



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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2 October 2017

Dear Parents

We are rapidly approaching the half term break and the children are consistently working hard in all their lessons. They are always so eager to tell me about their learning when I informally visit them in their classrooms or when I escort prospective parents around the school for a tour.

Many children have already been presented with Merit certificates, Good Behaviour and Friendship awards. Our new arrivals in Transition received 'Settling in' certificates after the first full week of term.

Congratulations to all the children for starting the new school year with such a positive approach.

The newsletter published last week gave a picture of how much is going on in the school. We have had information events for Transition and Garden Room parents, Year 3 camp, Year 1 visit to Mountfitchet castle, House and School Council meetings, Harvest assemblies and Jeans for Genes day. All the extracurricular clubs are underway, with the new Lego and Mad Science Club members meeting new challenges every week.

The beginning of the School day

All KS2 and most Year 2 children are now arriving independently at their classrooms in the morning, having said their farewells at the main school door. Most of our Year 1 children are also achieving this. Well done!

As you are aware, we pride ourselves on our 'open door' policy at Oaklands. Please do accompany your child to their classroom if you do need to speak briefly to a teacher at the start of the school day. However, all classrooms should be vacated by 8.45am so that the class teacher can take the register. If you have a concern that you think will take longer than a minute or two, please make an appointment to see the teacher before or after school hours via the school office. I hope that you will appreciate that it is important for the class teacher to be available to greet all the children as they enter the classroom and to start teaching the class on time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Collection after extra-curricular clubs

A great number of children attend the extra-curricular clubs that take place after school. On some days, there are five or six different clubs being held in various areas on the school site. There are often forty or more children to be dismissed by the staff between 4.15pm and 4.30pm. At present the club staff do not personally know the parents of all the children in their club as they are not in their actual teaching class. In order to ensure the safe collection of each child, I would ask parents to position themselves close to the dismissal point or area and come forward to the teacher to collect their child. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Parents' Evenings

Formal Parents' Evenings for Transition to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term on Wednesday 18 October and Thursday 19 October.

Garden Room parents are invited to attend a 'settling in' chat with your child's keyworker on Tuesday 17 October (Badgers and Squirrels) or on Wednesday 18 October (Rabbits and Hedgehogs).

You will be able to book your appointment on line. Further details will be sent to you during week beginning Monday 9 October.

Open Morning Thursday 5 October

We are hoping for fine weather on Thursday for our Open Morning which is for both prospective and current parents to view the school at work. Our Year 6 pupils will act as the official guides and I know they are looking forward to their first public appearance as Prefects and ambassadors for the School. Their enthusiasm for school life, the articulate way in which they talk about the school, their friendliness and good manners are among the best expressions for what Oaklands School stands for.

As part of our presentation to parents, our Head Boy and Head Girl will be delivering their first public speech.

Admissions Policy

In my last Head's letter, I informed you that our Admissions policy had been updated. For those of you with pre-school children, may I draw your attention to the following section again as we are rapidly approaching the deadline for the registration of siblings.

'We aim to give the siblings of current pupils at Oaklands priority when considering children applying to join the school from outside. However, admission is not necessarily automatic and siblings are still subject to the school's admissions procedures when applying for all year groups.

The deadline by which time siblings must be registered to join Oaklands in September 2018 is Monday 9 October 2017. We will not be able guarantee siblings priority consideration if applications are made after this time as the process will have started for those who have already registered to enter the school from outside.'

Art Prize

You may remember from a newsletter last year that Amber M, now in Year 4, was an Area Runner up in the Royal Mails' Christmas Stamp Design Competition 2017. I presented Amber with her prize of £100 and certificate in assembly last week. The school also received another cheque from Royal Mail for £100 to use in the Art department. Well done, and thank you Amber!

Achievements outside school

I am very keen to acknowledge and praise your child's successes that they achieve at clubs and activities outside school. Please do send in certificates and badges that I can present to them as part of our assembly programme.

OPA

On Friday 29 September, the OPA organised a very successful Macmillan Cake sale which raised £416.21p. Thank you for your support. The staff organised their cake sale on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September and raised £105.30. Well done to all the super cooks among you!

The OPA plan to hold their Annual General Meeting on Friday 6 October at 9.00am in the studio. Please do come along and hear about how you can support them in their work.

Lots of the children have been enjoying using the I pads in their classrooms, which were purchased by the OPA last term. You may have noticed the photos of Year 6 using them in their music lesson in the recent newsletter. I visited a Year 5 Science lesson last week, to discover them using the I pads to research about the life cycles of insects.

Oak-Tree Fireworks – Sunday 12 November 2017

You have already received a letter about this lovely event, which is to be held from 4.30-6.30pm in the grounds of Oaklands School. Tickets for this popular event in the Oak-Tree Group of Schools calendar are available to families from all four schools in the group. All profits from the evening will go back to the Parents' Associations, with the teams from the four schools joining together to help run the event.

Due to the enormous demand (over 1,000) tickets last year, tickets will only be available to purchase before the event. Ticket sales will be limited to 1050. Tickets will cost £5 per child or £10 per adult with a discounted price of £25 for a family of two children and two adults. This includes a hot dog and children will be given a soft drink and a cake. There will be opportunities to purchase mulled wine, beer, hot drinks and various children goodies during the event. All the profits will be divided between the Parents' Associations from the four schools. Please note that your booking form and payment must be handed in by Monday 16 October 2017.

Uniform

After the half term break, the children return to School in winter uniform. Please check either your child's class handbook, available on the parent portal, or the website for details.

May I remind you that the school uniform list asks for bottle green hair accessories. Some of the girls are wearing bright green large bows in their hair that are not appropriate for school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Individual photographs will be taken by a professional photographer on Thursday 9 November and it is important to see the children smartly dressed in the correct uniform.

Coffee Mornings

Mr Matthew Hagger and I will be holding our annual coffee mornings on Tuesday mornings starting on Tuesday 7 November. These are designed to be informal discussions about school life and, with no set agendas, have been very popular over recent years. Please check the table below for your class time:

CLASS	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Garden Room	Tues 7 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Transition	Tues 14 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 1	Tues 21 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 2	Tues 28 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 6	Tues 5 Dec	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio

Coffee mornings for Lower Kindergarten, Years 3, 4 and 5 parents will be arranged in the New Year.

Forthcoming Events

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

Tuesday 3 October	Y2 7+ Meeting 8.50am – 9.15am Netball team (Y5/6) to Chigwell – Away 2.15pm-4.00pm
Wednesday 4 October	Football Match to St Edmunds School – Away 2.45pm-5.15pm
Thursday 5 October	Open Morning 9.15am – 11.15am
Friday 6 October	OPA AGM – Studio 9am-10.30am
Monday 9 October	Y2 Great Fire of London workshop 9am–2.15pm; Performance to Parents at 2.30pm GR to Year 6 – Parents Evening - Portal open to book appointments
Tuesday 10 October	Y5 Preparation for 11+ Meeting in Hall 8.50am
Wednesday 11 October	Flu Immunisation
Saturday 14 October	Orion Harriers Cross Country Race 9.30am – 10.30am
Monday 16 October	Y6 Interviews with Head of CHS
Tuesday 17 October	Y6 St Edmunds Taster Day 8.30am GR 'Settling In' Chat 3.15pm – 6pm
Wednesday 18 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9.30am – 10.30am Y6 11+ Mock Exam 1.45pm – 2.45pm GR 'Settling In' Chat 3.15pm – 6pm TR - Y6 Parents Evenings 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 19 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9.30am – 10.30am Y6 11+ Mock Exam 1.45pm – 2.45pm TR - Y6 Parents Evenings 3.30pm – 6.30pm OPA Movie Afternoon 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Half Term Monday 23 October – Friday 3 November 2017

Monday 6 November	Start back
Tuesday 7 November	GR Coffee Morning 8.45am Y4 Trip to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge tbc
Wednesday 8 November	Y4 + Y5 Swimming Starts
Thursday 9 November	Whole School Individual Photographs
Friday 10 November	Whole School Two minute silence
Sunday 12 November	Oak-Tree Fireworks Display 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Tuesday 14 November	TR Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 15 November	Y3-Y6 Anti Bullying Workshop
Thursday 16 November	LK Assembly to Parents in Hall 9am
Tuesday 21 November	Y1 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Thursday 23 November	Oak-Tree Football & Netball at Peter May 1.15pm-4.30pm
Friday 24 November	TR Show to Parents in Hall 9.15am
Tuesday 28 November	Y2 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 29 November	Y4 + Y5 Last Swimming of Autumn Term
Friday 1 December	GR Christmas Show to Parents in Hall 9.30am
Monday 4 December	KS1 Pantomime at Stratford Theatre
Tuesday 5 December	Y6 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 6 December	EYFS Pyramid Pantomime 1.15pm-3pm KS1 + KS2 Carol Service at St Mary's Church 2pm
Thursday 7 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9.30am – 10.30am Y6 11+ Mock Exam 1.45pm – 2.45pm
Friday 8 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9.30am – 10.30am Whole School Pupil Christmas Lunch Y3 – Y5 OPA Christmas Party in School Hall 4.15pm – 6.15pm
Monday 11 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9.30am – 10.30am Y3 – Y6 'Jack & the Beanstalk' Pantomime at Milfield Theatre 12pm 4.30pm Y1 + Y2 Christmas Party 2pm Whole School – Reports out to parents
Tuesday 12 December	LK + GR Christmas Party 10.30am TR Christmas Party 2pm
Wednesday 13 December	Last day of Autumn Term

The second half of the Autumn term, as we approach Christmas, is full of opportunities for you to attend a school event which involves your child. I look forward to enjoying these special moments with you and your children.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

