



## December 2021

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## Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

I cannot believe how quickly the Autumn term has gone. It has been busy in the lead up to the festive period and has been very exciting for all those involved. This year we have had the opportunity to be able to celebrate the festive period while inviting parents and grandparents to our festive celebrations. We truly appreciate everyone who has attended an event, as performing in front of a live audience can never be replaced. The pupils and staff have really enjoyed learning lines, performing and singing. It has been a wonderful way to start the festive season.

The second half of the term has been busy starting with the arrival of our Christmas tree, festive fun day, the return of the visiting pantomime at school for the junior pupils, the Winter Sparkle music event, the Wiggly Nativity performances and once again, the return of the Festive Carol Service at Saint Peter's and Saint Paul's Church.

I hope you would truly agree that all these performances have been absolutely fantastic, creating special memories and opportunities for pupils to shine. This has definitely been a proud moment for our school community. At this time of year we do not forget those in our local community and in doing so, we have created our Christmas video for the Spinney care home, along with some fantastic Christmas cards addressed individually to every resident. This year we have also included extra fundraising events to support our local food bank, thinking of others in challenging times and reflecting upon how lucky we are.

I would like to commend the Year 11 pupils for the maturity and determination shown leading up to and including the mock examinations. Alongside this would also be our junior pupils who have been completing their assessments. They should all be proud of their efforts, as much as we are.

The December edition of the newsletter promises to be a bumper addition. This will give you an indication of the many opportunities the pupils have enjoyed in the second half of the Autumn term. We have very much enjoyed organising these experiences as part of extending and enjoying learning.

I would like to wish our Normanhurst families a peaceful and joyful festive season, please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. The spring term begins for pupils on Thursday 6 January.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Jacqueline Job**  
Headmistress

## FESTIVITIES IN EARLY YEARS

In Early Years the festive season started with our celebration of the season on Festive Fun Day. There was cookery, show and tell, stories, music and singing. We enjoyed practising and performing our Wriggly Nativity, and for the children the highlight was a visit from Father Christmas himself! This time of the year is full of awe and wonder for our children and we love being able to share it with them.



**Christmas time in Station Road**

On the last Friday of term, Kindergarten took a walk along Station Road looking for signs of the festive season. The children enjoyed seeing the big blue Christmas tree and the Nativity scene at the church, but the winner was the singing and dancing Father Christmas. Then it was time to go back to school for hot chocolate and a cake from the charity cake sale!

Then, on the final Monday, the children took another walk along Station Road, this time in the opposite direction to the post office, to post the letter they had written in the morning to Father Christmas. They wrote about all the things they would like him to bring them, and then waited with excited anticipation to see if they would receive a reply.



**It was lovely to perform the nativity to our friends and families**

In the last full week of term it was finally time for the much anticipated infant nativity play. The children from Kindergarten to Year 2 performed a wonderful musical play called 'The Wriggly Nativity' to celebrate the Christmas story.



**Posting our letter to Father Christmas**

Each class sang a song, with Year 1 dressed as the stable animals. Year 2 added Christmas sparkle in their festive jumpers. Reception were angels, shepherds and sheep. Kindergarten were our 'twinkling stars' and they created a tableau as the story was told by the Year 2 narrators.

The children and staff really enjoyed the performances, especially as we were able to perform to an audience of family and friends. It was a lovely modern version of the Nativity which finished with the traditional 'Away in a Manger'.



**The traditional nativity scene**

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the production, with special thanks to Mrs Parrott and her Year 9 helpers, Margarida and Sophie, who created the scenery for the performances.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope it goes with a bang, just like our 'Wriggly Nativity'!



**Some traditional and not so traditional nativity animals!**



## RECEPTION NEWS

Reception are enjoying the Maths carousels they do every week, combining all the learning together from the week, going round to different stations to complete activities. One week was a shape based carousel and the activities consisted of creating a picture using shapes, playing a game on the iPads, filling outlines of shapes by combining different shapes together as well as spotting how many different shapes they can see in a picture. They also learnt a key word, 'vertices', which they love using when describing shapes. Cem said "A square has four vertices and four sides".



Inayah's shape picture



Exploring how chocolate melts



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... !

We have also explored the Arctic and Antarctic and have been learning about the very topical issue of climate change, thinking about how we can help the environment. We looked at the key word 'melting' and discussed changing states of matter from solid to liquid and back to solid again through some chocolate based experiments. It got very messy! We created some beautiful artwork which went up on our winter themed display. In our classroom we have a 'wonderwall' where we put all the questions children want to know about. Emma asked "How do penguins keep warm?" We then researched this and completed an experiment where the children put one hand into 'blubber' in to the ice and the other just in a plastic bag. They soon felt the difference because the hand in the blubber was keeping warm and the other one was very cold! Now we understand how penguins keep warm.



Our Winter Art display!

We have enjoyed lots of festive crafts including decorating a mini Christmas tree and making our own hanging Christmas tree with decorated baubles on.

## LACHLAN'S SKATING PERFORMANCE

Year 4 pupil Lachlan has been ice skating since the age of four, after being bitten by the skating bug on a fun outing with his nursery friends. For the last three years he has been coached in skating and ice dancing with his partner Sophia

He and his partner recently had their debut ice dancing performance at the opening of Fairlop Winter Village. It was a long, cold and tiring day as they had to practise from 11am, and got to perform at 3.40pm, but they had a great time, performed really well and even got to meet the local mayor. As Sophia is moving away soon, this was their last chance to perform together.

Lachlan expects to complete his British Ice Skating Gold Level Skating grade in January and will be looking for a new dance partner in 2022. Well done Lachlan, we're all very proud of you!



Lachlan and his partner performing at the Fairlop Winter Village

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Jessica's project was on British army officer William Tull

October was Black History Month and we reported in our last newsletter on the variety of learning that took place across the school on black history. However, we omitted to share Year 2's activities!

In class the Year 2 children researched Barack Obama and wrote a biography on him. Then, during the half term break, they used their research skills to find out about an influential person from black history of their choosing. As you can see here, the children produced some fantastic projects—well done!



Maya researched her namesake, the acclaimed writer Maya Angelou



James chose tennis ace Serena Williams for his project

## YEAR 3 ARE PALAEOLOGISTS!

In Science this half term, Year 3K have been learning about Rocks and Fossils. The class have studied the different types of rocks and how fossils are formed. The children learnt all about the palaeontologist Mary Anning who found fossils on a beach in Lyme Regis in the 1800s!

Year 3K enjoyed being palaeontologists themselves when they hunted for their own fossils in class! The children were split into three groups to dig for their fossils and found the remains of six different types of dinosaurs!

We think that the activity has inspired some of the children to become palaeontologists when they grow up!



Our excavated dinosaurs

## THE SPINNEY

The pupils at Normanhurst School have been missing their weekly visits to The Spinney Care Home. To bring them a little 'Christmas Cheer', the pupils have been creating cards and decorations personalised to each resident at The Spinney. Two Year 6 prefects delivered these to The Spinney reception for them to give to the residents. Pupils across the juniors and seniors also created a video of poems, songs and stories for them to watch.

We cannot wait to see them again in person but hope that in the meantime, the decorations, cards and videos bring them some much needed Christmas Cheer this festive season.

Alexandra and Kenya delivering Christmas Cheer to the Spinney



## YEAR 4 METEOROLOGISTS

Year 4 pupils have continued to put their Meteorologist hats on and have been investigating how to measure and describe cloud cover! On the afternoon of Tuesday 16 November, the children took their learning into the playground and used an okta grid to measure the cloud coverage in Chingford. They were amazed to find out about the different types of cloud.

Measuring cloud cover



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLUB



Snow globes

Children in Reception to Year 6 have been working hard each week with Miss Stone and other Junior teachers. They have attended Christmas Craft Club since we came back after the half term break and have produced a variety of Christmas themed craft items using various media. There have been some new arts and crafts methods introduced and a range of skills learnt over the weeks. As you can see, they all did extremely well and produced some beautiful craft.



Gem art



Framed photo decorations



Hama bead decorations

In Week 1, the pupils created snow globes and used fine motor skills to create 'scratch pad art'. Week 2 saw the pupils create beautiful sequin and gem art characters to hang in their homes and on their trees. During Week 3, their sewing skills were put to the test as they were learning the skill of cross stitching on a wooden Christmas tree. In Week 4, the pupils became Christmas Elves and made their own keyrings and toys to play with at home. In Week 5 the pupils were photographers and framed pictures of themselves as a Christmas character. In week 6, the pupils' fine motor skills were put to the test as they created Hama Bead decorations. In their final week, the pupils made Nativity scenes and wreaths to share with their friends and families!

Penguins and Christmas wreaths



## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair visited Normanhurst just before we broke up for our Christmas holidays. After a brief break from our book fairs due to lockdowns, this was our second fair and a much anticipated one. Each junior year group from Year 1 onwards had the opportunity to visit the book fair with their teachers and browse all our available books. EYFS had the opportunity to view before their nativity performance.

There was a wide range of books and many genres to discover! Over £400 was raised for our school as a result of the high interest from pupils. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who made a purchase, and we hope that you enjoy your books over the holidays.

## CAROL SERVICE

Normanhurst came together to celebrate as a school the end of term with our traditional Christmas carol service and nativity.

This year the traditional story was told a little differently. God and the angels got Covid and so the special message was shared with Mary by an imp. The imp decided to change the name of baby Jesus who became Jeffrey. The three kings were present although one was pinged and needed to self-isolate, but that was not a problem as another king, Elvis, was drafted in. The story had lots of twists and turns but the message was still presented with acting, singing and a beautiful piece by the orchestra. Thank you to all who took part and played an extra special piece about love, hope and joy.



**There are not many nativities that include a guest appearance from Elvis!**



**The carol service was the perfect end to the festive activities**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the retiring collection; a massive £360 was raised for our three chosen charities.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to everyone.

## CHARITY NEWS

**Non Uniform Days** On Friday 10 December, National Christmas Jumper Day, Normanhurst pupils paid approximately £2 each to wear Christmas-themed clothing, raising £294.95 for our chosen charities. What a treat we had with all the different Christmas jumpers! Who knew there was so many different designs?

Then, on the last morning of term it was lovely to see pupils in non-uniform once again, raising a further £287.30 towards our charities. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated.

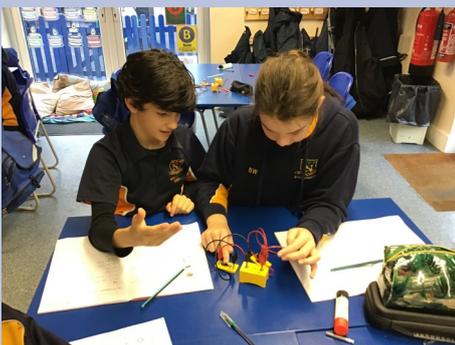
**Cake Sale** The children and staff all pulled together to raise money for the local food bank, The Trussell Trust. Thank you to all who donated the vast array of cakes and goodies, and to the Charity Committee, Year 6 and Miss Stone for their hard work in setting up and selling the fare. The fantastic amount of £190 was raised.



## YEAR 6 NEWS

**Anderson Shelters** Over the half-term break, Year 6 continued their learning on the History topic and were given the task to research and build a model of a World War Two Anderson Shelter. The Year 6 pupils did not disappoint! They had the freedom to choose size and material and the variety of shelters was impressive.

The shelters had to pass a series of three tests given by Miss Stone. The first test was that the shelter had to be big enough for a LEGO person to fit through the door, the second test was the shelter had to be able to withstand the weight of a 1kg weight, and the third and final test was being able to be tipped upside down without anything falling off or out of the shelter. After some nerve-wracking moments, all of the shelters passed the tests! The Year 6 pupils were very pleased with their builds and could go onto a career in model building!



The power of electricity

**Electricity** This term, Year 6 have been learning about Electricity in Science. After a lesson learning about the history of electricity, some influential scientists and also learning about voltage, they got the chance to create their own circuits. Working in pairs, they had to create three individual circuits that would power a lightbulb, a motor and a buzzer. They had the added challenge to use a switch to control the circuit. After learning about the different symbols used to draw a circuit they were then able to draw their own circuits that they had created. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed creating their own circuits and understood the power of electricity!

Then, in a recent lesson, pupils worked in small groups using their expertise to create series circuits that power small machines, lights and buzzers. They loved having the opportunity to show their skills and make things work just by connecting wires.

**Food Technology** Year 6 were learning about the ways to stay safe and healthy when cooking and preparing food in their recent lesson. They learnt about the correct way to clean a surface and how to hold a knife and prepare food. They made food with a Christmassy theme including 'Snowballs', 'Santa Hats' and 'Reindeer Cupcakes'. They used a variety of healthy fruits and sweet treats to form their creations. The pupils were all very sensible when cleaning and preparing their work stations and when using the equipment. They enjoyed eating the food as much as they enjoyed making it. Well done Year 6!

**Anti-Bullying Rap** To mark Anti-Bullying Week, Year 6 wrote raps to promote stopping bullying. They learnt about the theme of Anti-Bullying Week which this year is 'One Kind Word', and they wrote their raps in small groups about this theme. They learnt that kindness is more important today than it has ever been; we have seen this past year how little acts of kindness can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons that 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying Week. They had some time to practise, and then performed their raps to their peers. Take a look at the video of their performances on the school website under News.



Kenya's well camouflaged Anderson shelter



Adam was proud of his reindeer cupcakes



Sienna, Bella and Selina perform their anti-bullying rap

## YEAR 7 TRIP TO STANSTED MOUTFITCHET CASTLE

We were incredibly lucky to have warm sunny weather for our morning trip to Mountfitchet Castle, which is a national Historic Monument, protected by the Department of the Environment. It is a reconstruction of a Motte and Bailey Castle, the early style of wooden castle first built by the Normans in their conquest of England following the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



**Callan trying his hand at medieval craft**



**Armaan trying out the stocks for size**

Armed with a worksheet, the pupils set off to explore the site and discover what life was like for those living in these early castles. This included examining the approach to the castle, its defences and weaknesses, finding out why charcoal was important, the value of having an eel pond, the medieval kitchen, the weaver's and surgeon's houses, the Hell-Hole and the Ducking Stool. The site also has a number of chickens and goats within the Bailey of the castle. The pupils were amused as a goat devoured a worksheet. Teachers had to warn the pupils that they would not accept 'the goat ate my worksheet' as an excuse for not handing in a completed sheet.

## YEAR 9 CHRISTMAS MEAL

In what has become something of an end of term tradition, on Friday 10 December all of Year 9 went for a meal at the Touch of Greek on Station Road. This was a wonderful opportunity to socialise and celebrate all our successes over the last term.

A massive thank you to the owners of Touch of Greek who opened especially early for us. The pupils loved the food and had a great time!



**Year 9's celebratory lunch**

## STAGECOACH SUCCESS

Normanhurst siblings, Dylan (7P) and Nina (4S) recently shared with us news of their long association with Stagecoach Performing Arts School. Dylan has received his Six Year Attendance Certificate and Nina achieved her Five Year Certificate.

At the awards presentation, the children had the opportunity to perform their Musical Theatre examination piece, which they will also perform at the Millfield Theatre in the spring.

In her own words, Nina explained what she enjoys about Stagecoach. "At Stagecoach I do drama, singing and dancing. I most enjoy drama and dancing, I really loved learning the Hard Knock Life dance. I really love going to Stagecoach and am excited to see what performances we will do next year."

What a wonderful achievement! Well done to you both and good luck for your performance in the spring!

**Nina and Dylan with their Stagecoach certificates**



## WINTER SPARKLE CONCERT

Last week we held the first in a series of informal concerts designed to give all our pupils, from beginners to more advanced, an opportunity to prepare and perform a piece to a live audience.

'Winter Sparkle' had a winter theme and started with a beautiful solo from Olivia. Then Year 6 got the chance to share what they had been learning in music lessons; all of them had been given an orchestral instrument to learn and were very proud to play for their families. A piano duet from Kehanique and Francesca followed, as well as two lovely guitar solos from Mert and Kaylan.

Our junior orchestra entertained us with a lullaby played to a rock and roll rhythm, then the senior choir and senior orchestra performed a couple of festive favourites - "Winter Wonderland" and "Frosty the Snowman".

The evening ended with everyone joining in for a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells.

Very well done to all the performers, it was a fantastic evening.

**Florence added sparkle to the Winter Sparkle concert**



## NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

**House Football** Pupils have been taking part in inter-house sports competitions and in the last full week of term it was the turn of House football. The final results will be published in the next newsletter. However in the matches so far Warren are narrowly leading. The photograph shows action from a Years 5/6 match which had to take place indoors due to the heavy rain during the Games lesson. The match ended in an exciting 3-3 draw, with excellent goals from Palesa (Y5) and Orson (Y6). Well done everyone who has taken part.



On Tuesday 7 December a number of young aspiring female athletes in Years 9, 10 and 11 attended F45 to partake in a circuit led by two enthusiastic qualified coaches. During this trip pupils underwent a gruelling but enjoyable session where they had the opportunity to express themselves through exercise. In this time they also acquired knowledge, and an understanding of various exercises, the muscles targeted and safe lifting techniques. At the end of the session pupils not only received a free bottle, but were seemingly happy through the large smiles expressed. This created a real sense of fulfilment and pupils have mentioned that they would like to do it again. Let's see what the future holds!



**A closely fought house football match**



**U11 football team**

**U11 LBWF Football Tournament** The whole Borough of Waltham Forest came together on a bitter Friday morning at Goals in Chingford. We played four games, winning one, drawing one and losing two, with our win coming against Thomas Gamuel and our draw against Handsworth. The boys showed great determination throughout with some great individual performances from Leo and Matteo in Year 6, well done boys! We now look forward to rugby and hockey after Christmas with fixtures and tournaments coming thick and fast!

**U11 A & B Football v Forest** On 6 December the Under 11 football teams took to the field in a local derby against Forest School. Strangely, despite matching the quality of Forest School, the score over two games was 5-1 in favour of Forest. The pupils were an absolute credit to themselves as they continued to work hard and impressively kept possession of the ball in tight spaces. The team recognise that going forward there are many positives, and with the appropriate tactical sessions we will achieve the results we want.

## CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

The children from Kindergarten to Year 6 were treated to a brand new show full of festive spirit when we were visited by a touring pantomime company. In the show the two elves laugh and play until that fateful day when Jack Frost comes along and casts a spell to turn one of our heroes just a little bit naughty!

Everyone enjoyed the pantomime experience with lots of laughter. Thank you to the NSPA for funding this Christmas treat for the children.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

On 7 and 8 December, all pupils participated in a Christmas feast fit for royalty. Seated at beautifully set tables, they were served traditional Christmas fare by the staff. They pulled Christmas crackers and enjoyed telling the jokes to all of their friends and staff. We heard tons of laughter by all pupils and discussed how grateful they were. We enjoyed listening to Christmas music and the pupils sung along filling the room with their amazing voices. It was a great time to kick off Christmas and it was done with a bang.

Both the children and staff appreciated all of the effort the kitchen staff put into making this joyous event possible.



Year 2 enjoying their Christmas lunch



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association

### NSPA

Dear Parents

And so ends 2021! We were not able to meet as much as had hoped, but have ended the year on a bang, with a pantomime visit from Buzzlewitz and his Elf friends - paid for by the NSPA. We also provided the Juniors and Seniors with their Christmas goodies, which were very well received. Thank you very much for helping to contribute towards both these lovely gestures for the children.

We were extremely pleased to be asked to fund the new playground markings over the summer holidays, and it's lovely to hear that this caused much excitement when the children returned to school in September, with many inventive new games being created. The final excitement of the year came on Tuesday afternoon with the draw of our first online raffle. Five lucky winners were recipients of a wonderful collection of prizes, so please look out for similar online raffles from us in the future!

The events for 2022 are already lining up, and dates for your diary so far are the Juniors' disco to be held on Friday 4 February, and an extra special school barbeque on Saturday 21 May.

Please also remember that the NSPA is in charge of the second-hand uniform sales, and all money from this goes towards NSPA-funded events and activities for the children. Our next uniform sales stall will be on Tuesday 1 February, or alternatively, please place an order through the school office.

Until next time, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and here's to a better and more social 2022.

Best wishes

**The NSPA Committee**