



Normanhurst School

68-74 Station Road, North Chingford
London E4 7BA

Tel: 020 8529 4307
Fax: 020 8524 7737

E-mail: info@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Website: www.normanhurstschool.co.uk

HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.SC., NPQH

3 November 2020

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

After a busy half-term, I hope you and your families have enjoyed the half term break and that you are looking forward to the rest of the term, which includes a number of special events, some which will be filmed, and some in bubbles for the pupils in school. Please make a note of the dates at the end of this letter and online calendar.

Junior Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all the parents for attending the junior parents' evenings. The format was slightly different this year enabling you to come into school, see your child's classroom, teachers and English and Maths books. We very much enjoyed meeting you all face-to-face and thank you for your positive feedback. Please remember, if you were unable to attend the event, please contact your class teacher who will be able to arrange a Zoom call with you instead.

Normanhurst School Parents Association (NSPA)

Thank you to the NSPA for its ongoing support. We have taken delivery of a giant Connect 4 game, an outdoor table tennis table and planters. We have already booked the Junior Christmas Panto and the Young Shakespeare Company to perform Romeo and Juliet.

In the last NSPA meeting we were discussing the aims of the Association for this year. If you would like to know more or would be interested in joining please contact Sinead Greenaway or Martin Bisiker, the Co-Chairs, who would be delighted to let you know more about the NSPA. It is never too late to become involved.

Black History Month and Dyslexia Awareness Day

October was a busy Black History month. Pupils in a variety of lessons across the school learned about some of the many significant black people in history and the modern day. We also celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Day by wearing red and donating money to the British Dyslexia Association. The pupils learnt a lot about the many attributes of dyslexia and participated in circle times, poetry reading, role play and solving riddles. The newsletter and our social media pages celebrates the pupils' learning as part of their understanding of diversity and inclusion.

Staffing Update

We now wish Mrs Cooper our Head of Science the very best of luck as she starts her maternity leave and prepares for the arrival of her second child. We are very grateful and extremely lucky to have Mrs Jayaram as Head of Science while Mrs Cooper is on leave. Mrs Jayaram has been at Normanhurst for the last two years and has contributed significantly to the ongoing development of the department under Mrs Cooper's leadership. The Science department is in good hands. We also welcome Mrs Asghar to Normanhurst who will be teaching science. Mrs Asghar has extensive experience in teaching Science and a track record of helping pupils to make progress, achieving outstanding outcomes. Mrs Asghar visited the school last term and looks forward to ensuring that science remains successful at Normanhurst.

Gift a Book

This year we have started our 'gift a birthday book' scheme, where pupils on their birthday can gift one of their favourite books to the school. Inside the cover the certificate is stuck into the book explaining who has gifted the book. Please have a look at the newsletter for staff and pupils' photos. Thank you for supporting this; pupils are very proud to donate their book in assembly and explain their choice of book to share.

Pupil Voice

This term we have empowered the pupil voice. Pupils across the school have been working hard to create a pupil led school menu. Balancing the healthy tasty dishes with an amazing array of deserts. These will be available on the website.

Crossing the Road Safely

Please could I ask parents to encourage good road crossing habits. Although it may feel quicker to cross the road between cars, it is incredibly dangerous and not something we support as a school. There is a zebra crossing not too far from the school, which is much safer to use. Please support us in encouraging pupils to cross safely by discussing this with your child.

Winter Uniform Reminders

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school, and as we return to wintery weather I would like to remind you of the school's uniform expectations.

From November all pupils should be wearing the winter uniform. Juniors from Reception class upwards are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop.

Seniors must wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat. Coats should not have design features and should be appropriate for school. All seniors hang up their coats in school and I suggest coats should be practical and not expensive.

Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, a plain black or navy scarf or gloves are to be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves. Please be aware that seniors will have non-uniform items confiscated and these will need to be collected from the school office.

Boots are not a part of school uniform in any part of the school, including the Early Years classes, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes through the winter. If it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school, but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

Year 11 Mocks

GCSE Mock Exams for year 11 begin on Monday 30 November. These will take place at school and at the Masonic Hall on Station Road. I am pleased to hear that pupils have been working hard over half term at the school booster classes. These have been important preparations and I have been proud to see the pupils so committed towards their studies.

Website Recordings

Our Virtual Open Days and Harvest Festival recordings and much more are now available for parents to see on the school website. I am incredibly proud of our pupils and staff as once again they continue to be the fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Armistice Day and the Poppy Appeal

Every year in school we remember those who have died in wars by supporting the Poppy Day Appeal. Remembrance poppies will be available from Thursday 5 November at the front of the school in the morning. Please feel free to make a donation. We will have a minute's silence on Wednesday 11 November in classrooms to remember.

Celebrating Christmas Together

December is busy as usual with a number of seasonal highlights:

- The Infant Nativity performance and the Christmas Concert will be filmed for parents
- The Early Years and Junior pantomime performance is in school on Thursday 10 December
- Christmas Lunches Week with the Junior Christmas parties in bubbles in the afternoons from Monday 7 to Thursday 10 December

Seesaw

We are introducing the Seesaw learning platform for Years 1-6 this term. This will eventually replace Show My Homework for Juniors. Parents will receive a letter about Seesaw and a log-in next week. Staff have a training session on Wednesday 11 November, after which we will trial the new platform with pupils and parents.

Seesaw provides more opportunities for teachers of younger pupils to provide child-friendly tasks and feedback, which we see as enhancing the programme we offered during the last lockdown.

The aim is that teachers will move across to use Seesaw for setting homework, and they will also use Seesaw in the case of any bubble isolations, or for the setting and return of work if there is a wider closure of schools by the Government again this year.

Please look out for the imminent information email, if you are a parent of a pupil in Year 1 to Year 6.

Virtual Coffee Mornings for Parents

Our programme of Coffee Mornings will start next week to provide you with the opportunity to chat with us informally about life at school. Due to Covid-19 government guidelines, we are unable to facilitate our normal group meetings in school. Instead, we will be inviting you, in slightly larger groups than normal, to join Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and myself for 'Virtual Coffee Mornings'.

The school office will email each group the week before their meeting on the following Wednesday with details about how to access the Zoom session. We will be arranging for an additional afternoon slot for all parents later in the academic year.

Please see the dates below. Further details will be sent in due course.

Wednesday 11 Nov 1pm	EYFS (LK, UK & Rec)
Wednesday 18 Nov 1pm	KS1 (Y1 & Y2)
Wednesday 25 Nov 1pm	Years 3 & 4
Wednesday 2 Dec 1pm	Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 9 Dec 1pm	Years 7 & 8
Wednesday 13 Jan 1pm	Years 9, 10 & 11

Important Dates for the Autumn term

Fri 6 Nov		Rec-Y6 Flu spray
Wed 11 Nov	13:00 – 13:45	LK-Rec Virtual Coffee Afternoon
Wed 18 Nov	13:00 – 13:45	Y1 & Y2 Virtual Coffee Afternoon
Tue 24 Nov	17:00 – 18:00	Y9 Virtual Options Evening
Wed 25 Nov	13:00 – 13:45	Y3 & Y4 Virtual Coffee Afternoon
Mon 30 Nov		Y11 Mock GCSE Exams all week
Tue 1 Dec	16:00 – 18:30	Y9 Parents Evening
Wed 2 Dec	13:00 – 13:45	Y5 & Y6 Virtual Coffee Afternoon
Wed 9 Dec	13:00 – 13:45	Y7 & Y8 Virtual Coffee Afternoon
Thu 10 Dec		Visiting Pantomime for Junior Pupils

Fri 11 Dec

Last Day of Term

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise with the school, please contact your child's form teacher, a member of the Leadership Team or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment. We are always happy to meet with you.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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