



June 2020

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## Headmistress's Message

The final half-term has begun with the partial closure of schools still in place and with a continuing focus on e-learning and 'live lessons' at home. I have been so grateful for the positive engagement of our pupils, parents and staff in these new endeavours. We have all been working together to ensure the pupils continue to learn effectively. Teachers have adapted their teaching to enable high quality learning to happen successfully at a distance, and we have ensured our pastoral care for everyone in our school community remains a key priority in our pastoral catch-ups, daily form times and assemblies.

This newsletter gives you examples of some of the work the pupils have completed at home; academic work, personal challenges and creative opportunities that we have been giving to the children. I hope you enjoy reading about their achievements.

This week we began our gradual re-opening of the school for certain year groups in line with government advice. Other classes continue with their comprehensive programme of online lessons, classwork and regular contact with their teachers.

The pupils have adjusted remarkably well to the challenges of this period of school closures, and they have been making impressive progress with their home-based learning. I am very proud of them.

With my very best wishes to you all at this time,

**Mrs Claire Osborn**  
Headmistress

## Making Rainbows



Rainbows have become a very recognisable symbol over the last couple of months, but for the children in Kindergarten, creating them using the hose pipe was a very fun activity!

The children learnt that you need to have the sun behind you, and the rainbow can then be reflected onto the floor or cupboard doors. It is all part of our Early Years science: investigating fun! By moving the arc of the water, we were even lucky enough to make double and triple rainbows!

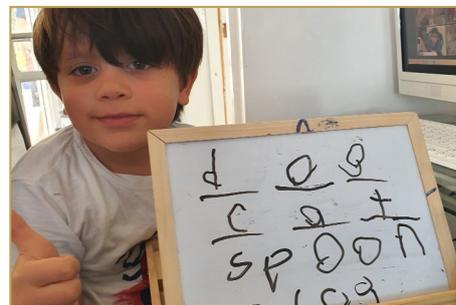


## Kindergarten News



The children in Kindergarten adapted well to the new way of learning during the first half of term. Daily zoom lessons helped teachers, children and families to stay in touch.

Each day they did writing practice and have now moved on to writing simple words.



Pupils also looked at senses and the world around them by finding things to explore with their senses of smell and taste.

Another topic was looking at the life cycle of the frog, and enjoyed the story 'Oi Frog', which is a favourite of the teachers as well as the children. Pupils then decided to try and make their own frog sandwich for lunch!

## Catching Up with Year 1

Year 1 were very busy before half term actively participating in their home learning. Here are a few examples of what they have been up to:

**Acts of Kindness** During this term's period of home learning Year 1 have been impressing their families with their skills in the kitchen. The salads, pizza, strawberry cake, cupcakes and orange juice that Year 1 made all look absolutely delicious. Emran made a vanilla cake, Irina made a strawberry cake, and Enis made yummy cupcakes with his sister Elin for their family. Kelly made a cake and freshly squeezed orange juice for her mum's birthday.

Year 1 excelled at being kind in other ways as well. Noah-Hussain did jobs and tidied his bedroom, James helped to walk his three dogs, Izah fed her little brother, and Caitlin regularly watered all her plants. Irina helped to sort the family's rubbish and is learning how to recycle. She designed a poster and photo collage of how she is recycling at home. Emily and Emran confidently read books to their grandparents on Zoom.

Year 1 also wrote letters to show their appreciation to people in their community. Some of the children wrote to family members who work in the NHS, others wrote to key workers such as the postman and the delivery man who brings the shopping. Mrs Taylor was thrilled that a couple of the children wrote their letters of thanks to her!



## News from Year 1 Continued

**Learning About Food and Making Salads** In their Science topic on Plants, Year 1 learned about farming and where our food comes from. They created their own farm and drew what they would grow if they owned a farm. As part of their learning, the children spent time emptying cupboards and fridges at home looking closely at what they eat. The class examined all the vegetables they could find and noted differences in colour, shape and size.

Many children rose to the challenge of turning some fresh vegetables into a healthy salad for all of their family to enjoy. Emily made a fresh tomato salad for her family to eat for tea. Irina made two salads: a beetroot salad and a cucumber salad. Enis proved himself to be a star chef by making homemade pizzas covered in fresh vegetables and toppings, as well as a tasty tuna salad.



**Money Money Money!** For their Maths topic learning about money, Year 1 set up shop at home. They were quick to work out how much to charge their customers and how to calculate the right change. The children were very inventive in finding ways to practice using real money, including setting up a dinosaur museum and a mini Sainsbury's!



**Sunflowers and Pets** To kick start their topic on Plants, the children received a surprise postal delivery of some sunflower and sweet pea seeds to sow at home, with precise instructions as to how to sow their seeds. Each week, children have been completing a sunflower diary to chart the progress of their plant and to measure and record its growth. In Zoom form-time they have been comparing and looking at each other's plants. Some children have sowed other plants like cucumbers as well.

The class has also been working on how to write instructions. Mrs Taylor wrote a letter to the children about their seeds and how to look after them and everyone wrote Mrs Taylor wonderful letters in reply. After everyone in the class sowed their seeds the children wrote and drew instructions as a way of showing what they had done.

One of Year 1's form-time Zooms was on class pets. Some of the pets were happy to say hello and were not at all camera shy. We met Irina's chinchilla Blackie, Caitlin's cat Pebbles, Emran's cat Einstein, Izah's cat Milo and one of James's friendly dogs. We discovered that Year 1 are all animal lovers and that nearly everyone has a pet! The class had the bright idea of writing instructions to teach Mrs Taylor how to look after their pets.

To finish the unit of work on Sunflowers the class wrote about the lifecycle of the sunflower. Then, during Art lessons, the children looked at the work of Vincent Van Gogh and Georgia O'Keefe for inspiration to create stunning pictures of sunflowers and other types of flowers using techniques such as pointillism, fork painting and collage.



## Lockdown Learning in Year 2

In Mrs Allen's Maths group, the children have been learning about capacity. In one lesson, they created their own recipe for a drink and made the drink. We had some very interesting recipes including one called 'The Minty Rainbow' by Francesco which included Haribos, lychee juice, fresh mint, pomegranate and lemon.



During their Science lessons, Year 2 have been participating in various experiments on Zoom. The children have really enjoyed these. One of these experiments was to see the reaction between baking soda and vinegar, creating an apple explosion. Another was predicting if items would sink or float and whether the material impacted this.



Year 2 have enjoyed live Art with Mrs Allen. The theme has been focused on forests and creating art work around this. This has included creating more abstract art pieces as well as looking at the work of an artist called Klimt

and his painting called 'The Tree of Life'.

Year 2 celebrated VE Day by singing the song 'We'll Meet Again' by Vera Lynn. They also created bunting to put up to celebrate the day.



2A have enjoyed lots of fun during form time. Along with weekly yoga sessions, story time, handwriting and show and tell, they have taken part in a variety of other activities. These have included a scavenger hunt, creating an item of clothing out of a bin bag, Kim's game, philosophy, making a den as well as playing bingo.

## News from the Music Department

**Sing Project** "Even though we were in lockdown, some school clubs have managed to virtually meet. The school choir decided to create a cover of a song, quarantine style, to help raise the school's spirits. After a zoom meeting together, each singer recorded themselves alone whilst listening to a backing track, and then we layered all of the recordings together. Some choir members even recorded themselves playing instruments to layer onto the track. Despite some technical problems, the song is now finished and is a success."

**By Lucy, Year 9**

You can listen to the choir perform [here](#).

**Magic Bag** As the magic bag and all the puppets (except the cheeky monkey who sneaked home with Mrs Jones) are at school, Mrs Jones needed new helpers to join her Foundation Stage music lessons. Here are the new puppets! They have been joining the children and all their favourite toys for a Zoom sing-along each week. They are really looking forward to going back to school and joining the other puppets in the magic bag.





## Year 5 Science Experiments

As part of their home learning in Science the Year 5 children were experimenting with the 'Magic of Water'. They made colours appear, made arrows change direction and made water travel from one glass to another through a tissue! We have some excellent mini Scientists here, as is demonstrated in Nicolas' summary below.

"In our first science experiment we folded a kitchen towel in half, then on the top half we drew a design in black and white. This went through the paper, so on the bottom half we coloured it in. Then we went back to the black and white side, put in the water and the colour came through! I really enjoyed this experiment and I learnt that we can send ink through paper by water!

In our second experiment we drew two arrows horizontally facing the same way. Then we put a glass in front of the piece of paper and we filled it up until it reached the arrow lowest to the ground; then we realised that the arrow was facing the other way! I found this experiment enjoyable and I would definitely want to try and do it again sometime. I learnt that something can change when it's in front of a glass that is full of water because of the curve of the glass!

In our final experiment we got two glasses and filled one up halfway. After that, we got a kitchen roll and rolled it up like a whip. We put the end of the kitchen roll in one side of the water and we tipped over until all the water had gone into the other glass! I found this experiment amazing and I learnt that we can also send water through paper alone!

My favourite one was the first experiment because it struck me and I was shocked with the result."

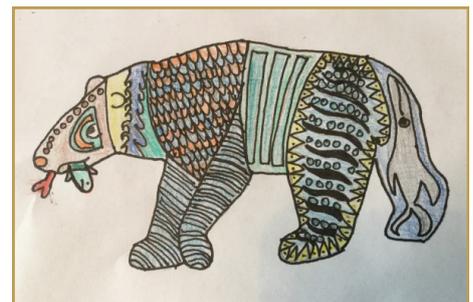


## Getting Creative at Home

Whilst at home over the last half a term, the children in Year 5 were tasked with completing a daily creative challenge involving drawing, building, composing and many other things. One of their challenges was to build a cosy 'Super Den' using anything they could find around their home. The children rose to the challenge superbly, and created an array of imaginative and very cosy dens in which to relax.

Year 5 have also been using art to explore their topics in other subjects. In History, they have been learning about the Ancient Mayans and they have created traditional masks and murals to reflect their learning. They have studied the play Twelfth Night in English and created a 'Storm at Sea' image depicting the boat crash scene from the play. In Geography, they have been learning about Alaska and have created their own version of Native Alaskan Animal Art.

The children have been working incredibly hard on these projects and have produced some amazing work. Miss Stone is a very proud teacher indeed!



## Normanhurst Pupils Celebrate VE Day

Pupils at Normanhurst did not let the quarantine cancel their VE Day celebrations this year. From making cakes and bunting, to singing in the street, the pupils celebrated in style from home. As well as sending in photos of their creations and parties, many pupils sent in research projects on rationing, unsung war heroes, and how VE Day is celebrated in different parts of Europe. Some designed their own medals too. A lot of house points were given out for all the efforts the children made. Two pupils describe their VE Day activities here.



**Nicolas:** "Friday the 8th May 2020 was the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. For such an important day, many gatherings and events were planned in the whole country, but COVID-19 changed it all.

It was a bank holiday, and my parents were off work, so we got up quite late and had breakfast together. A real treat of pancakes, which is my dad's speciality. After that, at 11am, we were silent for five minutes to honour the soldiers and all the brave people who gave their life up to fight in the war, and gave us all the freedom that we can enjoy today.

Shortly after, we got some snacks and went for a long walk in the forest. It was a very sunny day, and we could see insects and birds buzzing happily and little tadpoles swimming impatiently across the pond. We sat down and observed nature for a long while. Afterwards, we continued our expedition, and found some shelters built in the forest, and we could imagine ourselves spending the night inside, if we were soldiers in the war. We also rolled down the hills and laughed out loud with excitement feeling the tickly grass on our skin.

All of a sudden, we bumped into John and Elizabeth, who were having a stroll with their dad, and we couldn't believe our eyes. It was definitely the highlight of my day.

Lastly, we went back home and all our neighbours were out in the street, having picnics and tea in their front garden, with beautiful flags and bunting waving in the breeze. It was nice to see everyone coming together, even though in a different way to what we all had originally planned, enjoying the little things that we still have in our life, and trying to make all those soldiers proud."

**Dylan:** "Today is a very special day. It is VE Day! VE Day marks the day Europe ended WWII. The only difference is this VE Day we were in quarantine. It is the 75th anniversary and there were plans for big celebrations up and down the country. There would have been parades, dancing, fireworks and concerts. However, disappointingly, they were all cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown. Instead, on a beautiful sunny day, people celebrated in their own gardens with barbeques, street parties and lots of special programs on TV.

Myself, I had pancakes for breakfast, a barbeque for lunch and joined our street party. It was so hot, we got to swim in our garden's pool. At the end of the evening, we all sat in the living room and watched a special speech from Queen Elizabeth II. I quite enjoyed the speech because it reminded me that life is hard but we must stay strong and together we will get through the tough times. Everything shall pass and 'the streets are not empty, they are filled with the love and care we have for each other'.

I enjoyed this VE Day and I hope that I can celebrate the 80th anniversary out of lockdown!"





# NEWSLETTER

## Inter-House Photography Competition

During the school's closure, the winners of this year's inter-house photography competition were selected. It was incredibly hard to choose from the outstanding entries this year. We are delighted to have so many creative photographers in our school community! Please head to the school website to see the online exhibition of all entries.

Thank you to everyone for taking part.



**CONTRAST**

WINNER: Roxy Y7



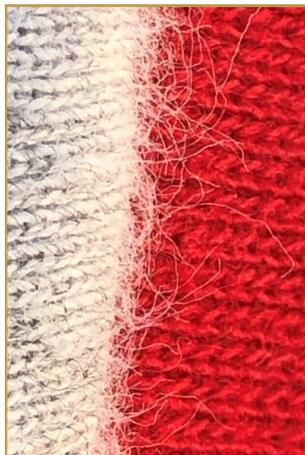
**DETAILS**

WINNER: Joseph Y6



**IMAGINATION**

WINNER: Adam Y6



**CONTRAST**

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Jan Y6



**DETAILS**

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Irina Y1



**IMAGINATION**

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Olivia Y5



**PARENT WINNER**

Mrs Freedlander—CONTRAST



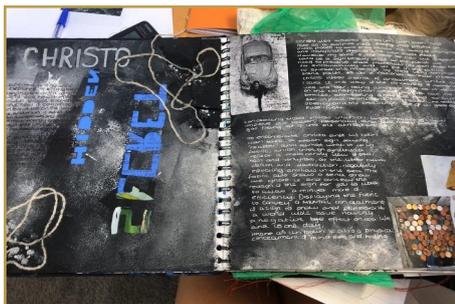
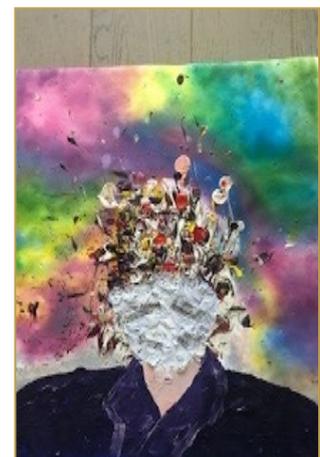
**STAFF WINNER**

Mrs Marks—DETAILS

## News from the Art & Design Department

**Year 11 Concealment Project** Christian explored the topic of Concealment for his GCSE Graphics project. Through his research he explored the use of camouflage patterns in fashion design. As a result of looking at artists and designers, Christian created his own tie dye inspired camo, made from photography of the school site. He used a cyanotype technique to transfer his image onto fabric. Christian, inspired by his interest in utility fashion, redesigned the school uniform to be a pair of dungarees!!

**Year 11 Work at Home** Many Year 11 Art & Design pupils have continued to complete their exam projects at home. Before the enforced closure, pupils were working on the development of their individual ideas for a wide range of artworks and design outcomes and would love to have the opportunity to share their artistic discoveries. They have developed concepts around the environment, photomontage, race, gender and dealing with trauma. These are just a few examples of the work being produced. To say we are proud is an understatement!



**Year 10 Development through Artist Research** GCSE Fine Art and Graphic Communications are portfolio courses that require pupils to build a large body of art and design work over two years. During this time of remote learning Year 10 Art & Design students have been working strategically to continue to build excellent portfolios by researching and responding to the work of a wide range of artists and designers. They then use the understanding and skills they develop to inform their own individual artworks and products. During online classes pupils have been discussing and sharing their ideas, supporting in each with feedback and advice. They have the opportunity to think critically about their projects and respond in ways that are truly personal to them.



**Year 9 Food Festival** DT in Year 9 continues to build on the graphic design elements introduced and developed throughout Key Stage 3 by giving pupils the opportunity to develop and design their own graphic materials for a food festival of their choice. Pupils worked independently to research, develop and design a range of products relevant for their own food festival. They can choose from a range of ways of working, including using digital methods, illustration and mixed media to produce genre and audience specific designs.



## News from the Art & Design Department Continued

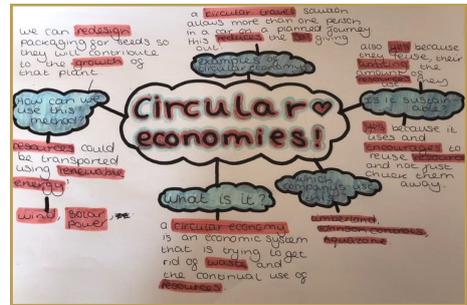
**Year 9 Collections and Obsessions** Year 9 have been researching and making artwork in response to a GCSE project title 'Collections and Obsessions'. They have had the opportunity to further explore how artists use a variety of techniques to communicate ideas and meaning through the work they make and the objects that are included.

As always, pupils started the project with artist research and response, followed by a conceptual photography task, in which they had to take a photo called 'My Shelfie'. Their shelf had to have an arrangement of objects that represented them and their thoughts at that time. The image was accompanied by a 'curator's text' outlining the concept behind the work. From these images pupils have gone on to develop artworks in a wide range of media. Through this project, students are starting to build their own artistic language.



This Collection of felted things is a prime example of the creativity the mind can come up with. The pots and smallish coasts was done by Olivia. The mat underneath the work was done by an artist named Bazme. The collection was brought together by the items all having the same textures and colour schemes with darker colours that peek through the cracks of light blues. A cream background was used to make the felt stand out against a plain wall. This might suggest that the artist has been trapped in the same 4 walls. The bright colours relate to the blue sky and the green grass.

**Year 8 Circular Economies** Continuing the enjoyment from Year 8's vegetable growing and bed design project, Year 8 have had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the role that design can have on the wider environment. Pupils have been researching and responding to a range of organisations and companies that are working with circular economies to reduce waste. Year 8 have started to think about how these big ideas can be used on a smaller scale to inform their own designs and spaces.



**Year 8 Drawing Techniques - positive and negative space, back, mid and foreground** Throughout Year 8, pupils explore a range of artistic techniques linked to the topic Surface and Pattern. They are introduced to the methods behind the production of abstract work, developing an understanding of how traditional art techniques are used by abstract artists. In their home learning project this half term, they have been exploring how photography can play a key role in developing an abstract composition. The artworks that they have been producing develop their knowledge of positive and negative space and back, mid and foreground.



**Year 7 Virtual Picasso exhibition** To make up for not being able to attend the Picasso on Paper exhibition at the Royal Academy, Year 7 were invited to take a virtual tour of the show. They accessed the exhibition through the Royal Academy of Art website, allowing them to see the work up close. The pupils used this virtual experience to create their own Picasso on paper responses.





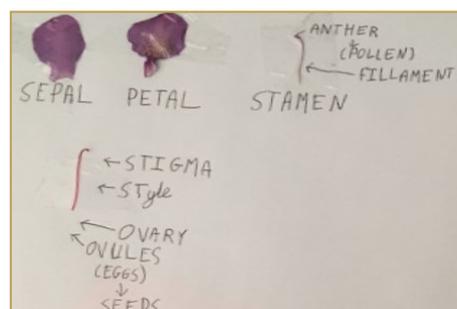
## Virtual Learning in Science

The first half of the summer term has been very challenging for the Science department and for all our students. This is especially the case because Science is a practical subject with a huge amount of learning and interaction going on in every lesson. Due to the nature of the specification, students usually have a large amount of new content introduced to them, along with a practical activity, both of which means that we are very reliant on body language and verbal feedback to ensure learning progresses during the lesson. This made planning virtual learning quite difficult for us as a department. We have to say that our students have overcome this challenge admirably and produced some very commendable work. Here is a snapshot of some of their learning.

**Year 7—Account from Atilla, 7B** When I heard that school was going to be closed for a while, at first I was very happy. I thought, “Yes, get in - no school”. But after a couple of weeks, I started to miss my friends and then later even my teachers. Then I found out that we would not go back to school and we would start to take zoom lessons instead of classes. I didn’t know how this would pan out. I only spoke with my friends on House Party and I only got homework on the “Show My Homework” app.

So, we started zoom lessons every morning with Mrs Botha, my form tutor, and then some other zoom lessons from actual lesson teachers. One of these was Science with Mrs Jayaram. At first, Science zoom lessons felt strange and I had to get used to them. But after a few lessons I started to understand better and began to enjoy having zoom lessons.

I’m not very good at Science. However, my mum was furloughed from her job and so I asked her to help me study. Luckily my mum’s parents are both teachers, so studying with my mum helped me a lot and I started to improve my grades. One of the Science lessons which I really enjoyed was when we studied plant ecosystems. Learning from home was great for this because I picked a flower from our garden and dissected it. My mum helped me to understand all the parts of the flower. I’m happy that I achieved a good result for this lesson. This has made me more determined to work harder for the other tasks that Mrs Jayaram sets and Science is now one of my favourite lessons.



Mrs Jayaram works very hard to help us understand the lesson when we have zoom and makes sure we know what we have to do on our own and for our homework.

Connecting to a zoom lesson can be a struggle sometimes if the internet connection is unstable. However, I have managed to join all my Science zoom lessons. I also go on early morning walks with my mum to prepare for the zoom lessons that day and plan my homework.

**Year 8** The Year 8 students have been learning about Energy this half term and experimenting with simple machines and methods of heat transfer. Jensen was particularly hands-on and attempted to make his own insulating material following instructions we gave him.

Here is a picture of Jensen bravely testing his insulating material over a burning candle! Well done Jensen!





# NEWSLETTER

## Normanhurst Sports Report

Needless to say, all the usual sports clubs and activities are on hold this term. However, lots of Normanhurst pupils have continued to run their morning miles while at home. They have been collecting lots of house points by sending photographic evidence of their endeavours to Mrs Taylor. Well done for all staying so active!



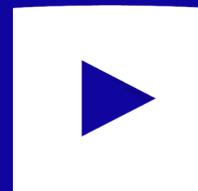
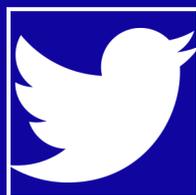
## Teach Well School Gold Award



We are very pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Teach Well School Gold Award for taking care of the physical and mental wellbeing of staff during the Coronavirus outbreak. We are so proud of all of our staff and the hard work that they have been putting in during this time.



## Getting Social



## Year 2 Ramadan



Year 2 have been learning about Islam in their RE lessons and recently learnt about Ramadan. To celebrate the end of Ramadan, people create crafts to decorate their home, families share meals, give gifts and pray together. Year 2 created their own crafts to celebrate, including a special lantern and Moon and Star.



## Mrs Casali's Virtual Shop



Some of Year 2 have been learning about money this week. They have been looking at different coins, comparing the size, colour and weight to gain a better understanding of the values of the coins. Mrs Casali set up a 'virtual shop' for the class to go shopping in, where they were able to pick some items and identify which coins were needed to pay for the items. Great work Year 2!

## 10k Charity Bike Ride

We are so proud of two of our pupils who have raised an amazing £700 for NHS PPE. To raise the money they went on a 10k charity bike ride, which they found tough, but a lot of fun!



## Year 4 Weather Reports

Year 4 pupils had fun creating their own weather reports. The weather certainly looks interesting, from here to Brazil! Fantastic work everyone! Make sure to watch the pupil's video [here](#).

## Music and Drama at Home

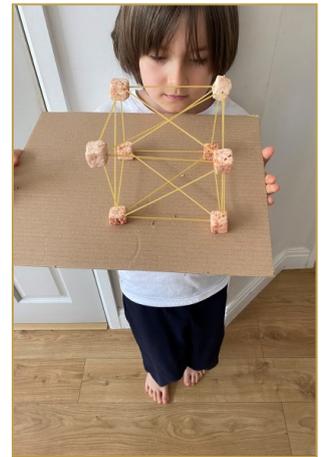
We have been really impressed with the drama and music videos we have received from pupils at home. Well done everyone! You can see the highlights on our [YouTube page](#).

## Year 3 Home Learning

**Art** Year 3 have been very busy this half term with their online learning, finding out all about Alice in wonderland in their English and Art lessons. They created lots of lovely art work such as tea cups for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and the White Rabbit's bunny ears.

**NHS Letters** As a way to show their gratitude for the hard working NHS and Key workers, Year 3 took on the task of writing beautiful heart felt letters to brighten up their days. Some even made their ways to local hospital. The responses we had from these workers were amazing.

**Natural Disasters** This half term Year 3 have been learning all about natural disasters that occur around the world. To finish off their learning of Earthquakes, they were set the challenge to build their very own Earthquake proof buildings. Do you think they all survived the shake test?



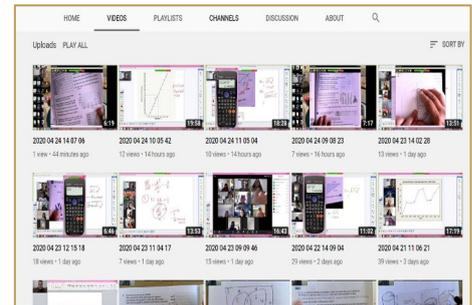
## Year 3 Show Off Their Baking Skills

Year 3 had a lot of fun showing off their baking skills in the kitchen. The final results looked yummy and we're sure they tasted great too!



## Maths Zoom Lessons

A lot of work goes into planning all of our online or virtual lessons. These were just some of our Maths lessons from the first week of term! We are so pleased with the way that both pupils and teachers adapted to this new way of learning so quickly, despite it being such a huge change.



## Keyworker Children in School



We enjoyed having the keyworker children at the central hub at Oaklands School during the first half of Summer Term. The changes certainly took some getting used to, but we definitely made it work, and it was a great chance for the children from different schools to get to know each other a little better.



## A Message From The Teachers...

The teachers at Normanhurst wanted to send a special message to all the pupils to let them know how much they were missing them! Click [here](#) to view the video. It certainly put a smile on our faces, so we hope it puts a smile on yours!

## House Points

Even from home, our pupils have been taking their House Points very seriously! Christian helped cook a BBQ and set the table for dinner, Tahan vacuumed the whole top floor of his house and got creative with Lego and Emily made delicious pancakes for her family. Well done to all of the many pupils who have still been working hard to collect their House Points!



## Early Years at Home

We loved receiving these fantastic photos of our Early Years children working hard at home. They were set lots of different tasks to do and completed them all brilliantly.



## Atila's 2.6 Challenge

Atila did a great job taking part in the 2.6 challenge to raise money for the Make a Wish foundation. For the challenge he completed a 26 round tablet tennis rally. Watch him complete the challenge [here](#), well done Atila!

## Returning to School

We were so pleased to welcome some of our pupils back to school this week. The children have taken all of the new social distance changes in their stride and are enjoying being back in lessons and back in the playground with their friends.

