



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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3 October 2016

Dear Parents

We are fast approaching the half term break and the children are continuing to work hard. It never ceases to amaze me, as I informally visit the children in their classrooms, how enthusiastic and engaged they are in their learning.

As a school, we are always exploring ways of increasing our communication with parents. We began a new initiative two weeks ago whereby class and specialist teachers will be emailing parents of two or three children in their class about their work, effort or progress during the past week. I have also started sending emails to parents of children who are awarded a Merit certificate in assembly for an aspect of their work. Parents have already shown their appreciation of this new initiative by replying promptly to the messages.

Good Behaviour and Friendship Awards will be presented for the first time this term in assembly next week. Parents of the successful winners of these awards will receive an email from me too.

Open Morning Thursday 6 October

We are hoping for fine weather on Thursday for our Open Morning which is for both prospective and current parents to view the school at work. Our Year 6 pupils will act as the official guides and I know they are looking forward to their first public appearance as Prefects and ambassadors for the School.

As part of our presentation to parents, our Head Boy and Head Girl will be delivering their first public speech.

The beginning of the School day

Most of the KS1 and KS2 children are now arriving independently at their classrooms in the morning, having said their farewells at the main school door.

As you are aware, we pride ourselves on our 'open door' policy at Oaklands. Please do accompany your child to their classroom if you do need to speak briefly to a teacher at the start of the school day. However, all classrooms should be vacated by 8.45am so that the class teacher can take the register. If you have a concern that you think will take longer than a minute or two, please make an appointment to see the teacher before or after school hours via the school office. I hope that you will appreciate that it is important for the class teacher to be available to greet all the children as they enter the classroom and to start teaching the class on time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Collection after extra-curricular clubs

A great number of children attend the extra-curricular clubs that take place after school. On some days, there are five or six different clubs being held in various areas on the school site. There are often forty or more children to be dismissed by the staff between 4.15pm and 4.30pm. At present the club staff do not personally know the parents of all the children in their club as they are not in their actual teaching class. In order to ensure the safe collection of each child, I would ask parents to position themselves close to the dismissal point or area and come forward to the teacher to collect their child. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Tea Time Club

Please remember to collect your child on time from Tea Time Club. The official finishing time is 6.00pm. Unfortunately there have been a few late collections on Fridays at 6.30pm over the last few weeks. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

Formal Parents' Evenings for Transition to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term on Wednesday 19 October and Thursday 20 October. You will be able to book your appointment on line. Further details will be sent to you during the week beginning Monday 10 October.

Art Prize

Last summer term children who attended the KS2 Art Club entered the Epping Forest 'Clean for the Queen' livery art work for service vehicles creative primary schools competition. Some of the work submitted from each of the participating schools including Oaklands will be on display in the reception atrium of the Civic offices within the next three to four weeks. The judge, Councillor Will Breare-Hall was very impressed with all the entries and sent congratulations to the children about the quality of their work. The School received a cheque for £50 as a means of appreciation for taking part in the local competition. Well done to Miss Creedon, Mrs Slater and the children.

OPA

On Friday 30 September, the OPA organised a very successful Macmillan Cake sale, which raised £325.31. Thank you for your support. The staff organised their cake sale on Thursday 29 September and raised £157. I did not realise that my staff were such talented cooks!

The OPA have provisionally planned to hold their Annual General Meeting after half term on Wednesday 16 November at 9.00am. The date will be confirmed before the half term break.

Oak-Tree Fireworks – Sunday 13 November 2016

Tickets for this popular event in the Oak-Tree Group of Schools calendar are available to families from all four schools in the group. The event will be held from 4.30-6.30pm in the grounds of Oaklands School. Due to the enormous demand (over 1,000) tickets last year, tickets will only be available to purchase before the event. Ticket sales will be limited to 1050. Tickets will cost £5 per child or £10 per adult with a discounted price of £25 for a family of two children and two adults. This includes a hot dog and children will be given a soft drink and a cake. There will be opportunities to purchase mulled wine, beer, hot drinks and various children goodies during the event. All the profits will be divided between the Parents' Associations from the four schools. Please note that your booking form and payment must be handed in by Monday 17 October.

Uniform

After the half term break, the children return to School in winter uniform. Please check either your child's class handbook, available on the parent portal, or the website for details. There will be a recycled uniform sale on Thursday 13 October in the Science Room (formerly Garden Room 1) from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Individual photographs will be taken by a professional photographer on Thursday 10 November and it is important to see the children smartly dressed in the correct uniform.

Coffee Mornings

Matthew Hagger and I will be holding our annual coffee mornings on Tuesday mornings starting on Tuesday 8 November. Please check the table below for your class time:

CLASS	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Garden Room	Tues 8 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Transition	Tues 15 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 1	Tues 22 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 2	Tues 29 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 3	Tues 6 Dec	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio

Coffee mornings for Lower Kindergarten, Years 4, 5 and 6 parents will be arranged in the New Year.

Forest Casualwear

If you are planning to purchase some items of uniform from our school outfitters, Forest Casualwear, over the half term break, please be aware that the shop will be closed for annual stocktaking on Wednesday 26 October and Wednesday 2 November.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 4 October	Y2 7+ Meeting in School Hall
Thursday 6 October	Open Morning 9.15am – 11.15am
Thursday 13 October	KS1 + KS2 Quantum Theatre Maths Show
Friday 14 October	Y6 Epping Forest District Museum 9.15am
Wednesday 19 October	TR – Y6 Parents Evenings 3.30pm – 7pm
Thursday 20 October	TR – Y6 Parents Evenings 3.30pm – 7pm

Half Term Monday 24 October – Friday 4 November

Wednesday 9 November	Y4 + Y5 Swimming starts pm Flu Immunisation
Thursday 10 November	Whole School Individual Photographs
Friday 11 November	Whole School Two minute silence 11am
Sunday 13 November	OPA Firework Display 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 17 November	3C Class Assembly to parents in School Hall 9am
Friday 18 November	Children in Need tbc
Thursday 24 November	TR Show to parents in School Hall 2pm Selection of Y5 + Y6 Oak-Tree Netball & Football Tournament 2pm – 4pm
Friday 25 November	TR Show to parents in School Hall 2pm
Wednesday 30 November	Y3 Pizza Express visit for PSHE/DT 10.30am Y4 + Y5 Last Swimming of Autumn Term
Thursday 1 December	LK Christmas Show to parents Studio 11.15am
Friday 2 December	GR Christmas Show to parents 10am
Tuesday 6 December	Y1 – Y6 Carol Service Rehearsal – St Mary’s Church All day
Wednesday 7 December	Y1 – Y6 Carol Service at St Mary’s Church 2pm
Thursday 8 December	Y1 Harlow Playhouse Panto tbc
Friday 9 December	Y2 Harlow Playhouse Panto tbc Y3 – Y5 OPA Christmas Party in School Hall 4.15pm – 6.15pm
Monday 12 December	Y3 – Y6 ‘Aladdin’ Panto Millfield Theatre Y1 + Y2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 13 December	LK + GR Christmas Party TR Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 December	Christingle workshop tbc Whole School Pupil Christmas Lunch
Thursday 15 December	End of Autumn Term

I have enjoyed welcoming you to School in the mornings and meeting some of you at various events during this half term. The second half of the Autumn term, as we approach Christmas, is full of opportunities for you to attend a school event which involves your child. I look forward to enjoying these special moments with you and your children.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

