



# Oaklands School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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2 May 2017

Dear Parents

I hope you had a lovely Easter break. The children have been excited to be back at school and as always, have been keen to share their holiday news with each other and their teachers.

We are always very busy at Oaklands, and this Summer Term is no exception!

The vast majority of Year 4 & Year 5 pupils have already spent three exciting days last week at the Young Mariners Base in Cheshunt, experiencing and practising their skills at kayaking, climbing, stand up paddle boarding, raft building and many other fun outdoor activities. Thank you to Mrs Georgiou, Mrs Leighton and Mr Paine for accompanying and supervising these pupils during this three-day residential visit.

### The Aims of Oaklands School

The three Headmistresses of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools and Mr Hagger worked collaboratively together last term to update and rewrite the aims of the schools. They clearly reflect the importance of promoting and developing both the academic and personal growth of every child to enable them to take their place in our multicultural society.

We aim to:

- be a secure and safe community in which each child can achieve academically and personally
- help children develop a clear sense of right from wrong and take responsibility for their own actions
- provide a broad curriculum with a variety of activities that offer stimulating opportunities in which pupils can develop lively, enquiring minds as well as individual talents
- prepare each child for their next school to suit both their character and academic ability
- develop the skills and attributes children need to face the future with confidence
- foster in our pupils a positive attitude towards themselves and others, and treat everybody equally, showing tolerance and understanding
- nurture a strong sense of family in which there is care and respect amongst pupils, parents and staff
- give opportunities to develop leadership skills and encourage independence and cooperation

These School Aims are displayed around the school and will be shared with the children during main and class assemblies.

### Curriculum and extra curriculum achievements

Last term, all the pupils worked extremely hard, produced some excellent work and made noticeable individual progress in the classroom. It was also encouraging to hear from extra curricular teachers/coaches about pupils persevering to learn and grasp other skills in an activity they have chosen to participate in after school. Well done!

A substantial number of pupils represented the school in sport, mental maths and the spectacular Oak-Tree Festival.

Congratulations to everyone. I look forward to praising and celebrating further achievements of our pupils during this term.

### Summer uniform

Please note that all pupils should be wearing summer uniform. A full list of uniform items can be found on our website. For a complete list of the summer uniform click on the link to Forest Casualwear, the school's uniform supplier. They are open from 9am to 5.30pm from Monday to Saturday, but also operate a website for direct mail order at <http://www.forestcasualwear.co.uk/acatalog/Oaklands.htm>. It is important that the pupils are looking smart wearing the correct uniform every day!

The OPA are holding a 'Re-cycling' school uniform sale on Wednesday 3 May from 2.30pm onwards in the Science Room.

### Photographs

Class and team photographs were initially organised to take place Thursday 4 May. These have now been postponed until Friday 19 May.

### Dietary and Medical Needs

If your child's dietary or medical needs change, please inform the school in writing or by email so that the details we hold on our system can be updated. Please go to the School Office to let them know, in addition to telling the class teacher.

### Houses

Our House system continues to involve the pupils in a number of activities that are so important to encourage their sense of belonging and inclusion, their awareness of team and community spirit and the development of their self-esteem and self-confidence.

During the Spring term, both the Inter-house KS2 Swimming Gala and the KS2 Netball Tournament were won by Holly House. In the final assembly of the term, Beech House were presented with the KS1 & 2 House Point Shield for accumulating the most house points (1,138) during the second half of the term. Well done to everyone for such a huge total!

Sycamore House promoted 'Red Nose Day' in aid of Comic Relief by performing an entertaining assembly to KS1 and KS2 pupils. The school raised £304.10. Thank you for your support.

The big House event this term is undoubtedly Sports Day. For the first time, there will be a separate sports cup awarded to both KS1 and KS2 instead of a combined one. I am sure the races will be hotly contested. Fingers crossed for some dry weather around the 26 May!

### Year 5 Options Evening

This is a meeting for parents of children who are in the current Year 5 to discuss the options for secondary schools and the various procedures for applications. It will be held on **Monday 15 May at 6.00pm** in the school hall. I have invited Mrs Osborn, Headmistress of Normanhurst School and Braeside School, to talk about the transfer from primary to secondary education and how you as parents can support that transition. At the meeting you will also be given an information pack. Next week you will be asked to respond to a text back so that I have an idea of numbers attending.

### OPA

The OPA are currently busy organising the OPA Summer Fete on **Saturday 17 June**. The fete opens at **12.30pm** and lasts until **3.30pm**. Please do not hesitate to contact them on [oaklandsparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandsparentsassociation@gmail.com) if you can help in any way. There is a meeting to discuss the fete on **Wednesday 10 May** at 8.45am in the studio. All parents are welcome to attend!

### Promoting Independence

It seems incredible that we are in the last term of the academic year and in the blink of an eye, September will be here and all the pupils will be starting in their next year group.

As a school we work hard to prepare the pupils for this change and transition, particularly from one Key Stage to the next. This is achieved through PSHE lessons, assemblies and the daily life of the school, but also by creating opportunities for the children to visit other classrooms in the school and to come into contact with other members of staff.

As parents you can also play your part in the transition by helping your child to be more independent during this term. This can be achieved for example, by slowly reducing the amount of support (age appropriate) you provide to the completion of homework tasks. Please do continue to check homework, but provide extra praise to your child if the work has been carried out independently.

Many of you I know, already have children who are happy to enter school and their classroom independently in the morning. I would urge all parents of children from Year 1 upwards to encourage their child to be able to consistently do this by May half term. Obviously if you need to see the class teacher briefly on a particular morning, please do accompany your child to their classroom.

For parents of children in Transitions, it would be helpful if you could slightly reduce the time you spend in the classroom in the morning as the term progresses. Thank you.

### Start of the school day

Your child's class teacher is always ready to greet the children at 8.30am and to begin the school day. There are 'early morning tasks' for the children to do on arrival in their classroom. The teacher needs to take the register promptly at 8.45am in line with our Health and Safety policy and school attendance procedure.

As you are aware, the school is proud of its 'open door policy' and I do not want this to change. However, there were a few cases of parents remaining in the classroom beyond 8.45am last term which delayed the start of the school day for all the children, making them late for specialist subjects and assembly. In addition, some of the issues being raised by these parents were not suitable for discussion at this time in front of the class and other parents and in fact required a separate, individual appointment with the teacher.

I would be grateful for your cooperation in this matter.

### Assessment weeks

Between Monday 15 May and Thursday 25 May, pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will be taking their annual InCas assessment tests. These are online tests so the pupils will go to the IT suite. The children will be tested in mental maths, general maths, reading and spelling. The results of these InCas assessments will appear on your child's end of term report.

We aim to keep the 'test' experience as low key as possible so that the children are not worried or stressed about them. It is important that we maintain the healthy, positive and calm environment of a normal school day. This will help them to relax and to do their very best.

### Dance Display

The Dance Display will take place on **Tuesday 13 June at 3pm**. All the pupils from Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room, Transitions, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will be participating plus the girls from Year 5 and Year 6 who danced at the Oak-Tree Festival in March.

This will be the first time for many years that the youngest children in the school will perform alongside the eldest, which I think will be a wonderful sharing experience for all of them.

### Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day will be held on **Friday 26 May** on the school field. Please note the following approximate timings:

Years 1 and 2	9.15am to 10.30am
Lower Kindergarten, Garden Room and Transition	10.45am to 12.15pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6	1.45pm to 3.15pm

Parents, families and friends are most welcome to join us for the event, which is a real highlight in the school calendar. Your support is much appreciated by the children; lots of cheering and clapping is a real encouragement for them!

If the weather is unsuitable for Sports Day to be held on Friday 26 May, the reserve date for Sports Day is during the last week of the Summer term, on Tuesday 11 July. The same timings for each of the Key Stages of the school will apply for the 11 July.

### London Marathon, Sunday 23 April

Congratulations to Miss Johnston, class teacher of 1J who completed the London Marathon course in just under five hours! She raised £3,300 for The British Heart Foundation. We are all very proud of her determination to complete the course and how she persevered with her training schedule last term on top of her teaching and family commitments.

### New School Website

Our new website has now been launched and can be accessed as usual through [www.oaklandsschool.co.uk](http://www.oaklandsschool.co.uk). The site has been given a fresh, modern look that should help when looking for the latest news items, policies and general information. The App will be next, so watch this space.

### Summer Term Events

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

Tuesday 2 May	Team Netball Match v Coopersale Hall School 3pm – 4.45pm
Wednesday 3 May	Y3 + Y6 Swimming OPA Pre-loved Uniform Sale in the Science Room 2.30pm – 3.45pm
Thursday 4 May	Girls Football Team Match v White Bridge School 3pm – 4.45pm
Friday 5 May	Whole School Sponsored Walk for NSPC
Monday 8 May	Y6 PGL Liddington Activity Week GR Hayes Hill Farm 9.30am – 2.45pm
Wednesday 10 May	Y3 Swimming OPA Meeting in Studio 8.45am
Friday 12 May	Y6 Return from PGL 3.30pm/4.00pm
Monday 15 May	Y5 Options Evening in School Hall 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday 16 May	KS2 Music Concert 6pm – 7pm
Wednesday 17 May	Y1 - Y6 LAMDA Exams Y5 + Y6 NSPCC Workshop Y3 + Y6 Swimming KS2 Music Concert 6pm – 7pm
Thursday 18 May	Y1 - Y6 LAMDA Exams
Friday 19 May	Whole School Class Photographs
Wednesday 24 May	Y3 + Y6 Swimming 1J Play to Parents 2pm
Thursday 25 May	Y5 Taster Day at Brentwood School TR Trip to Old McDonald Farm 9.15am – 3pm tbc 1H Play to Parents 2pm
Friday 26 May	Sports Day Y1 + Y2 9.15am – 10.30am LK, GR, TR 10.45am – 12.15pm Y3 – Y6 1.45pm – 3.15pm
<b>Half Term Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June 2017</b>	
Tuesday 6 June	Y2 Music Concert 3.45pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 7 June	Y3 Trip to Hadleigh Country Park 8.30am – 3.30pm Y4 + Y6 Swimming
Friday 9 June	Y2 Trip to Rye Meads 9am – 3pm tbc

Tuesday 13 June	Dance Display 3pm
Wednesday 14 June	Y6 Crucial Crew Y4 Swimming
Saturday 17 June	Summer Fete 12.30pm – 3.30pm approx.
Wednesday 21 June	Y4 + Y6 Swimming
Wednesday 28 June	Y4 + Y6 Swimming Y5 + Y6 School Production 6.45pm
Wednesday 5 July	EYFS Celebration of the Year 2pm Y1 - Y6 Prize Giving 4pm
Friday 7 July	Meet the Teacher
Tuesday 11 July	Reserve Sports Day
Wednesday 12 July	Y4 + Y6 Last Swimming
Thursday 13 July	Last Day of Summer Term LK – TR 12pm Finish Y1 + Y2 12.15pm Finish Y3 – Y6 12.30pm Finish

I look forward to welcoming you to these events.

I hope you and your children have an enjoyable and rewarding term.

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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