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Headmistress’s Message

The start of this term has been a busy one, with Online Zoom lessons, RSE Parent consultation evenings, Safer Internet Day and Mental Health Week. I am incredibly proud of all our pupils; whether at home accessing learning or in school, they continue to demonstrate the Normanhurst School spirit.

This term our 11+ entrance exams and interviewing moved online and we are busy finalising our Year 7 offers for September. We continued with our virtual parents evenings, where parents have had the opportunity to discuss their child’s progress with their form teacher.

I was very pleased to award my first Headmistress Commendation this term to Max in Year 11 for excellent citizenship in helping a lady who had a fall in the street. Max called an ambulance and waited with the lady until medical help arrived. As a school, we are very proud of your mature response and community spirit, Max. Well done and congratulations on your commendation.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights once again how much activity the pupils engage in. You can also read full details of our recent success in ISA London North Art Competition. I am proud to see so many of our pupils taking every opportunity to put their learning into practice, even in these challenging times.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job

Headmistress

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The children in Kindergarten have had a very exciting half term. They have been travelling around the world and visiting different countries. Their travels are based around a story called 'My Granny Went to Market'. In the story Grandma travels on a 'magic carpet' and so Kindergarten had fun climbing aboard their own magic carpet and setting off on their journey of discovery.



"First we went to Thailand and we flew down from the sky". Pupils made mango cookies, explored the temples and then decorated elephants and dressed up in costumes from this part of the world. They even had a try at a still life painting of a beautiful orchid.



"Then we headed westwards to the land of Mexico", and just like in the story Kindergarten made fierce and funny masks. They enjoyed making vegetable wraps, even planting the stone from the avocado to see if it will grow. Pupils also visited the



rainforest and had a creative session all about the chameleon. They loved dressing up, playing the instruments and dancing at the carnival in Brazil.

"Now Africa" sang Granny and so off we went!" Another opportunity for lots of musical fun, especially with the drums. They even made our own! Pupils enjoyed the stories of *Handa's Surprise* and *Handa's Hen*. They carried the basket of fruits on their heads like Handa, made fresh fruit kebabs, and the theme in PE was balancing.



After a two week stay in Africa, becoming explorers and finding out about the animals on their very own safari, the trip ended at the beach. Here, Kindergarten played in the water and the sand and enjoyed home baked coconut cookies and 'cocktails' in the sunshine.

The last trip this half term was to China, just in time for the Chinese New Year. In the role play area everyone was able to explore this beautiful country with lots of stories, books and activities.

When Kindergarten come back after half term they will be off on our travels again, this time starting in Australia!



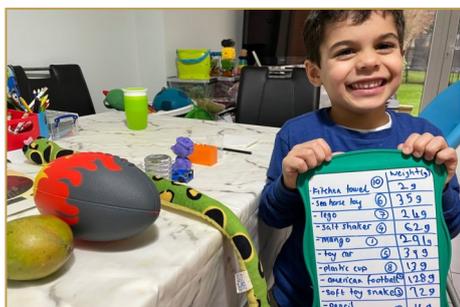
RECEPTION HOME LEARNING NEWS

The children in Reception have enjoyed a variety of different activities during their home learning. The activities have been based on a different book each week. These have included *Handa's Surprise*, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* and *Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs*.

The form time sessions have been filled with story time, yoga, mindfulness, scavenger hunts, philosophy, short Art activities, fun and games which have ensured the children are ready for the day ahead.

The children have completed some wonderful English work. They have all been working on their formation of letters which are looking amazing.

For one piece of English work, the children had to create questions for either one of the fruits or one of the animals from *Handa's Surprise* which they then used in a hot-seating activity on Zoom with their friends. The children's inventive questions included 'Why do you have big ears?' to the elephant, and 'Why do you have a spiky hat?' to the pineapple.



In Maths, the children have been looking at numbers to 20, using 10s frames and number lines to support their learning. They have also carried out some practical activities such as following a recipe, to weigh and bake some cookies, as well as weighing and ordering different fruits.



In Art, one of the favourite activities so far was creating 'fruit friends and vegeta-pals'. The children each chose a piece of fruit or vegetable and then decorated them whilst on Zoom. The children named their creations, which included Funny Face, Frank and Ice Cream. Pupils have all enjoyed getting creative and sharing their Art work with friends.

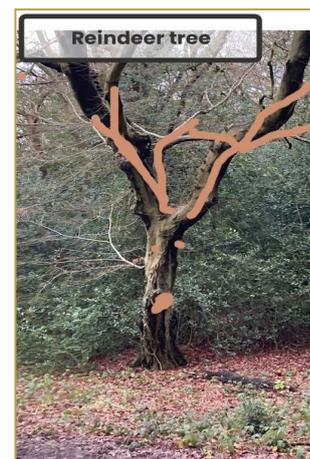


Reception have also had fun being Scientists! They have carried out experiments on sinking and floating as well as melting (which did include eating chocolate!) as well as some experiments linked to eggs. They have enjoyed observing changes and thinking about cause and effect.

Pupils are all missing their forest walks that would normally happen every Friday in School. Each week the children have been set a 'forest walk challenge', such as looking for signs of winter. One of these challenges involved finding trees that look like animals.

During last term, the children were introduced to 'helicopter stories where they have the opportunity to tell a story about anything to an adult who writes it down, and then the children act the story out together. Pupils have all had great fun continuing their helicopter stories from home.

The children's favourite character is 'Super Water Bottle' which is a character the children created themselves. This is Arabella's helicopter story: *Once upon a time there was a Super Book who went into a dinosaur. And then super pencil came to get him out of the dinosaur. Then a hedgehog and a mouse came, they played and played until it got dark. And then they read a nice story before they went to bed. The End.*



PREHISTORIC ART



Reception have been having lots of fun learning about dinosaurs! The children have each created a dinosaur using shapes they could find around their house. They made shadows using a torch, and built a new home for the dinosaurs. They even designed a new dinosaur and gave it a name. Their creativity has shone through!



YEAR 2 ART



In their Art lessons this half term, Year 2 have been learning about the artist Paul Klee. They have enjoyed creating their own masterpieces inspired by Klee's style and techniques. Well done Year Two!



#BIGGARDENBIRDWATCH

Pupils of the School Council supported the work of the RSPB over the last weekend of January by taking part in the 'Big Garden Bird Watch'. The children looked for birds from their windows and gardens, and even went to local parks on a walk. Miss Stone was really pleased with the effort the School Council went to whilst bird watching and helping the RSPB charity. Reception Class all took part and even made birdfeeders for the event from the helpful instructions given by Mrs Allen. There were such a variety of birds seen over this time and the RSPB are grateful for our help. A big 'well done' and 'thank you' to Reception Class and School Council!



YEAR 3 HOME LEARNING NEWS

How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth During English lessons, Year 3 have been learning about 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. They have now written their own instructions describing how they would wash their woolly mammoth and some children have even created their own model of a woolly mammoth. The children have really enjoyed learning about this topic, and with home learning, have even had the opportunity to dress-up and record themselves re-telling the story. Poppy said 'I've loved learning all about woolly mammoths and particularly enjoyed acting out the story!'



Copper Children Year 3 have been studying about The Bronze Age and Iron Age this term and have learnt all about the process of making bronze, and why it was used to make tools and weapons. To create bronze during the Bronze Age, children would have to mine for copper which would then be mixed with tin. The children in Year 3 all chose to 'apply' for the role of 'Copper Child', where they had to complete an application form and a video interview to share why they would be the best child for the job! Mr Grant and Miss Prebble particularly enjoyed watching the video interviews, and it is safe to say that Year 3 would make fantastic Copper Children. In addition, they have also created their own 3D models of tools and weapons that would have been used during the Bronze Age and have enjoyed sharing them with each other.

Maths Investigations Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly Maths investigations, where they have to 'think outside the box' to answer some challenging Maths problems. Over the past few weeks, they have been focussing on shape and measurement investigations and have even created their own non-standard units to measure items in. We had some fantastic ideas being sent in to us, including using Ferrero Rocher and toy cars to measure different items. The children are really enjoying the practical element of their learning and have shown that these investigations can be taken out of the classroom and can be solved using many different household resources! Francesco said 'I really enjoy being able to use items from my house to complete my work!'



Roy Lichtenstein Art This term, the children have been learning all about the famous artist Roy Lichtenstein, looking at some of his well-known pieces of artwork as well as experimenting with many new techniques to build on their current skills. The children collated all their learning from the topic and created their very own pieces of artwork based around the style of pop art, which was started in New York by some famous artists including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist, and Claes Oldenburg. To create their final pop art piece, the children had to come up with their own version of ben day dots. They did this very creatively, experimenting with lots of different materials and techniques they could find, including bubble wrap, forks, cotton buds and Lego. The work produced has been phenomenal, both teachers and parents were particularly pleased with how well the children responded to the task and it was wonderful to see how much the children loved this topic. A huge well done to Year 3 for their super art work.



WINTER FUN

During the recent spell of wintry weather the Reception children really enjoyed spending time in the snow! Lots made snowmen and threw snowballs. They also had the challenge of making an ice ornament over the weekend using different natural materials. The ornaments all looked amazing and the children then observed how long it took for them to melt in their gardens.



YEAR 6 ART

This half term, children continued with their Op Art at home and used different techniques to give various effects alongside depth to their artwork. Pupils completed a hand tracing activity where they only used lines and colours to give their work a 3D effect.

For a collage, children worked on different animals and completed their collages with whatever was available at home. Their results were impressive and very creative! It was lovely to see how Year 6 children at Normanhurst paid attention to detail and took their time giving their drafts finer effects.



ISA ART SUCCESS

We were delighted to hear about the fantastic success of ten Normanhurst entries to this year's ISA Art Regional Competition.

We had winning entries right across the school, from Reception Class to Year 11, and in a wide variety of techniques from painting, drawing, textiles, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

On hearing about the Reception Class success, Reception teacher Mrs. Allen said 'Each child is unique and created their own flower in their own way and the flowers were all put together to show the class united together even when we can't be united in person. We have a class of amazing artists!'

We are so inspired and so proud of the talent of all the students at Normanhurst. It is a fantastic achievement to see their hard work recognised. Keep being creative!

The first place winners in their category:

Clementine (Yr 1) in the Textiles category for her *Bit n' Bobs* weaving
Rosa (Yr 7) in the Textiles category for her large scale woven work *Leftovers*

Roxy (Yr 8) in the Photography category for her *Contrast* image

Eva (Yr 10) in the 2D Art category for her two-colour reduction print *Revealed Life*

Alex (Yr 11) in the Textiles category for his *Class Portraits* drawn with a sewing machine



Clementine: *Bit n' Bobs*



Rosa: *Leftovers*



Alex: *Class Portraits*



Eva: *Revealed Life*



Roxy: *Contrast*

ISA ART SUCCESS continued

The second place winners in their category:

Reception Class in the Group 2D category for their beautifully painted *Bunch of Flowers*

Joseph (Yr 7) in the Photography category for his *Details* image

Highly commended winners in their category:

Yusuf K (Yr 9) in the Drawing category for his self portrait *Me, Myselfie & I*

Elliot (Yr 11) in the Sculpture category for his mixed media work *Hand & Face*

Sam (Yr 11) in the Drawing category for *Perspectives and Points of View*



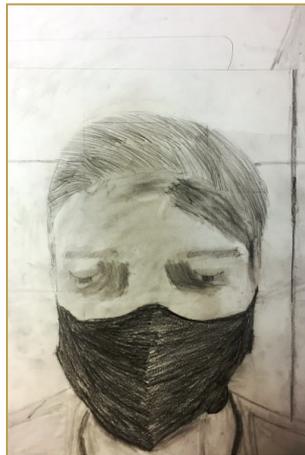
Joseph: *Details*



Sam: *Perspectives and Points of View*



Reception: *Bunch of Flowers*



Yusuf K: *Me, Myselfie & I*



Elliot: *Hand & Face*

SEASONS OF CHANGE



Year 5 have been learning about Space in their Science lessons, and so far they have learnt about the planets and our solar system.

In a recent lesson, they have learnt about the reasons that seasons change and have looked at the changes that happen in nature during the seasons. Have a look at Selina's 'tree in all four seasons'; what a beautiful piece of art work for her Science lesson! Well done!

PIRATES!

This half term, Mrs Kazim has sent recorded Drama lessons for students to complete at home with their parents, siblings or on their own. The theme was Pirates and activities have ranged from Drama exercises, role-plays, mime tasks and improvisations. We have received a creative range of evidence from students who have gone above and beyond expectations, adding their own costumes, sets, lighting and sound effects to accompany their imaginative performances. We are really proud of all your efforts and thoroughly enjoyed reviewing all the work!



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

During the remote learning time, Year 5 celebrated Martin Luther King Day. After researching him and his life, Year 5 had a go at writing their own 'I have a dream' speeches.

Miss Stone was blown away by the kindness and care shown in the speeches for the friends, family and wider community of the pupils. There were many dreams of future careers, helping charities, looking after each other in a variety of ways, climate change and respect. Let's hope they all come true! Take a look at Pablo's dream for our future:

I have a dream, that tomorrow when I wake up, I can get up and go to school.
I mean actually and literally.
I have a dream, that we will run around before lesson and at breaks, and eat school dinners!
I have a dream, to see my school friends and teachers in real life, and not in boxes on my iPad and for only precious minutes.
I have a dream, that we can all rush to the school gates, to see our parents waiting to take us home for tea.
I have a dream, that this Super COVID 19 nightmare is over, and no one else gets infected or dies.
I have a dream, that the cure for it is found and that no other pandemic pops up in mine or my decedents' lifetimes.
Now to bed and lets wake up to that dream.

Getting Social



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This year's Children's Mental Health Week was 1-7 February, and the theme was 'Express Yourself'. At Normanhurst, pupils from Reception to Year 7 were invited to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas in creative ways, by choosing from a range of activities which they could take part in from 2pm each day.

Mrs Prior has collated the emails that so many children sent in, showing the diverse ways they chose to take screen breaks and do something positive for their mental health. She has been hugely impressed by all the creative activities (the photos of some amazing baking were particularly mouth-watering!), and she would like to pass on this message about the importance of looking after our mental health, especially at the moment.

So many of you have embraced the different activities and the challenges. Well done and thank you for making time to express yourself.

Coronavirus, and the measures to control it, have brought many changes to children and young people's lives, especially to those areas which we know to be important for their mental health and wellbeing.

Expressing yourself is about finding creative ways to share feelings, thoughts or ideas. This may be through painting, journaling, dancing, or maybe just having a chat with a friend.

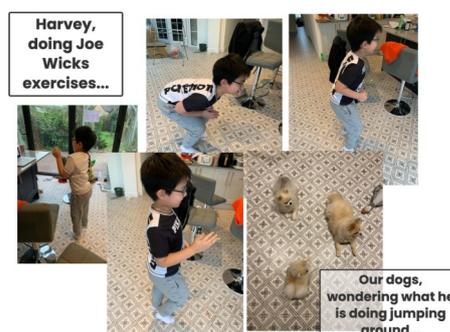
There may be many ways we choose to express ourselves. It may change depending on the situation we find ourselves in and will be different to others. The most important thing is finding what works for you, in that moment, so you feel comfortable sharing your thoughts and feelings.

Normanhurst School has lots of trained people available to listen to you and be available to share your thoughts and experiences. We even have a lovely new room available to chat in. Please get in touch jprior@normanhurstschool.co.uk if you need to talk or have concerns.

Mrs Prior
PSHE Coordinator



Selina's baking afternoon



Harvey keeping fit physically and mentally



Ilayda baked red velvet cupcakes



Pupils chose reading, helping to cook a family meal and even making a sock puppet as their mental health activities

MAKING THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Year 5 were busy over the Christmas period creating Solar System Dioramas. Miss Stone was overwhelmed by the imagination and skills shown in the creations. The class have been showing their works of art over zoom and discussing how they created the solar systems, including what equipment they needed, how long it took them, where the equipment came from and who helped with the project. Once we return to school, Mrs Job and Ms Parrot will help Miss Stone pick the top five dioramas. Well done to all of Year 5!



ISA YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION

This year the ISA Young Musician competition went online. Instead of playing in a concert hall, students had to submit a video to the judges. For Normanhurst, Nicolas in Year 6 represented the junior school, playing one of his Grade 5 viola pieces, 'Hungarian Rondo' by Joseph Haydn, and Lucy in 10C represented the senior school, playing a Grade 8 piece, Haydn's 'Violin Concerto in G Major'.

Taking part in a virtual competition was certainly interesting. Finding a socially distanced accompanist (thank you to Ms Savage and her husband!) and keeping to the strict three minute time limit for the video was challenging, but both pupils performed brilliantly. Well done!



YEAR 5 ART



Year 5 have been studying the work by Czech artist, Ludek Pesek, who is noted for his artistic work linked to space and other cosmic elements. Over the term so far, they have used many different materials to recreate some of his most famous pieces. In their most recent Art lesson, they used collaging skills to create themselves as an astronaut bouncing around in space. Well done to all!



A MESSAGE FROM MR DOGRAR ...

'Dear Juniors,

As you may be aware, there is a recent change to our Master Reader Challenge for all year groups from Year 1 to Year 6. We have decided that there should be a special reward to mark your success and progress when you complete half of the challenge.

We wanted to make it a special one! So, after you have read your 25th book and your teacher is happy with your progress, you will receive a book signed by one of the teachers in the school. It will be one of their favourite books and they will include a special message in it – just for you!

Until you've received it, you won't know which teacher it will come from or what book it will be! A little surprise to look forward to!

Just a general reminder that our 50 book challenge, called 'Master Reader Challenge', encourages children in every year group (Y1-Y6) to read 50 books in an academic year. The books are recorded on a template by the pupil/parent and confirmed by their teacher. This is different to their reading record books. We do not provide a 'must-read' book list, but we do encourage children to choose books that are appropriate for their age/ability to challenge themselves. The teacher may ask to replace some of the books that are on the log if they think the books are not challenging enough. If you are unsure about a book, please contact your class teacher in advance.

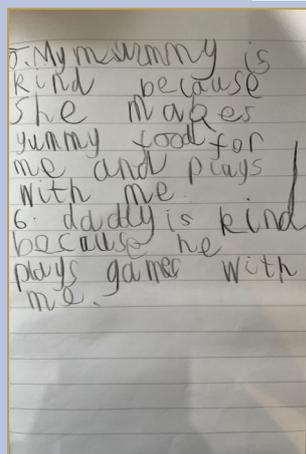
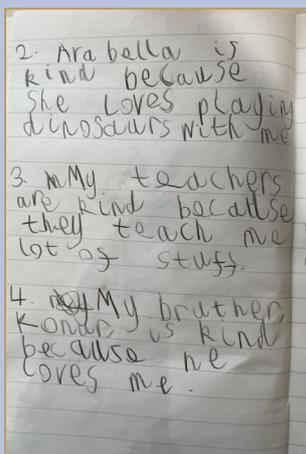
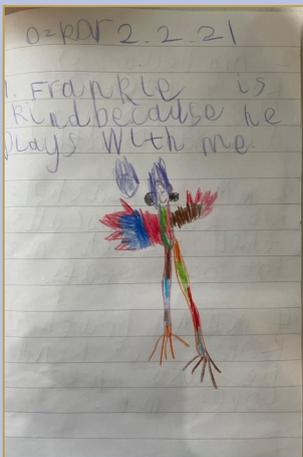
Children receive a certificate for every 10 books they read, with the 50th book's certificate handed at the end of the year with a Master Reader Challenge badge to be proudly worn on their blazers.

With the recent change, children will now receive a special reward after reading their 25th book. They will still receive their special book, if your child has already read their 25th book this academic year or completed the challenge. This will be arranged once we are back to school after the lockdown. Happy reading!'

Click [HERE](#) to watch Mr Dograr's recent reading assembly.

HOW TO BE KIND

In Reception, the children have been basing their work on a story called 'Here We Are' which is all about looking after the planet and the people and animals on it. One task was to think of the people that are kind to them and write down how they are kind. We had some lovely responses, including one who said, "she is kind because she picks me up when I fall down".

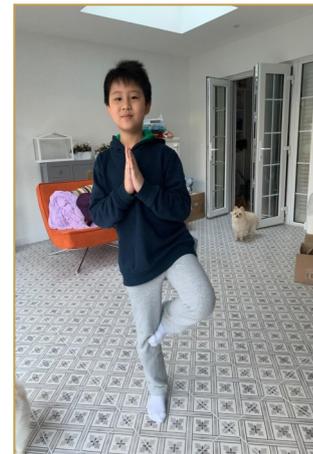


NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT



Rugby Fitness Challenge Pupils in Years 5 and 6 recently took part in a fitness challenge based around the rugby premiership. Pupils had the power to lead their own learning and make their own choices in choosing rugby based fitness challenges where the aim was to collect as many rugby balls as possible by completing challenges at different difficulty levels. There were many outstanding efforts by the pupils and it has been great to see them making progress and taking ownership of their learning at home.

Tic Tac Toe Yoga Pupils in Years 3 and 4 have been looking at research and carrying out some yoga skills whilst at home. This culminated in a lesson of the classic game Tic Tac Toe whereby pupils had to complete different yoga poses for varying amounts of time at their own challenge level. We saw pupils play against siblings, parents and even virtually against other pupils in their class which was brilliant to see!



Junior Movement Challenge Each week, all pupils in Years 3-6 have been set the challenge of covering as much distance as possible by cycling, walking or running. This has been a great success with many pupils taking part and also covering some huge distances, so well done to everyone who has taken part and earned their house lots of housepoints! Special mentions go to Lucy (4C) and Lachlan (3G) for consistently outstanding efforts!



Physical Education Home Learning Throughout this half term of home learning, pupils have been doing some amazing work from home. We have been sent pictures of obstacle courses, fitness circuits, Pilates, yoga, active bingo and gymnastic routines to name a few.

We would really like to thank all the parents who are enabling and encouraging their children to remain active during this current period of home schooling.

SAVE THE ELEPHANTS

Over the past couple of weeks, the children in Year 4 have been learning all about persuasive devices in English. They have really enjoyed exploring how alliteration, facts, opinions, rhetorical questions, emotive language, statistics and the rule of three can help make a piece of persuasive writing more effective.

Pupils applied their new knowledge of persuasive devices, and wrote compelling arguments directed against the illegal poaching of elephants for their ivory. You can read Perry's very convincing piece of writing [here](#).

