

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



Issue 21

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Group Principal's Message

I'm always amazed when looking back on a term at just how much we managed to pack into such a relatively short period of time. The Summer Term was no different and was full of such a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences that were enjoyed by all.

My highlight of the term, aside from the usual Sports Days, Prize Days, concerts and shows, was the Oak-Tree Festival. This was the first time we could organise such a large event since Covid-19, and it was fantastic to see the joint choir of around 370 pupils from the 4 schools performing to an audience of 600.

Our teams have already planned ahead for 2023/24 and the school diaries are packed with trips, activities, performances, concerts, shows, competitions and many other events designed to provide a broad education for all of our pupils.

I hope you manage to get a rest over the long summer break and that you are able to spend time with your children before the September restart. We're looking forward to welcoming our 2023.24 children into school on Wednesday 6 September.

With kind regards

Matthew Hagger

Normanhurst Shakespeare Success

Pupils at Normanhurst were awarded 'Joint First Place' for their entries into this year's annual Shakespeare Week competition. For Shakespeare Week 2023 the children were asked to make a creative Shakespeare-inspired book of their own in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's first folio.

Just two schools were chosen as winners out of 1000 entries, so our pupils should be extremely proud of themselves and their work.

It is wonderful to see all of our pupils so inspired by literature.

**SHAKESPEARE
WEEK**

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Normanhurst Matilda

Normanhurst pupils put on an amazing performance of Matilda the



Musical to friends and family on Thursday 25 August. There were energetic dance routines, beautiful

solos and fantastic acting. After weeks of rehearsals, the pupils put on a fantastic show for the thrilled audience!



Coopersale Hall Peter Pan

Pupils in Years 4 to 6 put on an incredible performance of Peter Pan at Epping Hall. It was an all-singing, all-dancing performance, with impressive acting throughout. Well done to the cast, who put in hours of rehearsals, with some pupils overcoming their nerves about performing on stage in front of an audience.

The story of Peter Pan has the running theme of growing up, which was a

fitting way for Year 6 pupils to end the year.

The costumes, set, lighting, and music



were also fantastic and really added to the atmosphere. Well done to everyone who was involved in the production.



Oaklands Pirates of the Curry Bean

The Pirates of the Curry Bean was a



hilarious production with a cast that could have been mistaken for professionals. The pupils all learned their many lines perfectly, sang confidently and remembered every dance step.

With colourful characters, sparkling songs and a witty script, this show had everyone laughing and tapping along to the music.

Well done to all the children who took part in this thrilling production.



We're sure the wonderful memories made in all of these productions will stay with the children into their adult lives.

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Oak-Tree Quad Athletics



Pupils from Year 3 to 6 from all four schools in the Oak-Tree Group took part in a fun-filled and competitive Quad Athletics Competition this term. The competition took place at Ashton Playing Fields, which provided the perfect facilities for the afternoon.

Activities included both track and field events, such as the 400m, javelin, long jump and shuttle relays.

Everyone performed so well and the final results were as follows:

Oaklands School: 552

Normanhurst School: 446

Coopersale Hall School: 347

Braeside School: 146



Coopersale Hall Senior Uniform

We have worked with Forest Casualwear to introduce a new senior uniform at Coopersale Hall to reflect the older age range of the pupils.

We are introducing a new 'trouser' uniform and a 'skirt' uniform. Both are modelled below by two of next year's Year 7 pupils. We are sure you will agree that they look very grown up!



Oaklands Father's Day Visit

It was so lovely to welcome so many dads to school over two mornings this term in celebration of Father's Day. There was a range of outdoor activities available which included mud stenciling or painting, parachute games, an obstacle course, bug hunts, dressing up, the adventure playground and a large construction area using crates and guttering.

The highlight for many was the 'soak daddy' organised by Mr Paine, who also got involved!



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Coronation Celebrations



Coronation fever took over at all four schools for the Coronation of King Charles III. It was wonderful to celebrate this historic moment.

The Mayor of Loughton visited the children at Oaklands, where they posed for a picture in their patriotic outfits.

Normanhurst held a school street party with finger sandwiches, cakes and a themed game of bingo.

Braeside created beautiful crowns and posed for pictures in the Union Jack frame before enjoying a Great British afternoon tea.

Coopersale Hall held themed art, biscuit and writing competitions, enjoyed dressing up in red, white and blue and made sparkling crowns for the special day.



Oak-Tree Festival 2023

The Oak-Tree Festival 2023 was held on the evening of Tuesday 16 May, and what an event it was. All four of the Oak-Tree Schools came together for what is always one of the biggest events in the Oak-Tree calendar.

Pupils, teachers and parents had been eagerly awaiting this ambitious project held at the City Pavilion in Collier Row, and it was a great success.

All children from Year 3 to Year 8 took part, as well as a few other senior musicians, making a total of around 370 pupils.

The programme was lively and varied, with singing performances, an orchestra, samba bands, soloists, ensembles, rock bands and much more.

The children really enjoyed performing in front of such a large audience of around 600 parents and friends, even though it may have been slightly daunting at first!

This was a fantastic evening that helped to showcase the varied talent of the pupils from the Oak-Tree Schools.

Well done everyone!



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Braeside FoBS Disco

A huge thank you to FOBS for organising the Summer Disco this year.

Pupils from the Early Years to seniors were invited to a disco with a party entertainer, DJ, tuck shop, craft room and a garden 'chill out' zone.

Pupils wore their party clothes to dance and take part in some traditional fun party games. Year 10 pupils helped out at the disco by serving in the tuck shop and helping pupils with their craft activities.

It was a lovely day and new and existing pupils got the chance to chat and form new friendships.



Coopersale Hall Historical Figures Day

Pupils in Year 5 Graves organised a Historical Figures Day event to achieve their Silver Oak-Tree Challenge award.

The event saw a wide range of figures and characters turn up to school. Notable historical people included Anne Frank, Einstein, Martin Luther-King, Frida Kahlo, Cleopatra, Micky Mantle (Baseball player) and Roger Banister, who ran the first 4 minute mile.

The pupils were interested to learn about Katherine Switzer, who was the first female to run the Boston Marathon as a numbered entrant. She had registered for the race using her first initial and last name, so her gender on paper didn't raise any suspicion. Although the marathon officials tried to physically remove her, they were unsuccessful and Katherine didn't just make it to the finish line, she made history.

All funds generated by the event were donated to Shelterbox. Currently over 100 million people around the world have been made homeless by disaster and conflict. Shelterbox is working to change this by providing emergency shelter and tools for families robbed of their home by disaster, helping to transform despair into hope.

Everyone made inspirational choices with their historical figures and we would like to say thank you to our families for their kind donations.

This was a fantastic chance for the children to learn lots of facts about important historical figures and after seeing the success of the day, we hope to make this an annual event.



Normanhurst The Spinney Visits

Pupils have continued their visits to see their friends at The Spinney. They played an exciting game of summer bingo and enjoyed eating strawberries together during one visit. During another visit, pupils enjoyed a few games of balloon tennis, seeing how high they could get the balloon and



helping the residents work on their motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination.

Our pupils enjoy chats with the residents, sharing stories about school and listening to tales from the residents about their lives.

We hope to keep up this special connection with even more visits next year.

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Braeside Early Years Assembly

Early Years put on a wonderful assembly for their parents, with the theme 'Everything Is Growing'.



The children gathered together in the covered garden ready to put on a show, complete with fruit headbands and lots of enthusiasm.

Songs such as 'Two Birds Singing A Song For Me' and 'Down In The Garden' were sung, accompanied by some very energetic dance moves and gestures.

The children in Reception finished the assembly with a display of their home-grown tomato plants.

It was a lovely way to see the growth and how much our youngest children have learnt over the year.



Coopersale Hall Summer Fest

This year's Summer Fest was launched with a performance from Early Years and Key Stage 1 singing and dancing to 'Crackers & Maracas'. This was followed by pupils in Year 1 to 6 singing with actions to 'Reach for the Stars' and our first performance of the Coopersale Hall Rap 'Give it all you Got' to our audience of friends and family.

We also enjoyed the Rock Band coming together to perform and sing 'Let it Go'.

It was then time for the dancers to perform. Our young ballerinas in the Early Years danced to 'Under the Sea' and the Key Stage 1 group danced to 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'. The Street Dancers rounded off the show with a very energetic performance of 'The Club Can't Handle me Right Now' that was met with loud cheers by the audience.

After the performances, the children joined their families and enjoyed lunch together, before exploring all the wonderful stalls and inflatables that were on offer.



The spirit of the afternoon even inspired Mr Barham and Mrs Russell to compete against each other on the inflatable football shootout!

We were also delighted to see so many past pupils from Coopersale Hall coming back to enjoy the event to catch up with the staff and children and reminisce about their time at school.

Coopersale Hall summer events are always a highlight of the school year and make a fitting celebration to end the year. These events don't come together on their own though and couldn't happen if it wasn't for the help of our amazing members of FOCSH and our staff.



Thank you for organising such a wonderful event - we really enjoyed seeing such happy faces in the sunshine on the terrace lawn.

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Sports Days

Sports Days this year were filled with fun, laughter, competition and team spirit.

Coopersale Hall changed the format of the previous Sports Days, adding field sports such as javelin, shot put, high jump and discus. The high jump was definitely a crowd favourite keeping everyone on the edge of their seat. The Early Years children used their balancing skills to keep beanbags on their heads and tackle the obstacle courses.

The children at Oaklands took part in running, bat and bean bag, obstacle races, racket and ball races and hurdles.

The parent races were very entertaining to watch - we definitely have some competitive parents at the school!

The weather was perfect for the day,



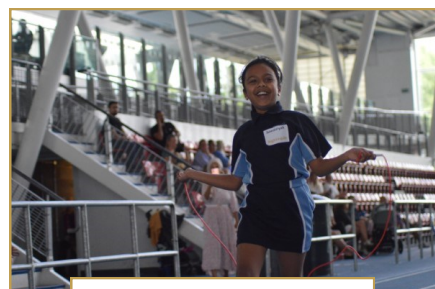
Coopersale Hall



with a supportive crowd of friends and family in attendance to cheer on the children as they took part in their races.



Oaklands



Braeside



Every pupil got into the spirit of the day, with homemade House posters, chants and colours.

Field events included javelin, long jump, high jump, shot put and discus.

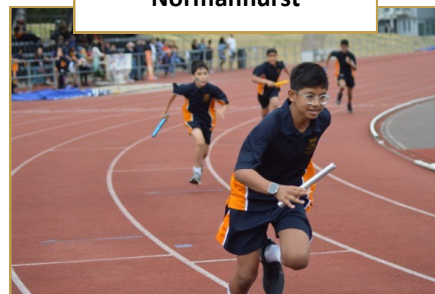
Pupils at Braeside competed in a number of races at the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Centre, including flat sprints, 200m races, skipping races, obstacle races, and the classic egg and spoon race.

The afternoon finished with a series of exciting relay races and the first parents' races for the school. Congratulations to Bronte House, who were the winners this year.

As always, Lee Valley's Outdoor Athletics Centre was filled with the sound of children cheering each other on during Normanhurst Sports Day.



Normanhurst



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Braeside Year 11 Leavers

Year 11 pupils organised an emotional Leavers' Assembly with photos, awards for staff and a touching video. Staff paid tribute to their hard work and efforts over the years and wished them the best of luck for their forthcoming exams and their future.



All of the staff and pupils formed a human arch in the gardens, which Year 11 ran through. They then boarded the school minibus for the last time to head to Molen's Brasserie for a tasty brunch.

This was a wonderful day of reminiscing about their time at Braeside.

A few weeks after leaving school, Year 11 pupils returned to school in their best dinner dresses for pictures and final goodbyes before heading off together for a special dinner in London.



The staff and pupils will miss Year 11 very much and we wish them every success in whatever the future holds for them.

Coopersale Hall Year 6 Leavers

We were so pleased to welcome friends and family into school this to say a final farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. They put on a lovely final assembly for their parents and families which included memories from the year and said a big thank you to their parents and teachers. They also performed an emotional final song and got their well deserved hoodies and Year Books.

We're all very proud of the young students they have become, and wish them the very best of luck for the future.



Oaklands Year 6 Leavers

There didn't seem to be a dry eye in the room when our Year 6 pupils led an emotional leavers assembly for their parents and teachers. Every pupil got up on stage and spoke about their favourite memories from their time at Oaklands.

Year 6 were presented with special leavers hoodies and threw their 'graduation' caps in the air for the traditional photos. This was a lovely way to see off our Year 6 pupils in style.

It was clear to see what close friendships have formed in our Year 6 class, and we are very proud of them all.



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Coopersale Hall Summer Series

On Tuesday 2 May, the first group of pupils took part in our new "Summer Series" concert, with four more concerts following throughout the summer term. These concerts were an opportunity for pupils to share what they have been learning in their music lessons with their family and friends in small and informal sessions.

The concerts also gave everyone the experience of performing to an audience, which they did with confidence.

The pupils performed some very accomplished pieces on piano, guitar,

flute, ukulele, drums, voice and violin including pieces from movies, folk, pop and rock. Some of the pupils had only been learning for a few months, whilst others were preparing for grade exams, but all performed with great enthusiasm.

It was wonderful to be able to give all our talented pupils time to shine at Coopersale Hall. They played brilliantly and should be very proud of their performances.

Our pupils have the chance to learn a wide array of instruments in private lessons as well as during their class music lessons. It's a privilege to see their passion for music grow and to watch the children enjoy learning.



Braeside Art

Braeside Art Department has continued to produce amazing work over the summer term.

Year 4 children enjoyed making clay cupcakes and doughnuts. They have explored using different techniques over the year and really enjoyed the hands-on approach needed with such a tactile medium.

Year 6 explored a range of techniques to produce dramatic WW2 London bomb paintings. Pupils worked in pairs



to collaborate and share ideas.

Year 5 experimented with the colour wheel, mixing colours to use on their large scale Savannah animal paintings.

Year 8 considered their target audience and specification to produce design ideas for their 'ugly dolls'. They explored embroidery and applique techniques creating unique and original designs.



[braesidesch](https://www.instagram.com/braesidesch)

[coopersalesch](https://www.instagram.com/coopersalesch)

[normanhurstschool](https://www.instagram.com/normanhurstschool)

[oaklandssch](https://www.instagram.com/oaklandssch)



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Oaklands Year 2 Concerts

Year 2 pupils showcased their musical talent during an Instrumental Concert to friends and family.

For many, this was their first time playing their instrument in front of an audience, and they all performed extremely well. Year 2 played a variety of instruments including recorder, piano, violin, and guitar.

The pupils should all be very proud of

the hard work they have put into their lessons, and how far they have come.



Although performing can be scary, our pupils overcome their fears to

continuously put on wonderful plays, assemblies and concerts, developing self-confidence, focus and techniques to overcome fear and anxiety. Well done, Year 2!



Normanhurst Summer Music Concert



On 22 June, Normanhurst held the annual Summer Music Concert.

The weather was just about on our side, which meant we were able to host the event outside as a lovely, summery experience. The tables and chairs were set out 'bistro style' for the audience, and before the performance, they were able to enjoy a glass of wine or soft drink and delicious cheese and biscuits.

The performances were spectacular, with a wide variety of acts from

different year groups. There were solo instrumentals on the violin, guitar, piano, trumpet, clarinet, viola and drums. We also had some solo singers, duets, trios and a number of pieces from the Junior Choir. The grand finale was from the cast of Matilda and Skyfall, performed by the Junior Choir.

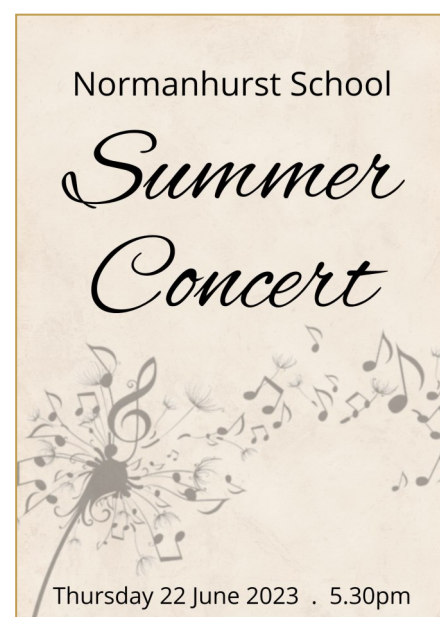
Well done to all of the children who performed and made it a really wonderful evening.



Music has always been a huge part of the Normanhurst curriculum, producing real musical talent from our pupils. New Head of Music, Mrs Scott,

has brought a new excitement and life to our music department and has really inspired pupils to pursue their passions.

We can't wait to see what next year brings for the department as we are sure Mrs Scott has lots of ideas and tricks up her sleeve.



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School Trips

Our pupils have enjoyed a huge selection of trips this year, from residential to visits to the local nature reserve.

Both Braeside and Normanhurst pupils had a fantastic trip to Legoland. Normanhurst pupils in Years 6 to 8 learnt about robotics and the science of rollercoasters, including forces and magnetism. Pupils were able to build legislation robot vehicles and test them in the workshops, with the brilliant supervision of one of the Lego design engineers.

Braeside pupils from Year 1 to 10 enjoyed the day as their end of year reward trip.

Braeside pupils in Year 9 travelled to Duxford Imperial War Museum to meet two war veterans from WWII and from The Falklands and Gulf Wars. The highlight of the trip was the taking off of a real Spitfire plane that was used in the RAF during the war. They finished the day with an ice cream as they watched the small aircraft prepare for the Coronation display.

Children in Year 6 at Coopersale Hall and Oaklands really enjoyed their joint

end of year residential PGL trip.

The days were filled with fun and challenging activities. Everyone had the chance to try fencing, archery, raft building, canoeing, high ropes, shelter building and fun group challenges like tower building and blindfolded walks.

Some children even braved the cold river water for a quick swim to shore after their canoeing!

This was a wonderful way for Year 6 to spend time together as one of their last trips as juniors. It's safe to say that everyone made memories that will last them a lifetime!



Southend-on-Sea

time on the beach finding shells and enjoying the sand and sea. They even found some crabs on the beach, which they enjoyed watching scuttle along the sand.

Oaklands Upper Kindergarten children visited Paradise Wildlife Park to see what animals they could find.

The children enjoyed seeing the lions, tigers and bears, and having at a go at their most ferocious roar. They were very surprised to see dinosaurs at the park! They finished the trip with some time in the playground.

Our pupils are always fantastic ambassadors for our schools when on external trips and visits, and make their teachers proud with their impeccable behaviour.



PGL



Year 1 at Coopersale Hall had a wonderful sunny trip to Southend as part of their Seaside topic.

They saw lots of wonderful sea creatures at the Sealife Centre, including fish, seahorses and penguins. The children then spent



Imperial War Museum



Paradise Wildlife Park

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

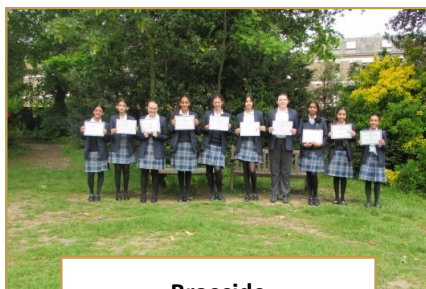
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Braeside & Normanhurst Maths

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils at Braeside achieved Silver and Bronze certificates in this year's UKMT Junior Maths Challenge held on 26th April.

Over 300,000 students from across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge with roughly the top 5% receiving a Gold certificate, the next 10% Silver and the next 25% Bronze. This shows what a huge achievement it was for the pupils who took part.



Braeside

As part of STEM fortnight, pupils in Early Years to Year 6 at Normanhurst took part in a problem solving experience and had to use their

Mathematical skills to help them find the answers. Pupils enjoyed working collaboratively and using reasoning skills to solve the riddles.



Normanhurst

Coopersale Hall Record Breakers

Records are made to be broken! This is definitely the principle that Mr Barham advocates when competing. The children from Year 3 to Year 6 recently ran the 400 meters with the fastest boy and girl in each year group becoming our first record holders.

The benchmark that they have created this academic year will be the benchmark for the next up and

coming year – and if they do beat it, they will be the new record holder and gain a medal to mark their achievement.

Mr Barham was really pleased to see how the children had worked to their best and sprinted to the end! He is looking forward to seeing how long these records will stand. The children have really grown in their attitude towards competition and it was great to see the camaraderie between pupils.

The current record holders were presented with certificates for their achievements during the last celebration assembly of the year.



Oaklands ISA Athletics

Oaklands took a team of pupils to the ISA London North Athletics Championships at Bedford International Athletics Stadium on Monday 22 May. In a field of over 30 schools, the pupils had their work cut out to get into the finals, and then finish 1st if they were to be selected for the Nationals.



They can all be very proud of their efforts as they all performed amazingly well. Highlights were the Year 4 Boys team finishing 1st in their relay heat, and narrowly missing out on 1st place in the final with a 2nd place finish. Annabelle qualified for the 60M final and produced a fantastic sprint, coming 2nd.

Well done, Oaklands.

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Speech Day & Prize Giving

Early Years Celebrations

As always, our end of year celebrations were a wonderful opportunity to look back at how far our pupils have come since the start of the year and celebrate their achievements.

The youngest pupils at the school enjoyed their Celebrations of the Year, where they sang songs, played homemade instruments, showed off their amazing work and received well deserved certificates.



Braeside



Braeside were lucky enough to have a beautiful sunny day for their Prize Day celebrations. They were joined by guest speaker Jacob Forman, Director of the Epping Forest Food Bank. He told us all about their work and the difference that donations make.

Coopersale Hall's parents were wowed by a French rap performed by pupils from Year 1 to 6. All of Year 5 were presented with their new roles for next year and pupils received awards for their hard work throughout the year.



Coopersale Hall



Oaklands



Normanhurst



Oaklands pupils performed a selection of wonderful songs, complete with dance moves. Many pupils were elected to give reports of their year, which included class highlights and charity reports.

This year Normanhurst had a very special guest speaker, past pupil Yazmin Meikle. Yazmin now performs in the West End's *Les Misérables*. In her inspirational speech, she encouraged our pupils to follow their passions and dream big. Both of the Head prefects gave moving speeches.

Our pupils consistently show outstanding talent and commitment to their learning. It is encouraging to see them so engaged and enjoying their time at school. Our Prize Giving events are the perfect opportunity to give them the credit they deserve.

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Charity Fundraising

Charity fundraising continued in the summer term. Braeside Year 9 Oak-Tree Challenge pupils held a cake sale for The Prince's Trust, raising a fantastic £72! Pupils organised the whole event, buying the cakes, organising the float and supplies, and creating posters. Thank you to everyone who bought one of the delicious treats.



Oaklands

Thursday 29 June marked one of our favourite days of the year at Coopersale Hall... MAD HAIR DAY! The

children in each year group, teachers, and staff donned their craziest hairstyles in aid of St Clare Hospice. The event raised a fantastic £187.53!



Red Nose Day

At Normanhurst, Mrs Botha, Mrs Taylor, Miss Reid, Miss Stone, Mrs Greenaway and Mrs Aksoy took part in the Haven House Sparkle 10k Walk 2023 on Friday 19 May. They raised an amazing amount of £755!

We would like to say a big well done to Erdogan, who has been busy growing tomato plants for the school



Sparkle 10k Walk

and raising money for the charity Asthma + Lung UK, by hula-hooping for 15 minutes every day in May!



Normanhurst Cake Sale

Oak-Tree Parents' Associations

Thank you to our parents for your support over this academic year. Our pupils get to enjoy trips, equipment and treats with funds raised.

The NSPA bought a huge selection of fancy dress costumes the children to enjoy, which went down a treat.

FoBS organised a wonderful summer disco for the children to dance the afternoon away.

FoCHS gave the children in Upper Kindergarten the chance to study and release butterflies.

The OPA organised an excellent Summer Fete and provided many additional treats.

The summer events this year were a huge success, with the fields and playgrounds packed with families enjoying the entertainment.

It was wonderful to see so many happy faces enjoying the events and raising money for those extra treats.



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association

