



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 March 2017

Dear Parents

I trust you all had an enjoyable half term which now probably seems ages ago! Some of the children shared their skiing or holiday stories with me whilst others have told me about family outings or meeting up with special friends. I hope you yourselves found some time to relax.

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils! 11+ results are very good again this year and some pupils are faced with some difficult decisions to make regarding their choice of secondary school. I am immensely proud of them all for their dedicated hard work but also for their empathy and caring and supportive attitude towards each other.

World Book Day

Year 1 to Year 6 classes will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2 March and the LK, GR and Transitions are celebrating this special themed day on Friday 3 March. We would be delighted if children could come to school dressed as a character from a 'Traditional Tale.' Please remember to dress the children in sensible shoes and a warm coat for playtime. A donation of £1 would be gratefully received by Book Aid International. An assembly will be held on Thursday and Friday to ensure that the children get to view the costumes of other children and to guess their identity.

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to personally greet so many of you as you arrived at school to attend our Transitions to Year 6 Parents' Evenings last week. I hope you found the appointment with your child's teacher informative regarding your child's progress and reassuring about their personal development.

Lower Kindergarten and Garden Room parents will be attending their Parents' Evenings this week. I am sure that you too will find your chat with your child's keyworker a positive experience.

Classroom visits

I regularly visit the children in their classrooms when I show prospective parents around the school but also when I just pop in to see part of a lesson or to talk to the children about their learning and work. It is usually something that happens, or is said during these 'walk-abouts' that stays in my thoughts.

For example, last week I was in a Year 1 creative writing lesson. The children were discussing a storm and finding descriptive words to conjure up a picture of the thunder and the lightning. One child volunteered the idea that she thought that the thunder was actually trying to talk to the lightning and that is why it was rumbling and making a noise. I had never thought about the relationship between thunder and lightning in this way before.

Similarly, as I was by the school office on Tuesday afternoon, some Transitions children had been on a forest walk on the second field. They could hardly contain their excitement to explain to me how they had found some eggs! And not just any eggs, but 'big, moving eggs.' They were very concerned how the eggs were going to keep warm in order to eventually hatch. Their enthusiasm was infective and wonderful to listen to!

The eggs were moved carefully to the Transition's classrooms. When the children arrived at school on Friday morning, the eggs had hatched and there were footprints on the floor! Many of the children were convinced that baby dinosaurs or dragons were roaming the school grounds and during the Early Years assembly, I was asked whether I had seen them? They were completely enthralled with this wondrous event.

Sport

Our cross country runners, netball team, hockey players and U7 football team will be participating in competitions during this half term. This is the first year that the ISA have organised a football tournament for Under 7's and we were fortunate to receive confirmation of our entry into this new initiative for KS1 children.

Mr Paine is also trying to arrange a girls' football match before the end of term as he recently started a Girls' Football Club before school on Tuesday mornings for the Year 5 and Year 6 girls.

It is encouraging to see so many children involved in the different sports clubs and being given the opportunity to enter into a wide range of competitions.

Handwriting

We are promoting a new handwriting initiative in school. An updated Handwriting Policy has recently been uploaded to the website; please do read it. During the next few weeks you will see handwriting displays appearing in classrooms containing 'washing lines' and 'arms'! These will help the children to learn the two ways of joining specific groups of letters together.

We are also introducing a new weekly award for improved handwriting in each KS1 and KS2 class. Each successful winner will wear a 'handwriting crown badge' for a week.

House Cup

As you are aware, the House Cup is presented every half term to the House which has gained the most house points. In Wednesday's assembly, Mariana, House Captain of Willow House collected the cup on behalf of all the members of her house in KS1 and KS2. Well done Willow children! They collected a total of 728 house points during last half term. What a fantastic effort by them all!

Marie Curie daffodils

Once again, we are supporting the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal. This charity raises money to help Marie Curie nurses care for people with a terminal illness. Please go to the office if you would like to make a £1 donation to be able to wear a daffodil. Thank you for your support.

Events

We have yet another busy four weeks ahead of us.

I am particularly looking forward to the assembly performances by Year 4 (Wednesday 8 March), Lower Kindergarten (Friday 17 March) and Garden Room (Friday 24 March). Please check the 'Events' list below for the time of each of these assemblies.

We finish the term with the Oak-Tree Festival on Wednesday 29 March. This will be held in the evening at Walthamstow Assembly Hall and will involve all KS2 children from the four schools in the Oak-Tree Group and some senior pupils. It promises to be an evening of spectacular entertainment. Mr Hagger will be writing shortly to all KS2 parents with details of this event.

Please remember to check this letter and of course the website, for dates and times of the various events. Details will be sent out to the relevant group of parents in advance of events, but if you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Forthcoming Events/dates Spring 2017

Wednesday 1 March	GR Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 2 March	Y1 – Y6 World Book Day 1J Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am Y3/4/5/6 Selection Coopersale Hall Cross Country Relay Race 12.20pm – 3.30pm LK Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Friday 3 March	LK/GR/TR World Book Day 1H Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am Team ISA Netball, Redbridge Sports Centre 8.40am – 2.30/3pm OPA Uniform Sale in Science Room 2.30pm
Monday 6 March	Oak-Tree Mental Maths Challenge 4pm – 5pm
Tuesday 7 March	Bancrofts Science Fair 1pm – 4.15/4.30pm
Wednesday 8 March	Y4 Assembly to Parents 9am
Thursday 9 March	Open Morning 9.15am
Friday 10 March	2S + 2J Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am
Monday 13 March	Book Fair tbc
Wednesday 15 March	Y3/4/5/6 Oaklands Swimming Gala, Loughton Pool 9.30am – 12pm
Thursday 16 March	3C Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am Y2 Team ISA U7 Football, Barnet 9.30am – 4.45/5pm
Friday 17 March	3G Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am LK Assembly to Parents 9am ISA London North Hockey – Oak-Tree Schools Team 9am – 2pm tbc
Wednesday 22 March	Y5/6 Selection WE Day at Wembley Stadium 7.30am – 4.20pm tbc Y3 Chafford Gorge Trip 8.30am – 3.30pm 2S Play to Parents 2pm
Thursday 23 March	Y4 Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am 2J Play to Parents 2pm
Friday 24 March	Red Nose Day tbc Y5 Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am GR Assembly to Parents 9am Y4/5 Young Mariners Meeting in School Hall 3.30pm
Monday 27 March	Y6 Drop-in Session 8.30am - 8.50am
Tuesday 28 March	Easter Bunny Day OPA Easter Disco at Wesley Hall, Loughton, EYFS 3.30pm - 4.45pm and KS1 & KS2 5pm – 6.15pm
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
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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