



Norfolk House School

NEWSLETTER

END OF SPRING HALF-TERM 2017

Dear Parents,

17th February 2017

Looking back over our first half of the Spring Term, our pupils have been involved in a range of enjoyable activities to enhance their learning with a visit by the Fire Service for pupils in Transition and Reception as well as a Safer Internet Day whole school assembly to raise awareness of safe usage at home and in school. The school became a scene of calm and reflection when we celebrated our themed Mindfulness Day as a way of teaching pupils about focusing concentration and attention and how to be reflective learners.

Once again, the project work produced by Years 1–6 as part of the Independent Learning Project was an absolute joy! This term, the topic set was ‘Inspired by Roald Dahl’ and I was particularly enthralled this time around to see how much creativity and originality came through in the pupils’ work. Please do find a moment to come and see the work on display in the hall corridor as well as in the Reception area. Thank you to all our pupils who took part - the competition is the perfect way to remind all our young learners that learning does not just take place in school time, but it is all around them through the wider interests and hobbies they pursue each week.

Chinese New Year proved also to be a very enjoyable experience in school, particularly for our learners in Transition and Reception who made dumplings, learnt to write some Chinese characters and listened to stories about the different animals which make up the calendar. Our most grateful thanks to the parents who both supported and were involved in the event.

The second half of term promises more again, with a Book Day ‘with a difference’ as well as our popular Mother’s Day event to look forward to. Please take time to look at the events listed in the section of the calendar within the newsletter and we look forward to sharing these events with you.

I hope that you have a marvellous half-term break with a chance to re-charge the batteries before the return to school on Monday 27th February.

Mrs Sarah Morris
Headmistress

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Mr George is 99! 2
- Rumble in the Rainforest..... 2
- Chinese New Year 3
- House Times Tables 3
- Ladywood Fire Service 4
- Independent Learning 4
- Mindfulness Day 5
- Kindness 5
- House Music Competition 5
- Cinderella Ballet Workshop 6
- Awards Assembly Winners 6
- Headmistress’ Send-Ups..... 6
- Book Day 6
- Mother’s Day Event 7
- Sainsbury’s Vouchers..... 7
- Photography Day 7
- Creative Writing..... 7
- Parking..... 7
- Child Safety 7
- Key Dates 8



Creating a Snowman

On the 13th January 2017 the children in Transition and Reception made this lovely snowman. For some of the children, it was the first time they had seen snow so they really enjoyed their time playing in the snow and creating it.



Mr George is 99 Years old!



In the Reception class, we began the New Year with a very special birthday. On the 9th January, 2017 Mr George was 99 years old!

Previously the children in the Reception class had learned about Mr George, who is a veteran of the Second World War. Last November on the 11th, Remembrance Day, we used Skype to talk to Mr George about his medals and flying spitfire aeroplanes etc.

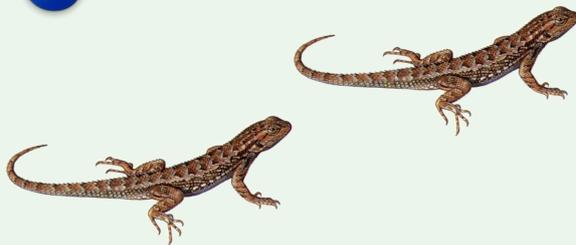
We were delighted to be able to use Skype once more to wish Mr George a very happy 99th birthday. The children sang happy birthday to him and Mr George thanked the children for making a lovely birthday card for him.



Reporter: Mrs R. Hifle



Rumble in the Rainforest



Our Year 1 pupils have been creating a whole class poem over the last few weeks as part of their Rainforest projects and had the opportunity to perform it to Mrs Morris on the 2nd February 2017.

Mrs Morris was really impressed with how well the children were able to recite the poem and also perform with such confidence. The pupils were later able to discuss with Mrs Morris how the use of alliteration helped to improve the sound of the poem when reading it aloud.

Well done, Year 1!

Year 1 perform their poem



Rainforest Animals Display

YEAR 1'S POEM

There's a rumble in the rainforest,
There's a whisper in the trees,
The animals are waking up
And rustling the leaves.

I can see

An angry alligator appearing
A brave bear bouncing
A calm cat calling
A damp donkey dancing
An eager eagle entering
A fat fish falling
A gentle goat galloping
A hard horse hanging
An icy insect inviting
A jolly jellyfish jumping
A kind kangaroo kicking
A large lion laughing
A mean moth missing
A narrow newt nudging
An odd owl obeying
A plain parrot playing
A quiet quail quacking
A right rabbit reaching
A sad shark scaring
A terrific tiger twisting
An ugly unicorn undressing
A violet vulture visiting
A warm whale working
A young yak yelping
A zany zebra zig-zagging.



Chinese New Year

The Early Years Department at Norfolk House School celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Fire Rooster on Friday 27th January which was Chinese New Year's Eve.

Our day was filled with Chinese themed activities such as looking at Chinese artefacts, painting fire roosters, making Chinese dumplings, building the Great Wall of China, tasting fortune cookies and even trying to use chop sticks!

The children also participated in Chinese lion dancing and learnt a Chinese dragon song during their music lesson and made an enormous fire rooster sculpture as an outdoor learning activity.

Just to show how talented our children are we learnt some Chinese words and wrote 'Very Lucky' and 'Happy New Year' in Chinese!

Our parents of Chinese descent were invited to join us for the afternoon to share their knowledge and they kindly brought us treats such as Chinese lucky candies, biscuits and red money packets filled with chocolate coins - thank you very much indeed!



新年快乐
Happy New Year!

Reporter: Mrs Hifle
Head of Lower School



House Times Tables Competition

This term we held our annual House Times Tables competition for all pupils from Year 1 and above attempting to gain valuable points for their House. The competition involved a range of times table questions including inverse operations and algebraic puzzles for the older pupils. The children needed to use their skills of mental agility and accuracy along with their knowledge of the times tables to complete the challenges set by Mr Champs.

Many congratulations go to **Warwick House** who were awarded the latest in our new House competition trophies and to their House Captain, Reyann Harding-Smith, who was presented with the cup.

In addition, the following pupils impressed their teachers by answering the most correct responses for their year groups:-



Well done!

Year 1	Cole Gabriel	Year 4	Mufaddal Kaderbhai
Year 2	Otis Lee	Year 5	Yuvraj Sekhon
Year 3	Raafey Huda	Year 6	Kiran Abram & Elizabeth Shpectorov

Ladywood Fire Service Visit



The children in Transition class were very excited to meet the Fire fighters from Ladywood Fire Service on the 25th January 2017 as part of our 'People who help us' topic.

The children took turns to use the water hose, and learned a special song about fire safety.

The fire fighters even dressed up Miss Stanton as a fire fighter, with special boots, a jacket and a helmet. The children thought that this was very funny. We even had the opportunity to sit inside the fire engine.



The children in Reception also had the opportunity to meet the fire fighters, some of whom they remembered from a previous visit.

Reporter: Miss Stanton

Congratulations to all our winners of Headmistress' Awards for their Independent Learning Projects :

Uthman Ahmed—Year 4

Adarsh Deepak—Year 2

Anjika Duggal—Year 3

Charlotte Gebelin—Year 3

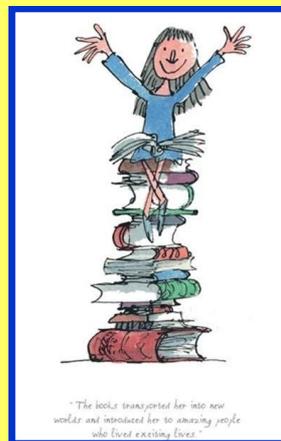
Jean-Louis Gebelin—Year 1

Raafey Huda—Year 3

Gurtej Hunjan—Year 2

Suhana Kumar—Year 4

Benjamin Little—Year 5



Lois Morgan—Year 4

Simran Rana—Year 6

Dylanvir Sivia—Year 1

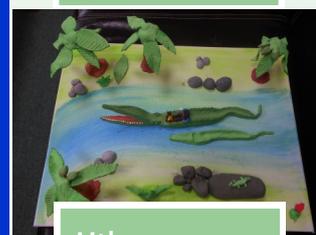
Elizabeth Spectorov—Year 6



Suhana



Gurtej



Uthman



Mindfulness Day



On the 14th February 2017 the school seemed an oasis of calm and concentration with a sense of natural well-being pervading lessons as we celebrated Mindfulness Day. The themed day was aimed at encouraging our pupils to become reflective learners, maintain a positive mental attitude and concentrate the mind upon the present.

For some classes, this involved sampling and tasting foods in a new and exciting way by challenging their senses. In Year 1, the pupils talked about a simple act of eating their fruit at break time and how it can become a celebration of sensations as they gave thought to smelling, tasting and seeing the fruit before enjoying the moment of eating it. For Year 4, the pupils also focused upon the sensation of the eating process, questioning the feel, smell, sense and texture of some food items and describing the moment of eating it and how it felt different once more time is afforded to the process. The pupils were able to contribute their ideas with insight and enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed testing out their new skills with orange segments and chocolate buttons.

For other classes, the focus was upon resting the mind and enjoying the precision and discipline of artwork activities. Year 2 pupils enjoyed their mindfulness colouring task whilst listening to relaxing music and this complemented well with their Religious Education topic on Buddhism. They then proceeded to complete a yoga

session in the Hall. Whilst Year 5 discussed hearing and breathing techniques as part of their mindfulness focus, learning how to be calm and to focus upon the moment. Year 6 pupils impressed with their attention to detail and use of colour in art activities.

In our Early Years classes, the pupils combined their learning with topics on Kindness alongside Valentine's Day to maximise their learning opportunities. In Transition, the children not only enjoyed making Valentine's Day cards, but also shared some lovely compliments about each other. You can find out more about this in Miss Stanton's article. In Reception, the pupils worked in a very relaxing atmosphere with gentle music streamed in the classroom as they created Valentine's Day cards. The children enjoyed earning gift felt hearts for each act of kindness they performed throughout the day.

In a world where we all feel constrained by time, today proved to be a super opportunity to take time out to stop, reflect and truly concentrate the mind on something new and different.



The children in Transition class have been learning about 'kindness' this week. We watched a video clip about Elmo and the Cookie Monster. The Cookie Monster shared his cookies with his friend. We created our own 'kindness cookies'. Every time somebody does something kind for others, we can add another cookie to the class cookie jar. Miss Stanton says that if we put all of the cookies in the jar then they may even turn into real cookies! We have also created some beautiful Valentines cards for our Mummies and Daddies, and made 'friendship bracelets' for our friends. The children had some lovely ideas about what makes a kind friend, and said kind words about their peers during a circle time activity.



Reporter: Miss Stanton

House Music Competition

Pupils in Years 3–6 will be taking part in a House Music competition in March. Each class has been learning a song in their music lessons; Year 3 have 'I Love the Flowers', Year 4 have 'Under the Sea', Year 5 have 'The Bare Necessities' and Year 6 have 'Consider Yourself'.

They have been given the words to learn during the half-term holiday and they will be able to decide whether to sing the whole song or just part of it. Or, if they prefer, they can play something of their own choice on a musical instrument. They will perform their chosen item in their music lesson on the 8th-9th March. The best performance within each House from each class will be selected for the Final, which will be part of the Spring Concert on Wednesday 29th March 2017. In addition to this, any pupils from Years 1 & 2 who wish to take part in the House Music competition will have an opportunity to perform in class during the same week and will also be considered for the Final of the competition. Good luck to all!



Reporter: Mrs Lowe

Cinderella Ballet Workshop

Thursday 16th February, 2017



With one more sleep until the Cinderella Ballet trip to the Hippodrome Theatre the children in the Reception and Year 1 classes were enthralled by a wonderful workshop linked to Birmingham Royal Ballet's tour. Today, to continue our enjoyment and passion for dance, we were extremely fortunate to take part in an inspirational session which was run by Mrs Pickford, a parent of a child at Norfolk House School.



Our young children gasped at the beauty of Cinderella's tutu which cost £2000 to make and then felt the weight of Prince Charming's jacket first hand. We were also intrigued to find



out that the Ugly Sister called *Dumpy* is zipped into a fat-suit for the performance. Mrs Pickford gave us an insight into the scenery and backstage secrets showing us photographs of the 'magic' that takes place as the Fairy Godmother magically appears through the fireplace and makes wishes come true.

Demonstrating the innovative ballet choreography of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, Mrs Pickford mesmerised the boys as she explained the

strength needed for male principal dancers to complete extraordinary ballet lifts. We saw photographs of the mice in the Cinderella production who are just children themselves and then inevitably the workshop had Norfolk House School children scurrying around the hall like mice, stopping on command with feet in *first position*. The children's creativity was further encouraged as they transformed their bodies from a pumpkin shape into various objects. Of course we could not have a ballet class without chanting "Good toes, good toes, yes, yes, yes; naughty toes, naughty toes no, no, no!" whilst perfecting our toe exercises.

A memorable time was had by all and we thank Mrs Pickford sincerely for providing a wonderful balletic experience and inspiring our young children.

Reporter: Mrs Hifle
Head of Lower School



Awards Assembly Winners

At our Awards Assembly each half-term, we look to celebrate the successes of those pupils who have impressed their teachers in each year group from Reception upwards. May I offer my thanks and congratulations to the following pupils for their valuable contributions to the school :-

Reception	Ajay Chana
Year 1	Ava Fisher
Year 2	Yasin Elashry
Year 3	Jamie Atanassov
Year 4	Neha Hans
Year 5	Rumun Kaushal
Year 6	Yuvraj Sekhon

Headmistress' Send-Ups



Year 1
Dylan Dadra
Jaiden Dhillon
Thomas Simmonds

For producing excellent Rainforest pictures

Evangeline Ernest
For her excellent understanding in her Rainforest topic

Year 3
Jamie Atanassov
For his creative writing and use of simile



30 years ago one of the most seminal texts the world has ever seen was published. Yes, 'Where's Wally?' is 30 years old this year!

To celebrate Wally's 30th birthday, we would like all Norfolk House pupils to dress up as the man himself. So, get your red and white striped jumper, blue trousers, bobble hat and glasses ready and join us in a celebration of one of the world's favourite children's book characters on **Thursday 2nd March**.

A letter will be issued separately today to offer further information.

**Friday 24th
March 2017
2.15pm-3.30pm**

**HAPPY
MOTHER'S
Day!**

Mothers (or close female relative) are invited to join the pupils in school on this day.

More information to follow.

Photography Day

On **Friday 10th March 2017** we will be commissioning a new set of photographs of the school site, its pupils and our facilities. Please could we ask for your support in ensuring pupils wear full school uniform on this day and bring a brush/comb in their bags.

We look forward to sharing the new photographs with you in due course.

Creative Writing



On Thursday, 16th February, Year 5 were invited to a Creative Writing Workshop at King Edward's High School for Girls. During the course of the morning, the pupils planned and wrote a short story, supported and guided by Mike Carter, a published author and playwright. All of the pupils were fully involved as Mike led them through the creative process, from initial ideas and planning techniques to finally committing their ideas to paper. Both Ms Allender and myself were delighted with the pupils' enthusiasm and input and this was evident in the quality of the final pieces of writing which they produced. A very worthwhile morning and a good opportunity to give the girls and boys in Year 5 a valuable insight into the senior school world.



Sainsbury's
Active Kids 2017
Eat well • Move well • Live well

From 25 January to 2 May 2017, we will be collecting the Sainsbury's Vouchers and exchanging them for brand new sports equipment.

If you could encourage your family and friends to collect the vouchers for us it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a collection box in the Reception area so please place any vouchers you would like to donate to the school in there.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Platts



Child Safety—Please Note

If your child has not been signed into Breakfast Club (8.00am-8.30am) could you please ensure that you accompany your child at all times until the school is opened at 8.30am by a member of the school staff.

PARKING



We are mindful of the safety of our children so please be aware that the forecourt is not to be used for dropping off pupils between the hours of 8.00am—5.30pm.

May I once again ask for your support with ensuring that the entrance driveways to the Nursery are left clear when parking your cars as even partly obscuring the entrance way can cause access and exit difficulties when turning on to the busy main road. I am very grateful to you for your ongoing support.

Please make a note of these important dates for your diary



- 27.02.17 **School re-opens for half-term (8.50am)**
- 02.03.17 Book Day— 'Where's Wally?' Pupils are invited to dress up as the fictional character Wally.
- 03.03.17 SATIPS Handwriting Competition (Reception to Year 6)
- 04.03.17 Dudley Festival Day—18th & 19th March 2017
Further information to follow from Miss Clark
- 10.03.17 Photography Day—all day. (Photo's to be taken of the school site)
- 16.03.17 'An Introduction to the 11+' Meeting for parents of Year 3 (and 4) (3.00pm-3.30pm). Further information to follow.
- 24.03.17 Mothers' Day Event (2.15pm-3.30pm).
Mothers (or a close female relative) are invited to join the pupils in school on this day.
Further information to follow.
- 27.03.17 No Extra-curricular clubs this week.
Year 6 Bushcraft Meeting for Pupils and Parents (2.45pm-3.30pm).
Further information to follow.
- 29.03.17 Target Card Reports issued to all pupils in Years 1–6.
Spring Concert and House Music Competition (2.15pm-3.30pm)
Further information to follow.
- 30.03.17 Last Swimming lesson for Years 4,5 & 6 this term
- 31.03.17 **School breaks for Easter holidays (12.00 Noon)**
No After School Club available on this day

