



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to Oaklands after the long summer break. I hope you all had a lovely holiday and I can see by the huge smiling faces of many of our parents that you were delighted that the children are back! I think many of the children were keen to meet their new key workers and teachers and settle into their new classrooms.

We operate an 'open door' policy here at Oaklands and staff will always try to make themselves available to listen and talk to parents/carers. For more in depth conversations and discussions, please remember to book an appointment by speaking directly to the member of staff or via the email facility on the website or notes in the reading / homework diaries. I am always happy to talk to parents either first thing in the morning or contact the School Office to arrange a suitable date and time. Communication is vital and the education of your children is very much a team effort!

We welcome parent volunteers at Oaklands. If you would like to help by listening to children read, accompany them on school trips or share your experiences and expertise e.g. talking to the younger children about your work as a dentist or doctor, please contact the School office for further information.

The children are settling well and we look forward to a busy and productive school year.

Cheryl Macnair

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Headmistress

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**First days at
school**



Premises

The summer break has seen many improvements here at Oaklands. The Garden Room has been extended and refurbished and looks fantastic. Transition Rooms have had a facelift with new flooring and new doors. The slope and steps by the main door make the school far more accessible.



The School Day

The doors to School open at 8.30am for all children. Registration for Transition to Year 6 is at 8.45am to enable us to start the day promptly at 8.50am. For our younger children in Lower Kindergarten and Garden Room, the register is normally called a little later at just before 9.00am.

Security and Supervision

Security has always been high on our list of priorities. The gate by the Garden Room has been heightened and the gate to the High Road has a keypad. Once you have dropped your child at School, please leave the premises as soon as possible. The gate to the High Road will be locked at 9.05am. It will be re-opened at 11.50am to allow parents to collect children from Lower Kindergarten and Garden Room. It will be locked again at 1.15pm after the Lower Kindergarten afternoon children have been delivered. The gate will remain locked until 2.50pm. We would respectfully ask that you do not arrive before 2.50pm when collecting the children as we like to make the most of our beautiful grounds and it is sometimes difficult if there are parents waiting on site early in the afternoon. Remember to go to the main School Office to sign in if you have an appointment.

Please make sure that once the children have been handed over to you, they are with you at all times and not wandering the site unsupervised. Remember to keep siblings who may not yet attend Oaklands or attend another school with you. They are your responsibility. The playground, adventure playground and fields are out of bounds unless supervised by a member of staff. Thank you for your co-operation.

Lates/Siblings

Lates / siblings is held in 'Woodpeckers' from 3.05pm to 3.30pm. This facility is open to those parents collecting children who finish at different times or are late picking up due to traffic problems for example. After 3.30pm, the children are taken to Tea Time Club and a possible charge made.

Parking

Unfortunately we have no parking facilities and we rely very much on the courtesy and consideration you show to our neighbours by leaving driveways clear and obeying the highway rules. Many parents park in neighbouring roads e.g. Spring Grove, The Crescent, Algers Road and Andy, our lollipop man will see you safely across the High Road. We do operate an unofficial one-way system whereby cars go up Warren Hill, along Nursery Road and drive down Albion Hill. This does enable us to keep the traffic flowing and avoid congestion outside the main School gate.

Uniform

The summer sun continues and the children will be in summer uniform until after the October half term when the children will return in winter uniform. The new order for bottle green leotards should be available from Forest Casuals at the end of September. Until then the girls can wear their bottle green shorts and white polo shirts for Dance. Please make sure that all items of your child's clothing including shoes are clearly labelled. From our experience, sew-on labels are best as they do not fade after washing; I'm sure that aunties and grandmas could prove to be very helpful in this respect!

Term time holidays

Please be aware that the Department for Education is changing the rules about taking holidays during term times from September 2013. From this date, the law will state that schools in England and Wales are only allowed to permit term time holidays in exceptional circumstances and that otherwise they will be recorded as 'unauthorised absences'.

Open Morning

Open Morning is on Thursday 3 October from 9.15am to 11.15am. This is an opportunity for prospective parents to view the school on a working day and speak to staff.

Forthcoming events

Y3 camp

Art Exhibition at Lopping Hall begins	Friday 13 September
Y5 & Y6 Harlow Activity Centre	Wednesday 18 September
KS1 Maths Information Evening for parents	Thursday 19 September at 6.30pm in School Hall
"Jeans for Genes" non-uniform day	Friday 20 September
Oaktree Art Exhibition at Lopping Hall	Saturday 21 September
Harvest festival	Wednesday 25 Sept tbc
Y6 St Edmund's School "Taster Day"	Thursday 26 September
RWInc Information Evening for Transition parents	Thursday 26 September at 6.30pm in School Hall
Open Morning	Thursday 3 October at 9.15am to 11.15am
Y3 & Y4 Gilwell Park	Wednesday 9 October
Parents' Evenings Transition - Y6	Tuesday 15 & Wednesday 16 October 3.30pm to 7.00pm
Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop	Thursday 17 October
Half term	Monday 21 October

