



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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7 November 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school after I hope, an enjoyable half term. From speaking to the children before the holiday, I know that quite a number of you visited family and friends or travelled abroad to enjoy some much needed sunshine.

I was fortunate to visit Jamaica for a week. Parts of this island recently experienced the power of Hurricane Matthew. The damage to property in Kingston and surrounding areas is quite substantial and is obviously high on the fundraising agenda of the government and companies on the island. The hotel where I stayed hosted their own evening of entertainment to raise money towards the recovery programme.

The event reminded me of the need to continue to raise the awareness of the children to the plight of people less fortunate than themselves not only in the UK, but internationally too. The SLT are meeting with representatives from the Wynaud Trust (based in Zambia) on 15 November with the aim of adopting them as our international charity. I will let you know more in my next Headmistress's letter.

On the 'home front' we will be raising money for Children in Need, Crisis at Christmas and the Millfield Centre during this half term.

Poppy Appeal

Remembrance poppies will be on sale in school this week and the office prefects will be going round to classrooms at the beginning of the school day. Poppies are also available from the school office. We hope to see all the pupils wearing a poppy on Friday 11 November. We will mark the day with a 2 minutes silence in the playground at 11.00am.

Houses

Year 1 to Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed their 'House meetings' last half term. I am very impressed with the originality of the new 'House mottos' they all constructed which appeared in the last newsletter. Under the guidance of Miss Creedon, our Art/DT Coordinator, canvases displaying the symbol and motto of each House will soon be made by Year 6 children. These will be hung on the walls of the main school stairway near the library.

Prospective parents

We continue to welcome a consistent flow of prospective parents to the school. Open Morning was very successful and my 'tour calendar' is rapidly filling up for this forthcoming half term. We began our 2+ and 3+ assessment programme before the holiday and will shortly be starting the 4+ assessment visits.

OPA

The OPA continue to support the school with their fundraising events. Two recycled school uniform afternoons were held during October. Thank you to Mrs Griggs in particular for organising these. The gift of ice lollies on the last Friday of term was also much appreciated by the children.

The committee are now busy with the final preparations for the annual Oak-Tree Group of Schools Fireworks Display on Sunday 13 November, 4.30-6.30pm. Thank you to those of you who have already donated a Lucky Dip prize. Please bring any further donations to the office.

I am sure the event will, once again, be a successful Oak-Tree event.

On behalf of the OPA, I would like to invite you to their AGM which is to be held on Wednesday 16 November at 9.00am in the studio.

Parents' Evenings and 'Drop-in' sessions

I hope you all found your recent meeting with your child's class teacher informative.

During this half-term, we have timetabled a series of 'Drop-in' sessions for each KS1 and KS2 class. These will take place first thing in the morning, 8.30-8.50am.

Thurs 17 Nov	1J
Fri 18 Nov	1H
Thurs 24 Nov	2S
Fri 25 Nov	2J
Thurs 1 Dec	3C
Fri 2 Dec	3G
Thurs 8 Dec	Y4
Fri 9 Dec	Y5
Tues 13 Dec	Y6

The main aim of the 'Drop-in' session is to give your child the opportunity to show you some of their work books and to explain what they have been doing and achieving. As you will appreciate, these sessions are not suitable for a 1:1 teacher-parent discussion. As always, if you have any concerns during this half term about your child, please make a separate appointment, through the school office, to meet with your child's class teacher or myself. Thank you for your cooperation.

Coffee mornings

Our programme of coffee mornings starts this Tuesday 8 November with a meeting for Garden Room parents. Please refer to the dates list at the end of this letter to check the date for your child's class.

Awards

As you are aware, we present a number of different awards to the children. Each week, merit certificates are presented to two children in each of the KS1 and KS2 classes. A merit certificate can be awarded for a variety of reasons such as using ambitious words in creative writing, excellent problem solving skills or neat presentation of work.

Behaviour and Friendship awards were only presented once last half term. These will now be regularly awarded on a fortnightly basis.

A Behaviour award is presented to a child who consistently displays positive behaviour and acts as a role model to their peers, or to a child who we can see is making extra effort to rectify any disruptive or unsocial behaviour in the classroom or the playground.

Please read the characteristics of our new Friendship award which are displayed in the main corridor leading to the hall. The children have already discussed what it means to be a 'good friend' during one of their class assemblies or in a PSHE circle time.

'Wow' certificates are awarded once every half term in a special 'Wow' assembly. These are presented for an outstanding piece of work or particular perseverance to complete a task.

I also award Headmistress's certificates to a class for a number of reasons, such as excellent attitude and participation during a school visit or an outstanding class assembly. Sometimes individuals receive a Headmistress's certificate for their contribution to the life of the school.

All these awards are part of, and enhance, the school's aim to create a positive learning environment for the children, and to praise and celebrate their achievement and progress. By having a wide range of awards, we aim

to ensure that a substantial number of children receive additional recognition for their effort and work during each half term.

A log is kept for each award to monitor that there is a fair distribution of awards within each class during an academic year.

School Uniform

The children should now be wearing winter uniform to school. Please check that all uniform items have your child's name clearly labelled in them for easy identification. This includes all PE kit and plimsolls. Please also remember that only school regulation scarves and gloves can be worn. Thank you.

I presented 1J and Y4 with a Head teacher's certificate just before we broke up for half term, for being the smartest dressed class in KS1 and KS2 respectively. I hope to be able to choose two other classes for this award during week beginning 14 November.

Individual photographs

On Thursday 10 November, individual photographs will be taken of the children. It is particularly important that all the children look smart and are in correct winter school uniform for these photographs. All long hair should be tied back with the regulation coloured hair bands. Thank you.

Extra-curricular clubs

Our club programme remains very popular with the vast majority of children, particularly in KS1 and KS2, attending at least two clubs each week. At their meeting last half term, the School Council suggested some additions to the club timetable such as a KS2 Gardening club and a Lego club. I will be exploring the possibility of starting these in 2017.

The Debating club will be starting this half term for KS2 children. Ms Zaidi runs this club during Thursday lunchtimes at 1.00pm. Look out for news about how the first debate went in the next newsletter.

Collecting children during the school day

Sometimes during the school day, children need to leave the premises to attend dental or medical appointments. Please remember to report to the school office when you arrive at school. A member of the office staff will then go to collect your child while you wait in the Parent's Waiting Room. This procedure is vital to the security of the school as we cannot have any adult who is not a member of staff, or who has not signed in and is wearing a school lanyard, walking about the school.

Similarly, if you arrive late at school in the morning, please report to the school office. Your child will then be marked present and a member of the office staff will ensure your child is taken to their classroom or into assembly.

Main road safety

We are fortunate that, on most days, we have a lollipop lady on duty on the main road to ensure the safe crossing of parents and children. The pavement is quite narrow in this area and the traffic, despite the 30mph speed limit, can be travelling quite fast. I would therefore be very grateful if you could be extra careful with your children in this area and to assist each other. Thank you.

National Anti-Bullying week 14-18 November

Every year we support the National Anti-Bullying week campaign, which aims to raise awareness of what bullying is and how to tackle bullying. As part of our commitment to ensuring that we are an 'anti-bullying school' I have invited the Freshwater Drama Company into school on Tuesday 15 November to deliver an assembly to KS1 and



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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KS2 pupils on how to recognise and deal with bullying issues. We used the same company last year and were very impressed with the quality and content of the session.

We are also giving each pupil a booklet to take home and share with parents. These will go home during Anti-Bullying week.

As you are aware, the school's Anti-Bullying policy can be found on our website.

Forthcoming Events

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

Monday 7 November	All Clubs start
Tuesday 8 November	GR Coffee Morning in Studio
Wednesday 9 November	Y4 + Y5 Swimming starts Trans to Y6 Flu Immunisation. PM 1H Parents' Evenings 3.30pm – 7pm
Thursday 10 November	Whole School Individual Photographs 1H Parents' Evenings 3.30pm – 7pm
Friday 11 November	Whole School Two minute silence 11am
Sunday 13 November	OPA Firework Display 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday 14 November	Y4 Trip to Hampton Court 8.15am – 3.45pm
Tuesday 15 November	TR Coffee Morning in Studio 8.45am – 9.30am KS1 + KS2 Anti-Bullying Assembly – Freshwater Theatre Company
Thursday 17 November	Y5 Trip to Victoria and Albert Museum 8.15am 3C Class Assembly to parents in School Hall 9am Y4 RE Trip to High Beach Church 10.40am – 12.20pm tbc
Friday 18 November	Children in Need
Tuesday 22 November	Y1 Coffee Morning in Studio 8.45am – 9.30am
Wednesday 23 November	TR Show to parents in School Hall 2pm
Thursday 24 November	TR Show to parents in School Hall 2pm Selection of Y5 + Y6 Oak-Tree Netball & Football Tournament 2pm – 4pm
Monday 28 November	Y1 + Y2 Gym competition, 9.00am
Tuesday 29 November	Y2 Coffee Morning in Studio 8.45am – 9.30am Y3 + Y4 Gym Competition, 9.00am
Wednesday 30 November	Y3 Pizza Express visit for PSHE/DT 10.30am tbc Y4 + Y5 Last Swimming of Autumn Term
Thursday 1 December	LK Christmas Show to parents Studio 11.15am Y5 + Y6 Gym Competition, 2.00pm Choirs to St Mary's Church, 'Sing at Christmas' 4.00pm
Friday 2 December	GR Christmas Show to parents 10am
Tuesday 6 December	Y3 Coffee Morning in Studio 8.45am – 9.30am Y1 – Y6 Carol Service Rehearsal – St Mary's Church All day LK, GR + TR 'Peter Pan' Pantomime in School Hall 9.30am
Wednesday 7 December	Y1 – Y6 Carol Service at St Mary's Church 2pm
Thursday 8 December	Y2 Harlow Playhouse Panto 12pm
Friday 9 December	Y1 Harlow Playhouse Panto 12pm Y3 – Y5 OPA Christmas Party in School Hall 4.15pm – 6.15pm
Monday 12 December	No Extra Curricular Clubs this week Y3 – Y6 'Aladdin' Pantomime Millfield Theatre 12pm – 4.30pm

Tuesday 13 December	Y1 + Y2 Christmas Party 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

Spring Term begins Tuesday 10 January 2017

The children will undoubtedly become more excited as the half term progresses towards Christmas. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various events the school is hosting this half term.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

