Morning on Friday 6 March. I very much hope to see you at one of these events.

With my very best wishes.

**Mrs Claire Osborn**  
Headmistress

## Kindergarten’s Field of Grass

In Lower Kindergarten, the children read the story of The Scarecrow’s Wedding by Julia Donaldson. To find out what a scarecrow does they planted and have been caring for a ‘field’ of grass. It has been very important to water it every day and now we have lovely green grass. This was a fun way to bring the story to life and to practise our fine motor skills as we cut the grass with scissors.



# NEWSLETTER

## Thorndon Country Park Trip

On Thursday 13 February, the Upper Kindergarten and Reception children went on a thoroughly enjoyable trip to Thorndon Country Park near Brentwood. The Early Years children have been learning about and have read stories by Julia Donaldson this term. In order to enhance this learning, Reception and Upper Kindergarten went on the Gruffalo Trail. We travelled by coach and were met by Louise the ranger. Louise explained that we were going to meet all the different characters from the story of 'The Gruffalo' and were going to do different activities with each one.

When we met the Gruffalo, we made a lovely picture of him using natural materials. We also did 'The Gruffalo Hokey Kokey' which the children really enjoyed. After that, we met the owl. We enjoyed pretending to fly like an owl and making owl noises. Once we had met the owl, we then met the snake. He likes visitors to collect very small twigs for his log pile house. Following that, we met the Gruffalo's child. She likes to be given special treats from the forest so we collected lots of lovely things to give her. After that, we met the fox. Before we met him, we collected pointy leaves and popped them in our hats. It looked like the children had ears like a fox! Our final character to meet was the mouse. We also gave her some treats and made lovely little houses for her using natural materials.

The children all enjoyed this trip very much. They expressed how much they enjoyed meeting the different characters from the story. Elin remembered that her favourite part was pretending to fly like an owl, while Elise described playing a game with Louise the ranger who pretended to be a rabbit while all the children were foxes. Elise enjoyed creeping forward silently to catch the rabbit! Georgia recalled another story when she said that her favourite part was pretending that there was a troll under the bridge which they had to trip trap across.



## Chinese Art

Year 1 have been using their Geography topic, 'A Visit to China' and the recent Chinese New Year as an opportunity to explore different artistic techniques.

**Dragon Puppets** - The children decorated dragons, added googly eyes and lolly sticks to make their puppets.

**Chinese Lanterns** - We discovered how easy these are to make, as long as you fold and cut correctly. It was fun decorating the lanterns.

**Willow Pattern Plates** - The children practised drawing in the style of the 'willow pattern'. This pottery was always blue and white and depicted objects typical of Chinese culture, such as temples, water, boats, trees and bridges. Children used different shades of blue pencils and crayons on white plates to recreate this willow pattern effect.



# NEWSLETTER

## Chinese Art continued

**Silk Painting** - We learned about the life cycle of the silkworm and how the fully-grown caterpillars (silkworms) spin cocoons of thread. Chinese workers take about six threads together and weave them into cloth. In China, painting on silk happened before the invention of paper and the children discovered that it is very different to drawing on paper. They tried painting temples in this style, using white cotton material and fabric pens. The completed paintings were unusual with vivid and vibrant colours and everyone enjoyed trying this different medium.



## Chinese New Year Experience for Year 1

A topic like 'A Visit to China' could not possibly be complete without sampling the cuisine. Year 1 were invited to the Chingford Chinese Restaurant on Station Road for a typical 'Chinese Experience' by the friendly owner, Ken, himself a former pupil of Norman Hurst School. We were all very keen to try the rice, in particular, as we had learned in class how this staple food is grown in paddy fields and likes wet, warm weather. We also found out that rice is a highly productive crop and the Chinese climate provides the perfect conditions to produce large amounts to help feed 1.3 billion people.



Ten hungry children and two teachers arrived at the restaurant and were struck by how colourful and decorative it was. We loved all the red lanterns and Happy Chinese New Year banners and decorations. We were given the two large round tables which were already groaning with beautiful bamboo baskets, Chinese bowls, chop sticks, and everything else needed for a feast. We had barely taken all this in when the food started to appear. We enjoyed crispy prawn crackers, platters of chow mein (noodles with beansprouts), plain boiled rice, Chinese vegetables, vegetable spring rolls (a popular favourite) and fried seaweed. To finish we sampled lychees and ice cream. Our friendly and knowledgeable waiters explained all the dishes to us and kept replenishing our bowls. All the children sampled food that they had not tried before. Enis and Zakariya tried everything and both enjoyed the lychees, whereas for the others it was not a favourite. Everyone developed their proficiency at using chopsticks.



We then enjoyed reading the message hidden in our fortune cookies and eating the chocolate and lollies before it was time to head back to school. All the children said they could not wait to come back! We all left feeling very full and decided this was a pleasant way to celebrate Chinese New Year. Our thanks go to our generous host and the kind and helpful waiters who made this 'Chinese Experience' one we will always remember.



## Year 1 Recreate a Masterpiece

*Tiger in a Tropical Storm* or *Surprised!* is an 1891 oil-on-canvas painting by Henri Rousseau. It was the first of the jungle paintings for which the artist is chiefly known. It shows a tiger, illuminated by a flash of lightning, preparing to pounce on its prey in the midst of a raging gale. Year 1 did their very best to create their own version of Rousseau's masterpiece.

We did this in stages. Firstly, the children painted their background a stormy grey. Whilst that dried, they experimented with drawing a snarling tiger, which had to look like it was waiting to pounce. When each child was happy with their tiger sketches, they drew their best version on orange sugar paper and then cut it out. The tigers were then ready for painting and the children painted on tiger stripes and sharp, white teeth to make them look more realistic.

To finish, the children glued their tiger onto the stormy background and created the jungle scene using collage materials. Rousseau's jungle paintings were built up meticulously in layers, using a large number of green shades to capture the lush exuberance of the jungle. We did our best to try that too. Cutting out the leaves proved to be the fiddliest part and some children experimented with adding different shades of green crayon to add detail to the leaves. We then added in trees made of tissue, willow grasses and red tissue for the berries to complete our masterpieces ready for display.



## Wild Trails

As part of the Green Tree School Award Project, Year 1 have recently explored Warren Pond for minibeasts and to observe seasonal changes. Our Science topic is looking at the seasons and discussing differences between them. We noted the changes in the forest area since we visited it in the Autumn. The children noticed how bare the trees were and the leaf litter on the forest floor. It was very different to the vibrantly coloured leaves in October and the crunchy piles of leaves we walked through back then. We also noticed how quiet the forest was and we only saw one robin and two squirrels.

The children decided on two habitats to look for minibeasts. Firstly, we looked under some log piles for signs of life, and spotted several worms, wood ants, a woodlouse and slug. We saw a spider's web on a tree and an empty snail shell. We were surprised with how few minibeasts we found, even though we were quiet and looked under some large logs that had been left undisturbed for a long while. The children took care to return the logs to their original positions.

Secondly, we chose the habitat of a large tree. We were planning to compare the minibeasts found in the tree with the minibeasts on the ground. We discussed what the minibeasts eat and were going to find out whether those in the tree were plant eaters (herbivores) or predators (carnivores). We talked about the minibeasts in the leaf litter being dead leaf eaters. However, despite vigorously shaking the tree we did not spot any minibeasts. We also spent time examining the bark and still found nothing but an old spider's web.

We decided to come back in the Spring to observe more seasonal changes and to go on another minibeast hunt then.



# NEWSLETTER

## Year 1 Q&A on China

Year 1 were absolutely thrilled and excited to welcome a special 'VIP' into the class as a grand finale to our Humanities Geography topic: 'A Visit to China'. Mrs Freedlander grew up in China and expertly answered all the questions the class had prepared for her.

Mrs Freedlander showed on a map the area in China where she grew up, demonstrated the 'Dragon Dance' with the able assistance of her daughter Emily, who is in Year 1, and gave every pupil a red lantern to take home to celebrate the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year. The class loved learning about Mrs Freedlander's favourite animal, the adorable golden snub nosed monkey, which lives in the mountains in Central China and, like the giant panda, is native to China. She showed us some of the decorations she puts up, both in and outside her home, to welcome in the Chinese New Year. The children were riveted, and their many questions included 'Why was the Great Wall of China built?', 'Why do the Chinese do a dragon dance?', 'Why do the Chinese eat lots of rice?', and 'Why is there so much pollution in China?'.



Having an expert to answer the children's questions really helped bring the subject to life and Mrs Freedlander was a natural in the classroom. The information she gave greatly benefited the children's 'Big Write' the next day, when they recorded the answers to their questions.

'A Visit to China' has been such fun, and has definitely been Year 1's favourite topic so far this year!

## iPad Learning in Year 2

Year 2 had an exciting afternoon using the school iPads across their English and Science lessons. They started using the BBC Bitesize website to complete two grammar games 'Small Town Superheroes' and 'Karate Cats'. For this, they had to complete different challenges related to the English curriculum to become a grammar superhero! After this, they completed some Education City activities based on their Science topic of 'Our Changing World'. They were very excited to share their learning from this topic with each other and some even scored 100% in these activities! Niquey said 'It was amazing to use the iPads in our lessons!'. Freddie said 'We learnt about new things whilst having fun and playing games, it was very exciting!'.



## Dancing to Success

We were pleased to learn recently that two of our Year 5 pupils, Dylan and Jasmine, have been rewarded for their hard work in their IDTA dance classes. Dylan was proud to receive a Star Dance award for his Samba.

Jasmine, who has featured before in our newsletter for her dancing, was this time awarded rosettes for her Tango and Paso Doble, as well as a Star Dance award for her Samba. To cap it all off, Jasmine achieved a Merit award in her Prep grade for Latin Dancing.

Well done to both Dylan and Jasmine. In the words of dancing queen herself, Shirley Ballas, "Keep dancing".





# NEWSLETTER

## Judaism Workshop

Years 1 and 2 recently took part in a Judaism workshop, exploring different aspects of the Jewish faith including symbols and artefacts, Passover and Hebrew writing. They each wrote the word 'Shalom' (meaning 'hello') in Hebrew, they created their own Seder Plate which is used on Passover, and they were able to handle a range of Jewish items including a Mezuzah and a Torah.

All the children enjoyed learning about the different aspects of Judaism, and the workshop was a great way for them to be introduced to a lot of new information. They even learnt a new song in Hebrew which they have been singing along to all month!



## 2G Assembly on Child Evacuees

Year 2 have been learning about evacuee children during World War 2 in their History lessons. For their class assembly to their peers, teachers and families, 2G presented all they had learnt on the topic of child evacuees during the war, including rationing, the toys and games the children would have played with, and what life was like for these children at that time.

Then, with the accompaniment of Mrs Jones, they sang a beautiful rendition of 'My Favourite Things' from The Sound of Music. We are very proud of how fantastic they were!



## The Stories that Spoke

Some of Year 2 have been working on the story of 'The Papaya that Spoke', creating actions and symbols to help them to remember the story. In groups, they then put together their own entertaining stories about objects that speak. The children were very creative with their ideas. We had stories including 'The Crisp That Spoke' and 'The Moon that Spoke'. The children had the opportunity to read out their completed stories to the rest of the year group.

Linked to the same story, the children then created their own 'fruit and vegetable friends' during Art. They had great fun in doing this and we had some highly inventive names for their 'friends' including 'Pepper-Mint' and 'Shake It Up The Courgette'!



## 2A Assembly on 'Strictly Come Writing'

The 2A class assembly was called 'Strictly Come Writing'. We based it on this because the children in 2A really enjoyed watching Strictly Come Dancing and we tried to incorporate this theme with VCOP and writing. We had judges, contestants and hosts. There were also a few songs too; we sang VCOP to the 'YMCA' refrain, and also performed a song about VCOP to the tune of Frère Jacques. The children really enjoyed practising this and performed it very well. And the key point to take away is to 'Keep Writing'!





# NEWSLETTER

## Ewan's Running Success

3P pupil Ewan is no stranger to a running track. On Saturday 25 January, he participated in the Lee Valley Velopark Kids Mile, in which he came third and ran a personal best of 7 minutes 19 seconds.

Ewan has been taking part in races over the last two years. He trains at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre, and has been steadily improving his times

A real highlight of Ewan's running career came in the Vitality Westminster Mile in May last year when he met and ran with none other than running legend Sir Mo Farah!



## Animal Art

Connecting with their Science topic of 'Animals including Humans' and their English topic 'Should zoos be allowed?', Year 3 have been focusing on animals in their Art lessons this term.

The children worked very hard to make their own butterfly suncatchers. This task required the children to use a number of techniques, including, drawing, sketching, tracing, cutting, designing, collaging and gluing, to get the overall effect.

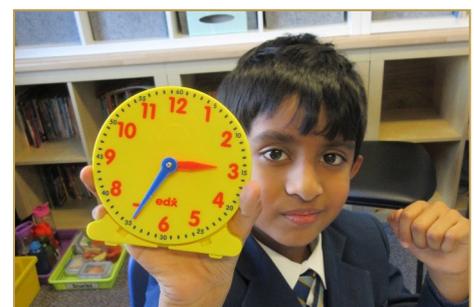
It has been lovely to watch Year 3 work together and support one another during their Art lessons this year.



## Learning the Time

This term, Year 3 have been working extremely hard to learn how to read the time on both an analogue and digital clock. We started the topic by focussing on time both to the hour and to half past the hour, before moving on to quarter past and quarter to the hour.

The children have found this topic challenging, but they love to be faced with a challenge! They have really enjoyed using the mini analogue clocks to help them learn the exact time to the minute. Their next challenge is to work out how to convert between a 12-hour and a 24-hour clock. Soon they will be masters at telling the time!





# NEWSLETTER

## London Zoo Trip

Year 3 had a fantastic time visiting London Zoo on Thursday 30 January as part of their English and Science topics. The children were amazed by the magnificent lions, and even had the opportunity to have a close look at crocodile skin!

The trip cemented their Science learning about Vertebrates and Invertebrates, as pupils were able to examine the skeleton of a snake and identify its backbone. They were amazed by the size of the giraffes, and Sophia even noticed that a giraffe only has seven bones in its neck like a human. It was fantastic to see the children all interacting with the animals, in particular the goats, where the children had the opportunity to have a stroke and pet.

The trip also sparked curiosity and discussion regarding our English topic 'Should Zoos be Banned?'. It is safe to say some of the children's opinions have changed drastically after our visit. Between the whole of Year 3 there are some clear opinions on each side of the debate. Ruiya said 'I believe zoos should be closed because I don't like animals to be hurt in the process of trying to give people a chance to see the animals'. William also said 'I believe animals should be set free because they should be in their natural habitat'. On the other hand, however, Jake believes that 'Zoos should stay open because humans get to learn about animals and for entertainment to make people laugh'.

The children were extremely enthused about their trip to the zoo and continued to show this through their discussions the next day. Well done Year 3 - you were an asset to Norman Hurst School!



## Year 5 Class Assembly

"The Year 5 class assembly was about two characters, Mr Rude and Mr Happy. Mr Happy tried to show Mr Rude how to be respectful. After two weeks he learnt how to respect others. Lots of the audience chuckled at the jokes. Some of us learned our lines in one week, others it took two weeks. At the end of the play we rapped a respect rap with actions involved. We also wore hats and sunglasses for this. At the end of assembly we collected a certificate for our excellent play and rapping skills."

**By Evie and Jasmine**



## Chinese New Year

In Year 5 we learnt about Chinese New Year in our PSHE lessons. We learnt that the Chinese New Year is based around the Lunar New Year and that it has a cycle of years that are represented by different animals. 2020 is the Year of the Rat, according to the Chinese zodiac.

Kayce told us a little bit about how her family celebrate Chinese New Year and showed us one of the special red envelopes that are shared at this time of year. Everyone also got to try prawn crackers, and each got a fortune cookie!



# NEWSLETTER

## Year 5 Science Museum Trip

“On Friday 24 January 2020 to the Science Museum. The reason we went was because we wanted to learn and investigate more about the features of Space. We went from Chingford to Liverpool Street Station by the London Overground, then changed to the Circle Line to get to South Kensington Station. When we arrived we walked to the Museum, then we entered. When we entered we ate our lunches straight away. Then we walked up some stairs to watch a movie at the IMAX cinema. It was so cool! Afterwards we finished our food. Then we completed a scavenger hunt. After that we went to a gift shop with £5 to spend. On the way back we travelled by train back to Chingford. We found out that we have received good feedback on our trip for our good behaviour and we were in the golden book for this.”

**By Roni and Imogen, Year 5**



## Moon Munching!

“On Tuesday 10 February, we ate biscuits to show the shapes of the moon. We could choose between Jaffa Cakes and Digestives. We drew on the table and separated it into four sections. Then we put the biscuits in each of the sections and we had to eat a bit to make it into the following moons: full moon, crescent moon, half moon and a total eclipse.”

At the start of the lesson Miss Stone showed us a Jaffa Cakes advert with a teacher showing the different shapes of the moon by eating the Jaffa Cakes herself, which was really funny! Everybody really enjoyed it and loved eating their own biscuits. It was really educational as we learnt about the different phases of the moon. At the end we ate the rest of the biscuits and all said how much we loved the lesson.”

**By John and Kayce, Year 5**



## Space Dioramas

Year 5 have been working hard at home for the past few weeks creating wonderful dioramas of the Solar System. Some worked on their dioramas independently, whilst for others the assignment became a family project!

Year 5 are rightly very proud of their creations that they have slowly put together using materials such as clay, cardboard, cake, polystyrene, acrylic paints, plastic, glitter and more.

The dioramas are on display in the Year 5 classroom, and Mrs Osborn and Miss Barnard will be visiting soon to have a look! Stop by the classroom if you would like to see them as well.



# NEWSLETTER

## Year 6 Tate Modern Trip

In their Art lessons this term, Year 6 have studied Cubism and the work of British Op artist Bridget Riley. Pupils have used both these styles to experiment in their own artwork, and the resulting pieces can be viewed outside the Year 6 classroom.

To widen their experience of Art further, Year 6 visited the Tate Modern earlier this month. They had the opportunity to observe various styles by some very famous artists, and were amazed by how broad the concept of 'art' can be. Pupils took time to observe the detail of the artwork and used sketching and colouring to record their impressions. The work they produced at the gallery will be used to inform and inspire their art back in the classroom.



The most impressive moment of the visit was walking around 'Babel', a towering installation made out of radios that were all playing different stations at the same time to recreate the cacophony and confusion of the biblical story.

## The Great Languages Challenge

Over the February half term, all Key Stage 3 pupils were asked by Miss Bonella and Mrs Kimpton to complete homework for the Great Languages Challenge, promoted by the British Council. Pupils had to complete cross-curricular and cultural challenges linked to their everyday life, such as watching a v-log in French/Spanish, teaching a French/Spanish phrase to another person, cooking a French/Spanish dish, and many more. Pupils have had to evidence completing each task by taking a photo. The pupils who have managed to complete all or the highest amount of challenges will be rewarded with twenty house points. Good luck!



## A Musical Valentines Day at the Spinney

Normanhurst School has for a long time fostered links with local care home, The Spinney, where staff and residents have always appreciated visits by our pupils. So naturally, when the management of the Spinney decided to treat their residents with something musical for Valentine's Day, they asked if any of our talented pupils were available to perform.

The room was festooned with hearts and balloons when Year 9 pupil Lucy arrived with her violin. Lucy played a variety of pieces, from classical excerpts to hits from Abba and the Beatles, along with some great sing-along favourites. She also played some famous love themes in honour of the day such as 'Annie's Song' and 'Where is love?' before finishing with a couple of great folk tunes. The residents hummed and sang along. They were very appreciative of Lucy's playing and afterwards chatted to her about her studies.



All in all it was a great way for the residents to celebrate the day, and a fantastic opportunity for Lucy to showcase her playing to a live audience.

# NEWSLETTER

## News from the Senior Science Department

**Year 7 Chromatography** In their introduction to Chemistry, the Year 7 pupils have been studying Matter. They have investigated different ways of separating substances. Here is Finley's (7B) account of the chromatography activity:

"We did this activity under the premise that there was a shop robbery and the robber left a cheque with some scribbles on it in the shop. Three people were suspects and their pens had been collected as evidence. We put dots of the three inks on filter paper and attached it to a lollipop stick with a paper clip. We lowered the paper gently into a beaker containing a small amount of water and compared the resulting patterns with the ink from the cheque. We all found a match and the culprit was caught!"



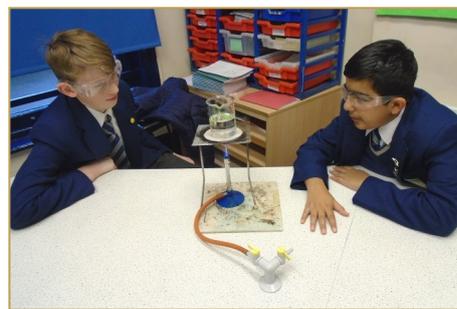
**Year 7 Muscles in Chicken Wings** The Year 7 pupils learned about the musculoskeletal system during the Organisms unit of work which introduced Biology to the cohort. Here is Hudson's (7B) account of the chicken wing dissection:

"Today we did a chicken wing dissection. We cut the skin off a raw chicken wing and examined the flesh underneath. We did this to learn more about joints and movement. Overall it was an exciting lesson."



**Year 8 Testing a Leaf for Starch** In their Ecosystems unit of work, the Year 8 students learned about Photosynthesis through a range of practical activities around the reactants and products of photosynthesis. Here is Esta's (8E) account of the activities:

"In Science we did an activity that proved that starch is one of the products of photosynthesis. We boiled a green and a green and white leaf in water and then ethanol. After patting the leaf dry, we added iodine to it. The green parts of the leaf were the only parts that turned blue black because starch was only made here. We also did a practical lesson where we realised that the brighter light means faster photosynthesis. We cut 10cm of pondweed and added it to an inverted test tube filled with water. We then shone a lamp brightly on it. We could see bubbles of oxygen rise to the surface and we counted the number of bubbles produced in one minute. The activities were messy, fun and wet!"



**Year 8 Energy Transfers in Chemistry** The Year 8 pupils learned about Energy Transfers in Chemical Reactions during the Reactions unit of work. Here is one pupil's account of two of the practical activities they carried out during the unit:

Efficiency of different fuels - "We heated similar amounts of water using a flame from a candle (fuel - wax) and spirit lamp (fuel - ethanol) and timed it to see how long it took for the water temperature to reach 100°C. We then calculated the change in mass of the fuel during this time to see which fuel released more energy per gram."



# NEWSLETTER

## News from the Senior Science Department continued

Exothermic and Endothermic- “We looked at temperature change in different reactions to see which ones were endothermic and which were exothermic. When the temperature increased, energy was given out, when it decreased energy was utilised.”

Jasmine, 8E



## News from the Art & Design Department

**Year 7 Willow Puppet Heads** The Year 7 classes have been designing and making willow puppet heads in response to this term’s Design and Technology brief. As with all projects, pupils underwent a research process where they explored the work of artists and designers to help them generate their own ideas. They explored technique, using paper straws to help them start to ‘think in 3D’.

The pupils are now in the process of making their final products, applying all the knowledge discovered from their experimentation. Each pupil has developed an individual design and we are looking forward to seeing the array of creepy fairy tale creatures that emerge!



**Year 8 Design and Technology Gardening Project** As readers will remember from last month’s edition, we have this year introduced an inter-house vegetable growing competition. To support this, Year 8 are designing and making a variety of vegetable ‘beds’. As part of the project they were given a small budget and had to visit the local charity shops to buy objects that they could upcycle and grow their vegetables in. The pupils had to be inventive, looking closely at the objects available in the shops. The staff in the Station Road charity shops were very helpful, taking the opportunity to engage the pupils in conversations about gardening and the best way to ensure an impressive harvest!

**‘Is It Important To Be Creative?’ Assembly** In what could have been the shortest assembly of all time (“Of course it’s important to be creative!” says the Art and Design teacher, sitting down to resounding applause!), a group of Year 11 pupils decided to explore what creativity really means and how we can practise and grow our creativity. They dressed up as influential artists, thinkers, mathematicians and authors to discuss what they think creativity is. With quotes from Albert Einstein “Creativity is intelligence having fun”, and Dr. Seuss “Think left and think right, think low and think high. Oh the things you can think if only you try”, we started to see how creativity is actually just a way of thinking. However, Pablo Picasso reminded us that “Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working.”





# NEWSLETTER

## Royal Festival Hall Trip

In the final week of the half term, Music students from Years 9-11 were given the opportunity of experiencing the annual GCSE BrightSparks concert at the Royal Festival Hall. Here are two pupils' accounts of the day.

"On Tuesday 11 February, we went to the Royal Festival Hall to listen to the London Philharmonic Orchestra's concert "Bach to the Future". This concert included many pieces that we need to study for our final exam.

My favourite piece during the concert would have to be when they played Star Wars. Not only did they play it exceptionally well, they also showed us how it was actually structured. After the concert we went for lunch at Pizza Express before returning to school. This experience was amazing and was a great learning opportunity for our GCSEs."

**Reuben, Year 10**

"On Tuesday 11 February, we went to the Royal Festival Hall to listen to the BrightSparks GCSE concert, "Bach to the Future" performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

One of my favourite pieces that was performed was Steve Reich's famous "Clapping Music". The music repeats the same rhythm multiple times, changing by one beat each time. It then keeps changing until it gets back to the same rhythm again. We then had to try it for ourselves and it sounded amazing with over a thousand students playing together."

**Jake, Year 10**



## Normanhurst Sports Report

**High 5 Netball** On Tuesday 28 January, Normanhurst took two teams to the LBWF High 5 netball tournament. The competition was held at Redbridge Sports Centre. There were 24 teams at the event from all the schools across the borough; some of the larger schools brought A, B and C teams. Our Year 6 team drew 3-3 against the Sybourn B team, beat South Grove 1-0, drew 0-0 against Greenleaf and won 3-0 against Yardley B. They finished the day with a 2-0 win against Downsell A which placed them top of their group, meaning that they have qualified to play at the finals later this term. Well done Year 6!



The Year 5 team played and won against Downsell B team, drew 0-0 against both Willowbrook and Sybourn A, and lost 2-0 against Yardley A. This was nevertheless an excellent performance as they were competing against mostly Year 6 pupils. They finished 4th in their group. Well done Year 5 for a very promising performance that bodes well for the future.

**U11 Tag Rugby vs Daiglen** On an absolutely soaking Monday afternoon our A and B tag rugby teams took on Daiglen School at the Peter May Centre. In awful conditions for sport, our A's battled to a 14-9 win with lots of excellent attacking play, while our B's lost an excellent game of rugby 9-8 with Adam bagging 6 of our 8 tries, so well done to him! Well done to all of the boys who braved the conditions and were a credit to themselves.





# NEWSLETTER

## Norman Hurst Sports Report continued

**U11 Hockey vs New Hall** Our U11 hockey team took the long journey to New Hall School, Chelmsford. In a frantic first half we were edged out 1-0 by our hosts. However, after the break our boys really turned on the style scoring 5 goals and displaying superb hockey skills and awareness to run out 5-2 winners. Congratulations to the team who now look forward to both the Borough Quicksticks Hockey and the ISA Hockey Tournaments in the coming weeks.

**ISA Netball** This year pupils from Braeside and Norman Hurst joined forces to make up two teams for the ISA London North netball tournament. The U11 team played in five group matches against Avon House (1-8 L), Gower, Trevor Roberts (4-3 W), Akeley Wood (4-4) and Salcombe (7-3 L).

The U13 team also played five matches against Kings School (W 2-0), North Bridgehouse (L 5-3), Knightsbridge (4-1), St Mary's (D 2-2), St Andrews (8-2 L).

The girls gelled well and improved throughout the competition. Unfortunately the teams did not qualify for the quarter finals, but we stayed and played some extra friendly matches with the rest of the Oak-Tree schools.

**U15 Football vs Dwight** Our U15 boys football team visited Dwight School for their penultimate fixture of the year. Wearing the new school football shirts, we played some excellent football throughout, creating many opportunities meaning that the scoreline could have been bigger than it finished. We ran out 7-2 winners which is testament to the hard work these boys have put in all year. We now look forward to the return fixture after half term for this group's final game of the year.

**U11 Quicksticks Borough Hockey** The annual borough quicksticks hockey is a chance for us to showcase our skills against all of the other schools in Waltham Forest, and this year we took two teams to the Ive Farm sports ground in Leyton for the event. Our A team won all 5 of their group games, scoring 18 goals and conceding 0 in the process, an excellent achievement! Our B team won their first game 4-0 and eventually finished their group with 1 win, 1 draw and 2 losses. The A team finished top of their group and went through to the Quarter Finals where we came up against an extremely strong Greenleaf side. This was a game worthy of being the final itself but unfortunately we were edged out by 5 goals to 2. However, to come in the top 8 schools in the Borough is still a huge achievement so well done to all who participated!





# NEWSLETTER

## Norman Hurst Sports Report continued

**U13 Rugby vs St Aubyn's** Our U13 rugby team visited St Aubyn's for their second rugby fixture of the year in the last week of the half term. Missing several players through injury enabled us to give some boys a chance that might not ordinarily have the opportunity to play, and they excelled. In a topsy turvy game which saw both teams display some excellent attacking skills we narrowly lost out by 8 tries to 6. We now look forward to our remaining two fixtures for this group against Keble Prep and Northbridge House after half term. Man of the match goes to both Yusufjan and Diyar (both 8E) for excellent all-round play and attitude.



## Social Networking



### Website

Go to the School Calendar page for upcoming events and our [News](#) page for all the latest news and lots more photographs.



### App

Keep up to date with the latest news, calendar dates, and much more by downloading the new Norman Hurst School App.



### Instagram

Follow us on Instagram for regular photo updates! Search for [normanhurstschool](#) to find us, then click follow!



### Twitter

Follow us [@NormanhurstSch](#) on Twitter to get the latest updates.



Facebook is our newest form of Social Media. Like us on Facebook to get news, photos, events and updates posted straight to your newsfeed.



# Open Morning

## Friday 6 March at

## 9:15am



# NEWSLETTER

## Norman Hurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents



**NSPA**  
Norman Hurst Parents' Association

We hope you have had a lovely half term and are looking forward to the run up to Easter.

Thanks to all of you who made the Junior Disco such a huge success. The children had a great time and we were especially impressed by Mrs Prior's and Miss Stone's dancefloor moves. One of our parent members, Gary Bird, did a great job in capturing the evening – his

photos can be found on our [Facebook Page](#).

Unfortunately, Storm Ciara forced the cancellation of the London Winter Run affecting over 25,000 entrants. We will look out for further opportunities to take part in running events later in the year as this was a popular idea amongst parents and teachers alike.

Tickets for the popular Easter Walk are now available from the office. It's a lovely family event that will take place on Sunday 15 March between 11am and 1pm. We will gather in the school hall and take a walk through the forest collecting litter and taking part in themed activities as we go. Then it will be back to the hall for hot beverages, hot cross buns and sausage rolls. There might even be a chocolate egg or two for the children...!

Make sure you have put the Summer BBQ in your diary. It takes place on Saturday 27 June from 4pm and is Country and Western themed. Stetsons are optional but we will have lots of activities for the children, great music, a delicious BBQ and a well-stocked bar. I am sure we might even cajole the Juniors into a line dance display... which we will all be encouraged to join!

Keep an eye on the school diary for Phil the Bag and uniform sales. We will also be organising an event focussed on the Early Years children.

We look forward to seeing you at our NSPA events during 2020.

Best wishes

**The NSPA Committee**

