



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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9 January 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the Christmas and New Year break! I hope you all had a lovely time sharing the festive fun with your family and friends. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughtful wishes and messages, and generous gifts I received from you and your children at the end of term.

This term sees many of our pupils, particularly in Year 6, take entrance examinations to a number of independent secondary schools. I know you join with the Oaklands staff in wishing them all the very best of luck in their endeavours.

Staffing

As you are aware, we said goodbye to Ms Zaidi at the end of last term and we wish her well on her Canadian adventure. We welcome Mrs Georgiou as the new Year 5 teacher. Mrs Georgiou has previously taught at Oaklands School in Year 3 and Year 5 and is very familiar with our organisation. She and Ms Zaidi had a very intensive 3 day handover in December. Mrs Georgiou also had the opportunity to spend time getting to know the children whilst teaching them in their classroom. Mrs Georgiou will be taking over the supervision of Homework Club on Thursdays.

Senior Leadership Team

Due to the departure of Miss Zaidi and the resignation of Mrs Narendra (previous Year 5 teacher and SLT member), who went on maternity leave in April 2016, January 2017 sees the beginning of a re-structured Senior Leadership Team at Oaklands.

Miss Jansen van Rensburg, Year 6 teacher, continues as Deputy Head with responsibility for Assessment, Gifted and Talented and Behaviour management. Miss Caroline Potts, Head of Early Years, extends her management role to become an Assistant Head with responsibility for the pastoral and welfare care of the children. Miss Daniela Sandford, KS1 Coordinator, joins the SLT as an Assistant Head with responsibility for overseeing the KS1 curriculum, KS1 English and work experience students. Miss Vicky Creedon, the new KS2 Coordinator, also joins the SLT as an Assistant Head with responsibility for overseeing the KS2 curriculum, KS2 English and Health and Safety.

As Headmistress, I am looking forward to working with my senior leaders and the rest of the staff to maintain and further develop the positive and motivated educational environment that exists within the school.

Subject Coordinators

There are also changes to the subject coordinator roles for some members of staff. Please see the staff list on the school website for more details.

Holiday Work

I'm delighted to report that we had a new suite of 23 computers installed over the Christmas break, which will make a tremendous difference to the children's education as they access the software required for the Computing curriculum.

Uniform

All children should be wearing the correct winter school uniform, including the school scarf, hat and gloves. All items of school clothing and P.E kit should be clearly labelled. At this time of year, it is essential that the children wear their winter coat to school every day as they will be going out to play except in adverse weather conditions.

Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings for Garden Room, Transition, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 parents were held last term. This term, parents of Year 4, 5, 6 and LK children have the opportunity to attend their Coffee morning in the Studio on the following dates:

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

Parents' Evenings

Formal Parents' Evenings are to be held on the following dates:

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Transition, Y1 – Y6	Wed 22 Feb	3.30pm – 7pm
	Thurs 23 Feb	3.30pm – 7pm
Lower Kindergarten	Tues 28 Feb	3.30pm – 6.30pm
	Thurs 2 March	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Garden Room	Wed 1 March	3.30pm – 6.30pm

Clubs

On 16 December 2016, Mrs Hewitt, Group Bursar, sent out a letter about 'Paid Peripatetic Music lessons and After School Activities.' This letter stated that the school is aiming to provide 30 sessions per academic year for **paid** peripatetic music lessons and after school activities, which should mean there will be 10 per term. The exception to the rule is 'Mad Science' as this is an 8-week programme.

These fee paying lessons and clubs will start from the first week of each term. In order to minimise confusion, **ALL CLUBS** in the **Extra-curricular programme** will now start in the **first week** of **each term**. Previously, we did not start any of our after school activities until the second week.

Please note that 'Mad Science' starts on Friday 13 January 2017.

Languages Club

There are some spaces available in the Languages Clubs, which take place at the following times:

Tuesday 3.15-4.00pm Y1 & 2; 4.15-5.00pm Y3-Y6

Wednesday 3.15-4.00pm Transitions

I am sure there are more of our children who would love to learn Spanish with Mrs Gentilhomme (outside of school teacher).

If you require any clarification regarding our club programme, or you would like your child to start a new club this term (subject to a place being available), please speak to Diane in the school office.

Charities

The children were incredibly busy in their charity work last term. Generous gifts of tinned food and toiletries filled the school stage at Harvest in October, which were thankfully received by the Whitechapel Mission. The School raised £220 on 'Jeans for Genes' day in October and £356.71 for the 'Poppy Appeal' in November. At the Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Loughton, your donations at the end of the event raised £159.65 for the Mill Field Family Centre. Thank you.

Beech House presented an assembly to KS1/2 children about their charity 'CRISIS' on Wednesday 30 November 2016. Everyone enjoyed donating their £1 for the privilege of wearing their woolly Christmas jumper to school on Christmas lunch day, 14 December. Beech House continued their fund raising efforts by organising a Cake Sale in the afternoon which was visited by all the children. A massive £462.39 was raised. Well done Beech House!

We look forward to other Charity days during the Spring Term including Great Ormond Street Bad Hair Day organised by Holly House, Sports Relief organised by Willow House and Red Nose Day organised by Sycamore House. In addition, on Monday 23 January, I will be welcoming one of the founders of the Wynaud Trust (Christian charity based in Zambia) to speak to the children in assembly about how the school can help families in this area of the world.

It promises to be yet another busy term working to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

Beginning of the school day

I would 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 at 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 i.e. after 8.45am will need to register in the School Office**. In these circumstances, a member of the school office team will ensure your child is escorted safely to their classroom. It is inappropriate for you to accompany your child as the class teacher has begun teaching the children or is on route to the hall for assembly.

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 on time. Thank you.**

KS1/2 Early morning tasks, 8.30-8.50am

When KS1/2 children arrive at school every day, their class teacher has an 'early morning task' ready for them on their desks. This is normally a Maths or English activity. Some LSTs use this time to see children who are requiring extra intervention in their Phonics or Maths work. As from January 2017, we will be aiming to raise the standard of handwriting in the school and early morning tasks will now, on occasions, include extra handwriting practice.

It is therefore very beneficial for children to arrive as near to 8.30am as possible so that they are in their classroom to access all the opportunities for learning that the school is offering.

Parking on the yellow lines outside school

I have become increasingly concerned about the safety of the children as they enter and leave school due to the parking habits of a few of our parents. At least three children have narrowly missed being seriously hurt by cars whose drivers disregard the yellow zig zag and double yellow lines by the Albion Hill entrance. These cars were also parked up on the pavement which further reduced the safety of the children, especially when they needed to reverse prior to driving away.

May I please ask everyone to adhere to the parking restrictions to help ensure the safety of the children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Forthcoming Events/dates Spring 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
Friday 3 February	3G Assembly to Parents 8.50am
Tuesday 7 February	LK Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am Y5 + Y6 O2 Young Voices 12pm – 9.15pm tbc
Thursday 9 February	Team ISA London North Cross Country, Rushmoor School, Bedford
Friday 10 February	Y5 + Y6 'More Able' Forensic Scientists Day at Normanhurst School tbc

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 3.30pm – 7pm
Thursday 23 February	TR - Y6 Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 7pm
Tuesday 28 February	LK Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 1 March	GR Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 2 March	Selection from Y3/4/5/6 Coopersale Hall Cross Country LK Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Friday 3 March	Team ISA Netball, Redbridge Sports Centre 9am – 2.30/3pm
Thursday 9 March	Open Morning 9.15am
Monday 13 March	Book Fair
Thursday 16 March	Y2 Team ISA U7 Football, Barnet
Friday 17 March	LK Assembly to Parents 9am ISA London North Hockey – Oak-Tree Schools Team 9am – 2pm tbc
Wednesday 22 March	Y3 Chafford Gorge Trip 8.30am – 3.30pm 2S Play to Parents 2pm
Thursday 23 March	2J Play to Parents 2pm
Friday 24 March	GR Assembly to Parents 9am
Wednesday 29 March	Oak-Tree Festival, Walthamstow Assembly Hall 6pm tbc
Thursday 30 March	End of Spring Term

Summer Term begins Tuesday 25 April 2017

I would like end this Headmistress's letter by wishing you all a very happy, healthy and successful New Year and I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming events, or at the start or end of the school day.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Sue Belej
Headmistress

