



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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Dear Parents

I would like to start by congratulating our Year 6 pupils after their independent schools' entrance exam results were published over half term. 11+ results are very good again this year with some difficult decisions to be made. This term is very short with much happening. Please check the dates at the end of this letter as there have been several additions to the calendar.

Staffing

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Danel Jansen van Rensburg has been appointed Deputy Head of Oaklands from September 2016. Mrs Jansen van Rensburg spent eight years at Uphall Primary School in Ilford teaching from Reception to Year 6 before joining Eastcourt Independent Preparatory School in Goodmayes, where she has taught Years 5 and 6. Next year's Year 6 children will be in excellent hands and I am delighted that we have been able to add such an experienced teacher to our Senior Leadership Team.

Mr Arrowsmith leaves us at the end of this Spring Term 2016 to take up his new appointment as Assistant Head and Year 6 teacher at a school in Dagenham. I would like to thank Mr Arrowsmith for all his hard work and dedication to the School and the pupils in his care. For the Summer Term, Mrs Jan Hazel will be teaching Year 6. Mrs Hazel spent ten years teaching at Woodford Green Primary School and eleven years at Grange Park School in Enfield previously. Mrs Hazel is looking forward to being with Year 6 for their final term with us.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Narendra who is expecting a baby in the summer and will going on maternity leave at the start of the Summer Term. We are fortunate that Mr Jerrom, a very experienced teacher, has agreed to teach Year 5 after Easter. Mr Jerrom spent several years as Head of Juniors (Deputy Head) and Year 6 teacher at Normanhurst School, and was at Selwyn School in Highams Park for nine years beforehand.

We are still currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of PE/Games teacher and hope to announce the successful candidate soon. We were inundated with some 30 applicants hoping to secure a position at Oaklands, so we are confident of being able to appoint another outstanding teacher.

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3 March and would be delighted if children could come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please remember sensible shoes and a coat for play time! A donation of £1 would be gratefully received by Book Aid International. Year 4 are also holding a Book Sale that day also in aid of Book Aid International.

Open Morning – Thursday 10 March

You are very welcome to come to our Open Morning. Prospective and current parents will have the opportunity to see the school at work and to hear more about what is happening at school. Refreshments will be available from 9am in the Hall. I shall be giving a short talk at 9.30am with tours commencing at 9.45am. Our Year 6 act as guides and they are always happy to talk about life at Oaklands from a pupil's perspective.

Oak-Tree Ball – Saturday 21 May

You will have received a letter from Mr Hagger by now about the forthcoming Oak-Tree Ball. The evening will include a champagne reception, meal with wine, a live band and a variety of entertainment for us all. There will also be an auction including a number of unique and interesting lots. The four Schools' Parents Associations' committees are working extremely hard to plan a night to remember. Please do support them.

Uniform

We have noted that some children are not wearing correct school uniform and also had several cases of children not having the right clothing for PE/Games. Please check the website for detailed uniform lists, which includes that for PE and Games. Remember to label all items of clothing including plimsolls, shoes and coats, clearly and carefully with your child's full name. Your child **must have a school coat everyday** as they will be going out to play except in exceptional circumstances.

Registration

I would also like to remind you of registration times as there appears to be several children arriving after registration has taken place. Doors to school open at 8.30am and **registration for all pupils is 8.45am**. If your child arrives after 8.45am but before 9.00am, he/she will be marked as late before registration. If your child arrives after 9.00am, he/she will be marked as late after registration. **Late arrivals ie after 8.50am will need to register in the School Office**. In the case of Lower Kindergarten and Garden Room children, they can be taken to their classrooms and then parents will need to go to the School Office to register. It is very disruptive for everyone if children arrive late in the morning. **Please make every attempt to ensure your child arrives by 8.45am**.

Sickness or diarrhoea

We had several bouts of sickness last term and I would like to draw your attention to our **Sickness and Medication Policy, Main School and EYFS, Part 1 – Sickness and General Medication**, available on the website which clearly states that “**Children MUST be kept at home for a full 48 hours following any sickness or diarrhoea**. This is to prevent the rapid and inevitable spread of infection and to allow them time to recover. If a child is sick or has a bout of diarrhoea they will be sent home. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Easter Activities

Places at the Easter activities courses are going very quickly so don't forget to get your forms in quickly. You will be able to download booking forms from our website.

Dates

The following list provides an update of events planned for the term:

Thursday 3 March	World Book Day – ‘Dress up day’ Coopersale Hall Cross Country relays 1.15pm
Friday 4 March	ISA Netball Redbridge Sports Centre 8.30am – 3pm tbc Y3 Chafford Gorge Visitor Centre 8.30am – 3.30pm LK Mother's Day Assembly to LK Parents
Wednesday 9 March	Bancrofts Netball Tournament 12pm
Thursday 10 March	Open Morning 9.15am Oak-Tree Hockey Tournament tbc 1.30pm GR Assembly to Parents 9am
Friday 11 March	Travelling Book Fair
Monday 14 March – Thursday 17 March	LK + GR Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6pm
Monday 14 March	KS2 Swimming Gala 9.30am – 12pm
Wednesday 16 March	2L ‘Island Homes’ Performance – 2pm Bancroft's Science Fair 10.15am – 12.30pm KS2 General Knowledge Quiz Forest School
Thursday 17 March	2S ‘Island Homes’ Performance – 2pm ‘Welly Walk’ in aid of Sports Relief KS2 Quantum Theatre Maths Show 9.30am
Friday 18 March	OPA Easter Bunny
Monday 21 March	LK, GR + TR Animal Workshop tbc
Tuesday 22 March	OPA Easter Disco tbc
Wednesday 23 March	End of Spring Term
TUESDAY 19 APRIL – START OF SUMMER TERM 2016	
Wednesday 20 April	Y3 + Y6 Swimming begins
Monday 25 April – Friday 29 April	Y6 PGL Liddington Residential Trip
Thursday 28 April	Y3 Hadleigh Country Park

Important Dates for Summer Term 2016:

Monday 23 May	Sports Day	Timings:	9.15am to 10.30am 10.45am to 12.15pm 1.45pm to 3.15pm	Years 1 and 2 LK, GR, TR Years 3 to 6
Tuesday 14 June	Dance Display (TR to Year 6)		3.30pm to 4.15pm	
Saturday 18 June	OPA Summer Fete		12 noon to 3.30pm approx	
Tuesday 28 June	Dance Display (LK and GR)		2.30pm to 3.00pm	
Wednesday 29 June	KS2 Play at Lopping Hall		6.45pm	
Thursday 30 June	KS2 Play at Lopping Hall		6.45pm	
Wednesday 6 July	Celebration of the Year (LK, GR, TR)		2.00pm to 3.00pm approx	
Wednesday 6 July	Prize Giving (Year 1 to Year 6)		4.00pm to 5.30pm approx	

With only three weeks to go until the Easter holiday there is still a huge amount to pack in to what is proving to be a very busy term.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Macnair

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Headmistress

