



Oaklands School

8 Albion Hill, Loughton
Essex IG10 4RA

Tel: 020 8508 3517
Fax: 020 8508 4454

HEADMISTRESS

MRS SUE BELEJ B.A. (JNT HONS), CERT.ED.

E-mail: info@oaklandsschool.co.uk
Website: www.oaklandsschool.co.uk

5 December 2016

Dear Parents

It seems incredible that the end of my first term as Headmistress of Oaklands School is nearly here. Besides all the hard work, this half term has been full of exciting events and performances from the children, and there are still some events to look forward to.

The Early Years department has been particularly busy. We enjoyed the Transition play last week with some amazing singing and dancing, including a duet and some soloists. Lower Kindergarten performed for the first time for their parents last Thursday and sang beautifully with the help of the Lower Kindergarten staff and Mrs Rathbone. On Friday, Garden Room entertained their parents with 'The Nativity Story' which was simply delightful. Thank you to all the staff who help prepare the children for these showcases.

I was very proud of the KS2 Boys' Choir who took part in the 'Sing at Christmas' event last Thursday at St Mary's Church. The boys sang three songs, including the ever popular 'Rudolph the red nose reindeer.' It was lovely that Oaklands School once again took part in this local community event.

Carol Service

I look forward to seeing many of you, who have children in Year 1 to Year 6, at the Carol Service on Wednesday 7 December at 2pm in St Mary's Church, Loughton. May I remind you that each family is only permitted two seats at this event. The staff have worked hard to prepare the children for what promises to be a lovely occasion. I have had the pleasure of listening to the singing rehearsals as I work in my office and the children sound superb.

Christmas parties

The children at Oaklands are very lucky to have such a supportive OPA who have organised various pantos, parties and presents from Father Christmas. Remember that these are non-uniform occasions and the children can come to school on their 'Party Day' in party clothes, but please ensure they are wearing sensible shoes and have their coat, hat and gloves as they will still be going out to play! Please check the dates list for your child's party date.

Parking

It seems inevitable that I always have to add a paragraph about parking in almost every Head's letter or newsletter I send and unfortunately, this is no exception. Yet again, more complaints have been brought to my attention recently, regarding inconsiderate parents who seem to insist on blocking resident's driveways which are in use all the time. I regret that, yet again, I have to remind a handful of you to be more mindful of the local residents and not park across any portion of their driveways at any time.

Reports

All children will receive an Autumn Term report which will be sent to your portal on Monday 12 December. Further details on how to access these will follow next week.

'Crisis at Christmas'

In September, Beech House voted to adopt 'Crisis', the National charity for homeless people as their official house charity. Last Wednesday, Ms Zaidi helped members of Beech House perform an assembly to explain about the work of this charity to KS1 and 2 children. Beech House has invited all the children and staff to wear a 'Christmas jumper' on Wednesday 14 December in aid of 'Crisis.' This is also the day we have chosen for the children and staff to have Christmas lunch, so it will undoubtedly be a very festive day. Please give donations to your child's teacher and I thank you for your generosity in supporting this worthwhile charity.

In the afternoon, Beech House will be holding a Cake Sale in the school hall. Money raised from this will help to deliver life changing services. All cake donations would be gratefully received. Please deliver them to the school office on Wednesday 14 December. If you would like your child to buy some cakes, please send in a small amount of money on the day.

Wynaud Trust

As I mentioned in my last Headmistress's letter, the SLT had a meeting with Alison Brown in November, who is one of the trustees of the Wynaud Trust. The Wynaud Trust is a Christian charity who works with communities in Zambia to set up schools and family care centres. We are planning to adopt the Trust as our international charity in 2017. Alison will be visiting Oaklands to introduce the children to their work at the Mumbeji Project. More information about the Wynaud Trust can be found at www.wynaudtrust.org.

Marking Policy for KS1/2

We have been updating our Marking policy this term. Some of you who have already been into school for your child's 'drop-in' session may have noticed a 'Marking Key' on display in the classroom. This means the children can easily check any of the symbols they see in their work books which they do not immediately recognise.

Teachers aim to write a positive comment in a 'bubble' on most pieces of work, which will reflect how successful the child has been in achieving the lesson and work objective. Guidance for future improvement and progress will appear by the 'next steps' symbol. Please remember that verbal 'next steps' are often more appropriate in KS1 due to the age of the child.

The appropriate symbol indicating whether the work was completed independently, with some adult support or with full 1:1 adult support will often be added.

When appropriate, KS2 children may mark their work under guidance of the teacher using a purple pen. In these circumstances, the teacher is explaining the work as it is marked. Purple pens are also used for self and peer assessment by the children.

Please ask your child's class teacher if you have questions about the new 'Marking Key.'

Oak House Car Park

As you are aware, the car park at the front of Oak House is usually full of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools vans and minibuses. These are continually driving in and out of the car park as they make journeys between the four schools. A small child walking between these vehicles cannot always be seen by a driver.

For the safety of you and your children, please **do not** walk through the car park to use the black steps to access the path by the main school gate.

Each morning between 8.30am – 8.50am, one of the maintenance team ensures the safety of the children if they are 'dropped off' by the car park entrance. At this time of the day, we ensure that there is a clear visible pathway from the pavement to the gate just outside the reception of Oak House.

Coffee Mornings

Matthew Hagger and I will be continuing our annual informal coffee mornings on Tuesday mornings starting again on 17 January 2017. Please check the table below for your class time:

CLASS	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Year 6	Tues 17 Jan	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 5	Tues 24 Jan	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 4	Tues 31 Jan	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Lower Kindergarten	Tues 7 Feb	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio

Staffing

At the end of term we are saying goodbye to Ms Zaidi, our current Year 5 teacher. Ms Zaidi has been at Oaklands for 13 years. As a member of the SLT, Ms Zaidi has been responsible for Assessment and more recently, the pastoral care of the children. She has coordinated English and Maths throughout KS2 and been the KS2 Coordinator for five years.

I would like to thank Ms Zaidi for her tremendous hard work and dedication throughout her time at Oaklands. We wish her every success in her Canadian adventure, where she will be working at a native cultural centre in Toronto. I hope to keep in contact with her as I know the children will be interested to hear how she is settling in to her new way of life.

Forthcoming Events/dates Spring 2017

Tuesday 6 December	Y3 Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am Y1 – Y6 Carol Service Rehearsal – St Mary’s Church All day LK, GR + TR Watching ‘Peter Pan’ Panto in School Hall 9.30am
Wednesday 7 December	No Swimming Y1 – Y6 Carol Service at St Mary’s Church 2pm
Thursday 8 December	Y4 ‘Drop in’ Session 8.30am – 8.50am Y2 Harlow Playhouse Panto 12.15pm – 4.30pm
Friday 9 December	Y1 Harlow Playhouse Panto 12.15pm – 4.30pm Y3 – Y5 OPA Christmas Party in School Hall 4.15pm – 6.15pm
Monday 12 December	No Extra Curricular Clubs this week Y3 – Y6 ‘Aladdin’ Panto Millfield Theatre 12pm – 4.30pm Y1 + Y2 Christmas Party 2pm – 3pm
Tuesday 13 December	Y6 ‘Drop in’ Session 8.30am – 8.50am LK + GR Christmas Party 10.30am – 11.15am TR Christmas Party 2pm – 2.45pm Y5 ‘Meet the Teacher’ + ‘Drop in’ Session 3.30pm – 4.15pm
Wednesday 14 December	Christmas Jumper Day for ‘Crisis at Christmas’ KS2 Christingle workshop 9am Whole School Pupil Christmas Lunch ‘Crisis’ Cake Sale 1.45pm – 3.15pm
Thursday 15 December	End of Autumn Term LK - TR 12pm Finish Y1 + Y2 12.15pm Finish Y3 – Y6 12.30pm Finish

Spring Term begins Tuesday 10 January 2017

Wednesday 11 January	Y3 + Y5 First Swim of Spring Term
Tuesday 17 January	Y6 Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am Team Forest School U11 Swimming Gala 3pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 19 January	Team ISA U11 Football, Barnet 7.30am – 3.30pm tbc
Tuesday 24 January	Y5 Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am
Wednesday 25 January	TR St Albans Abbey 9am – 3pm
Tuesday 31 January	Y4 Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am
Tuesday 7 February	LK Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am Y5 + Y6 O2 Young Voices 12pm – 9.15pm

Half Term – Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February

Second half of Spring Term begins Monday 20 February

Wednesday 22 February	Y4 + Y6 First Swim of Spring Term TR - Y6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 23 February	TR - Y6 Parents' Evening
Thursday 9 March	Open Morning
Thursday 16 March	Team ISA U7 Football, Barnet
Thursday 30 March	End of Spring Term

Summer Term begins Tuesday 25 April 2017

End of term

Please remember that the Autumn Term finishes at lunchtime on Thursday 15 December. There are no afternoon sessions.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 10 January 2017.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Sue Belej
Headmistress



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.

Oaklands School is the trading name of Oaklands School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 3654053

