



# Norman Hurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN B.A. (HONS), PGCE

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November 2011

## Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families had an enjoyable half-term break. I always look forward to this time in the school calendar with the special events as Christmas approaches. You will find out more about all that is happening later in this letter and by looking on the website.

### Education Update

We began the school year with a learning focus on raising expectations for what we can achieve and striving hard to achieve those goals. It is most important that pupils have opportunities to succeed at school, to enjoy their learning and for there to be positive outcomes. Over the holiday it was with interest that I read about Ofsted's new chief schools inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw. His ideas about important aspects of a successful school: leadership, outcomes, teaching and behaviour, tie in closely with our own.

Also last week the Independent Schools Inspectorate published the draft framework for the new Integrated Inspections that begin this term for independent schools. The next time Norman Hurst School is inspected, it will be under this new framework.

### Winter Uniform

Summer uniform should no longer be worn from this point in the school year. All pupils should wear the winter uniform until the beginning of the summer term. A uniform list is available on the Forest Casualwear website: <http://www.forestcasualwear.co.uk/acatalog/Normanhurst.html>

Boots are not permitted for either boys or girls. A pair of sturdy shoes is appropriate. Last term some of the older girls were wearing black ballet pumps for school. Some of these offer very little support and are not suitable for wet wintry weather. Please do ensure your children have appropriate footwear as the weather worsens.

School bags also need to be weatherproof and resilient.

### Morning Routine for the Juniors

This half term Mr Jerrom will be in the school hall in the mornings from 8.30am to greet parents and children from Years 1 - 6. We are looking to provide some books or quiet activities for the children to do in this time, so if you arrive at school before 8.40am please encourage your child to read or chat quietly until the bell rings, rather than to run around in the hall.

### Morning 'Drop-in' on Thursday

On Thursday 10 November Mr Matthew Hagger and I are hosting an informal 'drop-in' for any parents who would like to come in to talk about any school related issues. As I wrote in the October newsletter, you are welcome to come individually or in groups of up to four if you prefer. Please come up to the school office. We will be available from 9.15-11.00am.

### **New Extra-curricular Clubs**

You will have received an updated programme of extra-curricular activities to run until the end of term in December. This was emailed out to parents just before the two week holiday. Please return the slips to the Office if your son or daughter would like to join the dance club on Mondays or karate club on Fridays. Please note that the cricket club has now finished and that an additional netball club is taking place in the morning.

### **Charity News**

#### **Operation Christmas Child**

We are collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Mrs Reeve gave an assembly in which pupils heard about how to make a box and what to put inside it. Pupils also received an information leaflet to take home before the holidays. Please send the completed boxes into school as soon as you are able, but by Monday 21 November at the latest. We are aiming for 100 boxes if possible! We would greatly appreciate your support.

#### **The Starlight Foundation**

Representatives from the Starlight Foundation, our main school charity last year, are coming into school for a special assembly on Tuesday 15 November so that we can present our cheque to them. Look out for photos in the next newsletter.

#### **Help Lanka**

We also have a visit from Sam who is our link with the Help Lanka charity on Monday 21 November. We have been linked to this charity in Sri Lanka for six years. Our support has included helping to fund the re-building of the school, sending educational resources and supporting the education of 2 children. You can read more about them on the charity notice board in the school hall.

#### **Beyond Ourselves**

In the summer break the junior teachers took stock of the junior department resources and we invested in a number of new resources for Maths, English and reading. The books we no longer needed we decided to donate to the charity Beyond Ourselves which works in Zambia. We received a lovely thank you card from them, 'Thank you so much for the books and resources...these will make such a difference to our schools in Zambia. Thank you so much for your generosity'. You can read more about the charity's work at [www.beyondourselves.co.uk](http://www.beyondourselves.co.uk)

#### **Poppies for Remembrance**

Poppies will be on sale from Monday 7 November. The charity committee will be visiting all the classes so that pupils can donate for a poppy as part of our Remembrance Day observance on Friday.

#### **Parents Association**

##### **Christmas Dinner Dance**

If you have not yet booked your tickets for the Christmas Dinner Dance, please consider doing so. It promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Details are available from Mrs Prior or from a member of the PA.

#### **Disco**

My thanks go to the PA for organising the October disco at the end of half term and to Mr Peterson who was an excellent DJ. The children seemed to have a great time!

#### **Heads' Conference**

I shall be out of school for two days at the annual ISA autumn conference this week. As usual, there is a programme of keynote sessions on educational issues, this year on topics as diverse as evidence on what works in raising attainment, the new inspection cycle, how our changing society is influencing family life, Google and its work for education and using educational visits to enrich learning, education and community. I look forward to sharing what I learn with the staff and students on my return.

## Disclaimer

From time to time we are asked to distribute materials to various classes that advertise third party services or products. Although we don't normally agree to such requests, occasionally there is a particular service that we feel may be of benefit to you or your child. Please bear in mind that should this be the case we are not adding our endorsement or recommendation and are merely passing on details that may be of interest.

## Forthcoming Events

- Thursday 10 November Parents Drop-In Meeting
- Friday 18 November GCSE Presentation Evening for last year's leavers
- Thursday 1 December Kindergarten and Reception Festive Fun Day
- Saturday 3 December Parents Association Christmas Dinner and Dance
- Tuesday 6 December Infant Christmas Play (afternoon)
- Wednesday 7 December Infant Christmas Play (morning)
- Friday 9 December Trip to the Pantomime for Kindergarten-Year 6
- Tuesday 13 December Christmas Lunch for Seniors and Juniors (with party)
- Wednesday 14 December Carol Service at St Peter's and St Paul's Parish Church
- Thursday 15 December Term ends at 12 noon

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the events taking place over the term.

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise with the school please contact your child's form teacher or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn



**OAK-TREE SCHOOLS** is the group name of:

COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING    OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON    NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD  
ADMINISTRATIVE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA  
SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON)    MRS ANN HAGGER CERT.ED.    MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A.(HONS), M.ED.

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