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Headmistress's Message

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I want to thank everyone in our school community for all they have achieved this year. In particular, I am incredibly proud of the way our pupils and staff have responded to the challenges of Coronavirus. This July newsletter celebrates some of what has been achieved, but so much more has happened which is not recorded here. There have been multiple acts of kindness, care shown within the community and outside, and a 'togetherness' that has been remarkable.

It has been a pleasure to welcome back pupils this term and to see how well the Early Years and juniors have settled into the adjusted routines in school. Our Year 10 students have made the most of the small group intensive learning experience we have provided this half-term, and the Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils all enjoyed the opportunity for some face-to-face time in school with form teachers and the leadership team.

We really missed being able to say goodbye to our Year 11 leavers in the usual way, at their Leavers' Prom and Speech Day, but the Head Girl and Head Boy have recorded their speeches, which you can see here: <u>Head Girl and Boy Speech.</u>

This is my final newsletter as Headmistress. As I look back at ten years of newsletters, it is clear to see how talented, generous, committed and inspiring our pupils are. They are amazing, and we are justifiably proud of them. May you and your children continue to flourish and to transform the world for the better.

With my very best wishes

Mrs Claire Osborn

Headmistress

Bubble fun

The children in Kindergarten have been enjoying investigating. They had sessions looking at colour, shape and changes. They used bubbles to explore the change from a sphere to a flat circle print when it popped. They made cylinders and had fun with an experiment using milk and food colouring.

Pupils in Kindergarten have been sharing their activities with their friends who are still home learning, and the Kindergarten teachers have thoroughly enjoyed receiving photographs and videos of the children's activities. They are especially proud of the video clips of children reading, and have had lots of fun with the 'zoom at noon', sessions but are looking forward to seeing everyone back at school in September!





Return to School for Year 1

The Year 1 children who have returned to school this half term have been very pleased to see their friends and

the school staff again. They have adjusted well to the socially distanced environment, and have still managed to have lots of fun with their learning.

Maths The children have used place value rods to practise partitioning numbers. They are now very confident with their understanding of place value and can use the place value rods to make lots of different numbers. Year 1 proved how fast they are when they played a place value quiz and partitioning game in class, and have since started to use their knowledge of place value to add 2-digit and 3 -digit numbers together.

Land Art The focus for children in school was on making outdoor art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. The children had great fun creating their own individual land art using natural materials.

Andy Goldsworthy's art makes us think about the world around us and how nature is art. It reminds us of our connection to nature. Goldsworthy is one of Britain's best modern sculptors and he uses natural materials to make works of art that sit directly in the landscape. He has made works using stone, sand, water, leaves, flowers, berries, ice, snow, feathers, bone and even dung. Year 1 decided to have a go but didn't use animal dung!

Firstly, they looked at lots of photographic examples of Goldsworthy's land art and then Year 1 went into Epping Forest. Everyone gathered natural materials to use and then found a clear space to make their art. The children were very creative, and their works of art included a snake, a treasure-laden tree and a happy face.

Pupils learned in school that Andy Goldsworthy revisits his land art later to see what changes have occurred. Pupils talked about what their land art might look like if they went back to see it. Half the class thought it would look the same and half the class thought it would look different. When they went back they noticed many changes and the land art looked very different from the wind and maybe animals.

The children cited lots of reasons for enjoying their land art lessons, from being in the fresh air to collecting interesting material. Enis even said he liked seeing the cows that the children spotted in the forest.

Lego Inventions Year 1 are now experts at playing with Lego in a new socially distanced way, and over half the class prefer this new way of using Lego bricks. They each have their own set of bricks which they have been using imaginatively to create structures as diverse as an army station and a house that a little girl shares with a pterodacty!!











Lots of Learning in Year 2

At the start of the Summer Term, Year 2 continued their learning from home, and share with us some of the activities they enjoyed.

Some of the Juniors took part in the Afasic 'Sign and Sing' challenge where people across the country used sign language to sign the song 'Sunshine in my Life'. Year 2 used their form time to practise and knew the signs very well.

In Science, the children enjoyed the weekly experiments. These have included predicting if an item will sink or float, then making a boat out of tin foil and seeing how many coins it would hold. They also investigated different materials that would make a good boat and tried a few out. The children also made a lava lamp and discussed the density of different liquids and how that affects the flow.

Year 2 then extended their learning about the properties of different materials with a challenge to build a bridge using everyday materials found in the home. The condition was that it had to hold a toy car. Some very creative bridges were made using various materials such as lolly pop sticks, Lego, kitchen roll holders and boxes.

Year 2 have also discussed a very topical subject, Germs, and completed an experiment with bread. The children touched different types of bread with either clean or unwashed hands, then observed the interesting changes that took place over the week.

Mrs Allen's Maths class have covered the topic of Time. One of their challenges was to create a clock with anything they could find in their home. They were creative and made some wonderful clocks! A couple of the children made clocks from Lego, and one of them even had moving hands.

Mrs Allen's English class completed a variety of activities on a book called 'The Bear and the Piano'. Imagining they were the bear in the story, the children wrote to an 'agony bear' about the difficult decision of whether to go to the city and play the piano or stay in the forest with the other bears. Then, as the 'agony bear', they replied to someone else's letter. We had some really thoughtful and heartfelt replies.

The children followed on by interviewing the bear from the story. They were very creative with their interviews and some even got their family members involved.

In PSHE, Year 2 have covered the topic of Teeth. They were incredibly lucky to have Freddie's mum Mrs Bird, who is a hygienist, to discuss all things teeth on Zoom including showing an x-ray scan, demonstrating (using Freddie) how disclosing solution shows plaque on the teeth, and talking about things that are good or bad for our teeth. We had a wonderful lesson and all learnt a lot.













Year 2 Back in the Classroom

The Year 2 children have had a great return to school. They have enjoyed walking to the forest to have their picnics, as well as to complete some outdoor learning. This has included looking for a good stick to create a flower which they made in class using a piece of kitchen paper they had coloured in.

In their Art lessons, Year 2 have looked at the British artist Andy Goldsworthy who is famous for his site-specific sculptures and land



art. The children then visited the forest and created their own outdoor sculptures inspired by him. They used only natural materials they found and were very creative in their designs.

Summer simile poems were created in groups with some lovely similes used including 'smell a flower, fresh like mint, feel the wind blowing like a warm breeze and touch a stick that is as thin as a piece of paper.'





Both at home and at school, the children have loved keeping fit and healthy in their yoga lessons!

Lockdown Learning in Year 3

Form 3P have enjoyed lots of fun during form time whilst home learning. Along with weekly scavenger hunts, story time, and show and tell, they have taken part in a variety of other activities. These have included creating an item of clothing out of a bin bag, building a tower out of playing cards, guessing an item with Yes or No questions, drawing and writing whilst blindfolded and also playing bingo. All of 3P have loved being able to communicate as a class over Zoom.

Art This term in Art, Year 3 have been learning all about a famous artist called Henri Matisse. They spent their first lesson researching all about the famous artist, and some of the facts that they found where very interesting. Dylan in 3P found out that Matisse was in fact very good friends with Picasso. Having learnt all about Matisse, Year 3 had a go at recreating the very famous art work by Matisse, called 'The Snail', which Aarush was able to identify just from seeing the image.

The work that 3P created was wonderful, they all used a new technique known as 'painting with scissors' which they loved.





Lockdown Learning in Year 3 Continued

History This half term Year 3 have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptian times and what it was like for those who lived during this period. During this topic Year 3 have had the chance to learn about the mummification process and to make their very own Canopic Jars. It has been lovely to see all of the children getting involved in home learning and live zoom lessons. Elizabeth in particular enjoyed creating her Canopic Jars and is now using them to store small items such as rubbers and hair bands, a little different to how they were used in Ancient Egyptian times!



Year 3 Return to School

It has been fantastic to see the whole of Year 3 back in school for the last few weeks of the term. They quickly acclimatised to the new rules of school life, and have enjoyed learning together again.

Planting Cress This term in Science, Year 3 have been learning all about 'Plants' and what they need to survive. To finish off this topic they had a lot of fun planting their own cress, thinking about what they needed to use and also what they need to do to ensure their cress grows. They are excited to see their cress grow.

Forest Trips Year 3 have been spending a lot of time in Epping Forest working on their team building skills and engrossing themselves in nature. The children had the chance to practise their climbing skills as well as their patience when they had to wait for space when climbing. Some of the boys described themselves as cave men

as they were digging and building their dens, while the girls enjoyed hanging like bats and swinging like monkeys in the trees.

To help with team building the children were set the challenge to make the best possible den in fifteen minutes, working in small teams and using materials such as logs and branches from the forest. Everyone showed fantastic team spirit, and we had two winning groups: Group 1: Maliyah, Daisy, Aarush and Ewan and Group 2: Palesa, Nathaniel, Bayley, Lucy and Elizabeth. A huge well done to everyone in Year 3.

Maths 3P have been learning all about shapes, angles, turns and tessellations. They spent a week completing many activities including drawing their own 2D shapes, building 3D shapes with magnets and a game of Simon Says. The children particularly enjoyed their lesson on building 3D shapes with magnets; many different shapes were built and the children were able to identify the 2D shapes that they could see within their models. Dylan and Aarush could not be defeated in our game of Simon Says and were masters of knowing which direction to turn and by how many quarters. Well done 3P on your super Maths learning.









Creativity in Year 4

Learning at home has given many children the time to be creative. In one virtual Art lesson, Year 4 were given a task of completing a 'snap shot' of an insect. Selina enjoyed creating this beautiful butterfly picture.

In PSHE the task was to use a creative way to express their emotions about their day or the current circumstances being in lockdown and learning from home. Leo chose to write a poem to express his feelings.

How I feel today – By Leo

The virus has come and it's not going away I have been home for 3 months I wonder if it's here to stay?

I miss my family and friends I miss my school day Sometimes I wish there was no home-school And more time to play!

It's my birthday next week I'm feeling like a 9 year old GEEK! Finally, the lockdown has lifted And I am really gifted... I might be able to see my family for a little garden treat.

I'm feeling happy I'm feeling OK I love playing PS4 with my friends online all day I'm feeling content I'm feeling OK I'm begging Mummy & Daddy for a puppy today! I'm feeling alive I'm feeling good I just wish this horrid virus would please go away!!

Getting Social









Illustrated Word Challenge





In response to the challenge set in house assembly, Year 5 have created some beautiful illustrated words. The children based their artwork on an activity that they started during lockdown and want to continue as we move forward and restrictions start to be eased. Mrs Parrott has loved looking at the range of inspiring skills and activities that they have participated in and how excellently they were able to make them visual!





Year 6 Forest Walk

Year 6 has been studying Art with Mrs Parrott. They went out to the forest in order to observe plants closely and sketch their natural patterns. They carried their sketchbooks with them and looked at various plants to find different patterns, which they sketched in their books. There were some colourful examples of what they have observed as well as pencil sketching of many patterns found on tree barks, leaves and flowers.

It was not the sunniest day for the walk but this did not take the joy away from Art. They are looking forward to have another forest Art walk with a different focus before the end of the term.



La Vie Secrète de mon Animal Domestique

Have you ever wondered what your pets do while you are not at home? As part of their French lessons for home learning, Year 7 secretly followed their pets and soft toys, and made a photo collage of their daily activities with captions about their routines in French. That is how we discovered that Shaunella's cat reads books; Ismail's dog, Star, wakes up at 10am; Finley's dog Bertie holds press conferences to talk about his talent; Ella's cat Simba sleeps all the time; Margarida's cat gets dressed at 2pm, and many more adventurous activities ... !

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News from the Art & Design Department

Year 6 Interplanetary Characters! Year 6 have been exploring the work of illustrator and designer Jo Waterhouse to create their own characters using drawing and collage techniques. The pupils worked from their individual school photographs and redesigned their clothing to create out of this world characters!

Year 6 Art and Nature Year 6 were introduced to how artists use nature as a source of inspiration for their artwork. The group went on a forest walk to 'collect' patterns and textures from Epping Forest. Using just a pencil, paper and their "zoom lens eyes" the pupils were asked to focus on and enlarge the patterns they saw around them.

This activity helped the pupils to prepare for looking at the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy and making their own artwork responses to his work to leave in the landscape.

Year 10 States of Change Photoshoot With their return to school, Year 10 Fine Art students have been working hard to develop out of

sketchbook pieces inspired by artists John Piper and Laura Oldfield-Ford. They have been on a local photoshoot to collect images that respond to the artists' work and the theme of States of Change.

In the classroom the pupils have created composite drawings for their photos - exploring scale, composition and communication of meanings. It is always fantastic to see the range of individual outcomes emerging from the same task set!

Cambodian Cultural Adventures The second half of the summer term saw Year 8 take a virtual, cross-curricular trip to Cambodia! Music, Spanish, Drama, Science, and Art and Design set pupils a variety of tasks to research and respond to different aspects of Cambodian culture. Cambodia was chosen as Normanhurst has been supporting the United World Schools Charity build and run schools there and we were excited to explore similarities and differences in our cultures.

Pupils produced a range of outcomes that brought together all of their knowledge in the different subjects into one presentation. They really impressed all of their teachers with how they worked independently and discovered a wide range of interesting information about the country.

Fine Start to Fine Art Eva in Year 9 has made an exceptional start to the preparation for her GCSE course. Working from home she has participated in online exhibition visits and tours and created a range of individual work for the project Collections and Obsessions. Eva has worked independently to build her skills and her artistic identity, and we very much look forward to seeing where her GCSE Fine Art studies take her!







Cambodia's Folk art

 Cambodia's folk art consists of different things like, dancing, clothes, rugs, kramas, tapestries, hats, weave baskets and carvings on walls.
Cambodian art has been around for centuries and traditional Cambodian art











News from the Art & Design Department Continued

DT to GCSE Graphic Design In preparation for GCSE Graphic Communications, Year 9 pupils have been designing a classroom resource that can be used to communicate the key terms, skills and knowledge of the GCSE course.

Pupils were challenged to work by hand and then convert to a digital design. They researched the individual elements and applied their finding to their final designs, ready to be put up in the classroom to support them in September!

Year 7 Book Design and Illustration: 'Do Judge a Book by it's Cover!' Continuing to



develop their visual language, Year 7 have been working to explore how designers and illustrators create book jackets that communicate a wide range of information about genre, atmosphere and story.

The students started with research and experimentation of techniques and then developed their own designs for their favourite books. They built on their skills in drawing, typography and layout and developed their knowledge of communication through design.

News from the Senior Science Department

This half term has continued to present challenges for the Science Department and for most of our pupils who have continued to learn from home. It is a credit to the students that they have risen to these challenges admirably and have, as always, produced work worth celebrating.

Year 7 The Year 7 pupils have learnt all about the Earth in a series of independent learning projects, two of which involved them writing their own books. They wrote about Space and the Seasons, in an attempt to explain what they had learnt to primary aged children. They have really enjoyed reading all their books and here is a snapshot of some of the submissions. Margarida from 7B especially excelled at being an engaging and informative author. Follow this <u>link</u> if you would like to read her books about space and why we have seasons.

Year 8 Year 8 pupils have been doing cross curricular work learning about Cambodia this half term. In Science, they researched the



Shape

Form

Composition stylisation simplification scale

Captive Breeding Program at the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre and competed to write articles about their views on Captive Breeding. There were some very good entries from both forms, and a panel of five members of staff chose their favourite articles out of the shortlisted entries. Here is what the panel had to say about the runner- up Esta's article 'Protect and Save':

"I think this author has done the most in-detail research about the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre" Mrs Parrott

"My vote is for Protect and Save, but I thought they were all great, it was so lovely to see them coming up with their own argument and trying to express quite complex and conflicting opinions." Mrs Jones

Well done Esta!



News from the Senior Science Department Continued

The winning article was written by Yusuf in 8J. Here is what the panel had to say about Yusuf's article:

"I chose this article because it was engaging, informative and concise. I like the way it explained what captive breeding was before giving me clear explanations of the pros and cons of a rescue centre. I like the choice of pictures and enjoyed reading it!" Mrs Cooper

"I chose this article because it has an eye-catching format with images and title that grab your attention. It is also a well-balanced article with useful information." Mrs Burden

"I chose this article because it was informative and well presented." Ms Marks

Congratulations Yusuf! You can read the winning article HERE.

Year 10: Triple Science Learning Under Lockdown "During the past couple of weeks, Year 10, who have been the first year group to have Triple Science as an extra subject to choose from, have learnt in the comfort of our homes and have been excellently taught by Mrs Jayaram and Mrs Cooper. Personally, I think this break has given me the time to develop my studies in a more independent manner. Mrs Jayaram, our triple Biology and Physics teacher provided us with brilliant lessons and to test our knowledge too, we were given exam questions which would be marked by our next lesson. The same went for our Triple Chemistry lessons with Mrs Cooper, again it was



AN ENDANGERED FEMALE PILEATED GIBBON AT PHNOM TAMAO WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER.



explained as best as possible in these conditions and we had to answer practice exam questions for homework. All in all, this home learning experience has been very beneficial for me and many of my peers, and I would like to thank the teachers for bearing with us in such a difficult situation."

By Hamza, 10D

Memories of Year 11

I will always have a soft spot for our current Year 11 pupils as some of them were in my very first Reception class at Normanhurst. I have fond memories of that year; they loved the weekly walks to the forest and didn't mind even if it was raining. I am sure they will remember the incident of the 'rolling eye' and they must have been a super class as they didn't put me off staying to watch them grow into the wonderful young adults we are now saying goodbye to.

Good luck to you all!

Mrs Fisher EYFS Coordinator





News from the Music Department

Concert Although we cannot have our usual end of term concert, pupils at Normanhurst have been remotely preparing a number of performances. Using a variety of technology, including Zoom, to practise and prepare,

pupils have recorded their own part for ensemble pieces and emailed them to school, where they have been mixed with other pupils' work to create a whole performance. Juniors, seniors and even friends, family and staff all took part to create a really special concert which went live on Tuesday evening. You can enjoy it <u>HERE</u>.

Year 7 Drums As part of their topic on Samba, Year 7 designed and created their own drum so that they could practise the Samba rhythms and techniques whilst at home. Pupils practised the Samba rhythms on a Zoom call and then Year 7 spent time composing and performing their own rhythms, using notation. They also contributed to a 'final performance', recording rhythms along to a click track that we then layered.

Year 7 certainly impressed their teachers with the time and effort they put into creating their professional looking and sounding drums.

Peter and the Wolf Year 2 have been studying 'Peter and the Wolf' by Prokofiev. This is a great piece to introduce children to different instruments. On Zoom calls the pupils were introduced to the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and the French horn. They even had a special appearance by a senior pupil, showing them how to play the violin.

Year 2 then spent time making their own creative responses to the story. The whole project finished with Year 2 retelling the story of Peter and the Wolf. We were very impressed with all the talented musicians, artists and storytellers in Year 2. Well done!





Bahar's Charity Chop

While many of us have had no choice but to let our hair grow during the last few months, Year 4 pupil Bahar has had more reason than most for wanting her hair to get longer. She has been growing it with a purpose in mind, having decided to donate it to the charity The Little Princess Trust, which helps make wigs for children and young people who have lost their hair through illness or medical treatment

Bahar was thrilled when she found out recently that her hair was finally long enough to cut, and has now donated 20cm of her lovely locks to the charity. Her family are very proud of Bahar's generous and thoughtful contribution to charity, as of course are we! Well done Bahar!





Normanhurst Sports Report

Junior PE While they were working from home, pupils in Years 3-6 were given a home athletics project by the PE Department. They were asked to undertake and present research on a given topic, which varied from methods of training for different events, famous athletes and much more! Pupils worked hard on their projects and sent in some super work.

In Years 1 and 2 pupils had lots of fun working with circuits at home. They worked on lots of different skills including balance, changing direction, learning about how the heart works and much more!

Keeping Active During lockdown and the period of home learning, the PE Department has set pupils a series of challenges to help them stay fit and healthy. Activities have included a steps challenge in which pupils were asked to see how far they could go. Could they, for example, reach the top of the tallest building in the world or the highest mountain in England?

Some children continued to run a morning mile while others found new ways to keep themselves active, as you can see from the range of photos they sent to their PE teachers. Well done to everyone who boosted their fitness and energy levels with exercise.









Normanhurst School Parents' Association



Dear Parents

It is unbelievable that we are in the last few days of the 2019/20 year but what an unbelievable year it's been!

As it turned out, our last family activity was the Easter Walk. It was so

well supported, by parents, pupils and teachers, and we also want to thank Percy Ingle for their superb hot cross buns and sausages rolls. At the time none of us could have anticipated how school life would change so rapidly, and how we all found ourselves adapting to a new normal.

The NSPA committee have, like all parents, been doing our best to juggle work commitments with our children's education and wellbeing, which has not been easy. That said, when we hear what other schools have, or have not, been doing, we think we should applaud all the teachers and staff for their commitment to our children's education and development. Just looking on social media, teachers were so attentive to what our children were doing at home, and the children got a huge buzz from seeing their efforts and achievements being noticed by the school. Thanks also to Mr Hagger and the school board for stepping in so quickly to help us financially. This was generous when compared to most other independent schools.

2020 was always going to be an unusual year for the Parents' Association because we are in a period of transition. We have welcomed new members to the Committee but as Year 11 students leave the school to begin the rest of their lives, their parents will also move on after having a very significant presence on the NSPA committee for many years. We would especially like to thank Jo Lotherington for her remarkable chairmanship. She transformed the association into the vibrant and active team that we are lucky to be part of today. Jo (and her wingman Clive) have been supporting the new team over the past year to help us understand both the practicalities and the legalities of running the NSPA for which we are all very grateful. We would also like to extend special thanks to Vandita whose creative writing and marketing advice will be sorely missed.

Finally, the NSPA's success has also been due to the support and wisdom we have received from Mrs Osborn and Ms Barnard. Whilst we are delighted that they are moving onwards and upwards within the Oak-Tree Group, we will miss their generosity of time, sense of fun and creative thinking. We wish you both all the very best in your new roles and thank you for everything you have done for us and the entire Normanhurst community.

Usually at this point of the newsletter we would be flagging up some important dates for your diary for the new academic year. Given the current context, activities remain on pause but please keep an eye on emails and the school notice board for updates. In the meantime, if you have had a clear-out of school uniform items, please can you donate any of the Normanhurst labelled clothing in good condition to the NSPA for our uniform sales. We hope to start these sales in the new academic year, and it is a great way to recycle clothing, and fundraise for the school.

Finally, the NSPA committee wish you all a safe and happy summer holiday. We look forward to some normality in September and the chance to work with our new head teacher Mrs Job and the teachers in the new year. Best wishes

The NSPA Committee

PS - Whilst in lock-down a member of our committee gave birth to a healthy boy. Congratulations to Emma and Aiden.

