



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 February 2017

Dear Parents

We have a little less than two weeks left of the half term and I am sure, considering the winter weather we experienced for most of January, that you are looking forward to a well-earned break.

Our Year 6 children have been working extremely hard; the majority of whom have sat challenging entrance examinations for various senior independent schools throughout January. They have all continued to fulfil their prefect duties every day and acted as role models to the younger children of the school despite the pressure of the examinations. They are a credit to Oaklands and to you, their parents, and we are very proud of them. Last weekend, the children enjoyed the well-deserved luxury of 'no homework.' I am sure the Year 6 parents enjoyed the weekend too!

I have also been impressed by the way the Year 5 pupils have been applying themselves this term; every time I have walked into their classroom, they have their heads down focusing on their work, or they are engaged in class or paired discussions to further their understanding or voice their opinions about the lesson topic.

All the children throughout the school continue to develop and grow in their knowledge and self confidence. Despite the freezing foggy weather, they arrive in the morning with a beaming smile and a happy "good morning Mrs Belej" to me at the front door. Thank you to those of you who have voiced your concerns about my cold feet during my morning vigil outside the main school door at 8.30am! I look forward to welcoming the Spring weather; hopefully after half term.

Coffee mornings

Thank you to those of you who were available to come along to your year group coffee morning in January. We value your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the education we provide. It is pleasing to hear that the children are happy in their learning and that the quality and quantity of information you are receiving about school life and the progress of your child continues to increase. I look forward to welcoming Lower Kindergarten parents to their coffee morning next week, on Tuesday 7 February at 8.45am in the Studio.

Drop-in Sessions Spring Term 2017

The 'Drop-in Sessions' that we held during the second half of the Autumn Term proved very popular and I received many positive comments about them. The children enjoyed showing off their work and I know many of you found them useful too. We plan to hold a second set of 'Drop-in Sessions' after half term. Please note below the dates and times for each year group.

CLASS	DATE	TIME	PLACE
1J	Thurs 2 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
1H	Fri 3 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
2S + 2J	Fri 10 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
3C	Thurs 16 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
3G	Fri 17 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
Year 4	Thurs 23 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
Year 5	Fri 24 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom
Year 6	Mon 27 March	8.30am to 8.50am	Classroom

Parents' Evenings

After the February half term, you will have the opportunity to attend Parents' Evening to discuss the progress of your child with his/her class teacher. We will be using the online booking system again for you to book your appointment slot via the Portals. On Monday 6 February, you will receive notification that the system is live and instructions as to how to book your time slot. Please note below the date and time for the Parents' Evenings for each age group in the school.

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

School Uniform

Thank you very much for your continuous donations of nearly new school uniform. At the moment, the OPA shed that stores this uniform is bursting at the seams! Can I request that you only donate those items of school uniform that have the new school badge on please, apart from blazers. In addition, the OPA do not need white shirts, boy's trousers or underwear. Thank you.

'Dropping off' on Albion Hill

I realise that many of you take advantage of the 'drop and go' arrangement just by the entrance to Oak House car park in the mornings. This does reduce the number of cars trying to find parking places in the nearby streets at this busy time. I would however, be very grateful if you could have your child or children and their bags ready as you approach the 'drop-off' point. There have been quite a number of occasions recently when equipment such as water bottles, reading bags and PE kits are not readily accessible. This causes traffic to stop and other parents to then 'drop off' their child or children by the main school gate, stopping on the regulatory zig-zag lines outside school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Assemblies: Values

The main aim of our assembly programme so far this term has been to increase the children's understanding and awareness of British/life values. These are: democracy, individual liberty, rule of law and respect and tolerance. These values form an intrinsic part of Oaklands School both in our ethos but also in our daily life.

We have been explaining the meaning of the four 'values' by using examples that exist in the school. For example, the children play their part in the democratic process of decision making through the School Council; they have individual liberty in their classrooms as they are allowed to voice their opinions in a controlled and calm environment; the School has rules which we all need to follow in order to be safe, and we show respect and tolerance towards everyone irrespective of their culture or religion.

I have also introduced a 'Values' prayer to the children which, alongside the school prayer, we have started to use in assemblies. I would like to share this prayer with you.

Here at Oaklands
Let us be peaceful at all times
Let our rooms be full of happiness
And **CONSIDERATION** for each other
Let there be love in our hearts
With kindness and compassion for all.
Let us remember
In learning together,
We grow together
And succeed together
Amen.

Events

We have a number of events that the children are participating in during the last seven days of the half term. I am looking forward to watching 3G's assembly, 'The Rainforest' on Friday 3 February. On Monday 6 February, at 2.00pm, Year 2 are performing at the Stratford and East London Music Festival in South Woodford. On Tuesday 7 February, Years 5 and 6 children are joining together with their peers from the other Oak-Tree schools to participate in the 'Young Voices' event at the O2, Greenwich. A team of 23 KS2 children are competing in the ISA London North Cross Country Championships in Bedford on Thursday 9 February. The week ends with 10 of our more able scientists attending a 'Forensic workshop' at Normanhurst School and Year 6 attending a St John's Ambulance First Aid course in school.

Good luck to all the children in these events!

Forthcoming Events/dates Spring 2017

Friday 3 February	3G Assembly to Parents 8.50am
Monday 6 February	Y2 Stratford & East London Music Festival, St Mary's Church, South Woodford 1.20pm
Tuesday 7 February	LK Coffee Morning 8.45am – 9.30am Y5 + Y6 O2 Young Voices 12.30pm
Thursday 9 February	Team ISA London North Cross Country, Rushmoor School, Bedford, 9.20am No Multi-Sports
Friday 10 February	Y6 St Johns Ambulance – Core Skill First Aid 9am – 12pm Selection from Y5 + Y6 'More Able' Forensic Scientists Day, Normanhurst School, 1.40pm – 3.30pm

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 Team U11 Bancrofts Netball Tournament, West Grove Playing Fields 12pm – 4pm TR - Y6 Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 7pm
Thursday 23 February	TR - Y6 Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 7pm No Explorers, Art or Cookery Club
Friday 24 February	Y1 Town Planners Lego Workshop in School tbc
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
Wednesday 15 March	Y3/4/5/6 Oaklands Swimming Gala, Loughton Pool 9.30am – 12pm
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	Red Nose Day tbc GR Assembly to Parents 9am

Wednesday 29 March

Oak-Tree Festival, Walthamstow Assembly Hall 6pm (details to follow)

Thursday 30 March

End of Spring Term

Summer Term begins Tuesday 25 April 2017

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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

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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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