



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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6 November 2017

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families enjoyed the mid-term break and that you are looking forward to the forthcoming half term, which has a number of special events as Christmas approaches. Please make a note of the dates at the end of this letter, on the app calendar and on the website.

As we return to school, may I remind you that all pupils should now be wearing the correct winter uniform.

Individual photographs

On Thursday 9 November, individual photographs will be taken of the children. It is particularly important that all the children look smart and are in correct winter school uniform for these photographs. All long hair should be tied back with the regulation coloured hair bands. Thank you.

Poppy Appeal

Remembrance poppies will be on sale in school this week. The office Prefects will be going round to classrooms at the beginning of the school day, between 8.30 and 8.50am. Poppies are also available from the school office. We hope to see all the pupils wearing a poppy on Friday 10 November. We will mark the day with a 2 minutes silence in the playground at 11.00am.

Prospective parents

We continue to welcome a consistent flow of prospective parents to the school. Open Morning was very successful and my 'tour calendar' is rapidly filling up for this forthcoming half term. We will be starting the 4+ and 3+ pre-offer assessment programme before the Christmas holidays for children who wish to join the school during 2018-2019.

OPA

The OPA continue to support the school with their fundraising events. Two recycled school uniform afternoons were held last half term. Thank you to Mrs Griggs in particular for organising these.

I know that a substantial number of children attended the Movie Night on Thursday 19 October and enjoyed watching 'Sing.' Thank you to the parents who organised this on the second evening of Parent consultation meetings.

Oak-Tree Fireworks Display Sunday 12 November

The Oaklands School Parents Association is busy working with the parents' associations at the other three Oak-Tree schools to make the final preparations for the annual Oak-Tree Group of Schools Fireworks Display on Sunday 12 November, 4.30-6.30pm.

Details are on the website. Please remember that tickets need to be pre-ordered and will not be available on the night. I am sure the event will, once again, be a successful Oak-Tree event and I look forward to seeing you there.

Providing information to parents

As a school, we are always looking for ways to share with you the educational methods our teachers use in the classroom to teach your children.

To address this aim, we have organised a number of meetings for different groups of parents so far this term. These include the Garden Room 'Ready to read' and Transition 'RWI' meetings followed closely by Year 2 7+ and Year 5 11+ meetings. This half term will include the Maths Information evenings for KS1 and KS2.

I hope you find these type of meetings helpful and beneficial in order to support your child's learning at home.

Parents' Evenings and 'Drop-in' sessions

I hope you all found your recent meeting with your child's class teacher informative.

During this half-term, we have timetabled a series of 'Drop-in' sessions for each KS1 and KS2 class. These will take place first thing in the morning, 8.30-8.50am.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
1J	Thursday 9 November	8.30am to 8.50am
1R	Friday 10 November	8.30am to 8.50am
2C	Thursday 16 November	8.30am to 8.50am
2S	Friday 17 November	8.30am to 8.50am
3L	Thursday 23 November	8.30am to 8.50am
Y6	Friday 24 November	8.30am to 8.50am
4C + 4Z	Thursday 30 November	8.30am to 8.50am
Y5	Friday 1 December	8.30am to 8.50am

The main aim of the 'Drop-in' session is to give your child the opportunity to show you some of their work books and to explain what they have been doing and achieving. As you will appreciate, these sessions are not suitable for a 1:1 teacher-parent discussion. As always, if you have any concerns during this half term about your child, please make a separate appointment, through the school office, to meet with your child's class teacher or myself. Thank you for your cooperation.

Coffee Mornings

The programme of coffee mornings with Mr Hagger and me starts this Tuesday, 7 November with a coffee morning for Garden Room parents. These are informal meetings to discuss any aspects of school life that may be of interest. Please refer to the Dates list at the end of this letter to check the date for your child's class.

Awards

As you are aware, we present a number of different awards to the children. Each week merit certificates are presented to two children in each of the KS1 and KS2 classes. A merit certificate can be awarded for a variety of reasons such as using ambitious words in creative writing, excellent problem solving skills or neat presentation of work.

Good Behaviour and Friendship awards are presented on a fortnightly basis.

A Good Behaviour award is presented to a child who consistently displays positive behaviour and acts as a role model to their peers, or to a child who we can see is making extra effort to rectify any disruptive or unsocial behaviour in the classroom or the playground.

Please read the characteristics of our Friendship award which are displayed along the middle corridor. The children often discuss what it means to be a 'good friend' and the School's Code of Behaviour during their class assemblies or in a PSHE circle time.

'Wow' certificates are awarded once every half term in a special 'Wow' assembly. These are presented for an outstanding piece of work or particular perseverance to complete a task.

I also award Head teacher's certificates to a class for a number of reasons, such as excellent attitude and participation during a school visit or an outstanding class assembly. Sometimes individuals receive a Head teacher's certificate for their contribution to the life of the school or a significant achievement in their academic work.

On a weekly basis, class teachers also award badges for Handwriting and Maths. This half term sees the introduction of another badge for being a 'Time tables superstar.' All KS1 and KS2 pupils are required to learn their time tables as part of their weekly homework schedule.

All these awards are part of, and enhance, the school's aim to create a positive learning environment for the children, and to praise and celebrate their achievement and progress. By having a wide range of awards, we aim to ensure that a substantial number of children receive additional recognition for their effort and work during each half term.

A log is kept for each award to monitor that there is a fair distribution of awards within each class during an academic year.

Extra-curricular clubs

The Debating club will be starting this half term for KS2 children. Ms Zaidi runs this club during Thursday lunchtimes at 1.00pm. Look out for news about how the first debate went in the next newsletter.

Collecting children during the school day

Sometimes during the school day, children need to leave the premises to attend dental or medical appointments. Please remember to report to the school office when you arrive at school. A member of the office staff will then go to collect your child while you wait in the Parent's Waiting room. This procedure is vital to the security of the school as we cannot have any adult who is not a member of staff, or who has not signed in and is wearing a school lanyard, walking about the school.

Similarly, if you arrive late at school in the morning, please report to the school office. Your child will then be marked present and a member of the office staff will ensure your child is taken to their classroom or into assembly.

Siblings

As you are aware, we have a system whereby our staff supervise children in 'Siblings' (3.00-3.15pm) or in 'Lates' (3.15-3.30pm). Please collect your child by either 3.15pm from 'Siblings' or by 3.30pm from 'Lates' before you collect your older child. Any child who has not been collected by 3.30pm will be taken to Tea Time club, which does incur a charge. These arrangements mean that the office staff will be able to provide the correct location of your child to you if there is an occasion when you are late for collection. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

National Anti-Bullying week 13-17 November

Every year we support the National Anti-Bullying week campaign, which aims to raise awareness of what bullying is and how to tackle bullying. As part of our commitment to ensuring that we are an 'anti-bullying school' I have invited the Education Group Company into school on Wednesday 15 November to deliver a workshop to the pupils in KS2. The pupils will experience how to recognise and deal with bullying issues.

As you are aware, the school's Anti-Bullying policy can be found on our website.

Sport in November

November is undoubtedly going to be the busiest month so far on our sporting calendar. Events include the U11 ISA Girls football tournament, the ISA London North Swimming Championships, the Oak-Tree Football and Netball tournaments and the four gymnastics teams competing in the Enfield Festival of Gymnastics. Good luck to all the pupils representing the school at these events!

ISA Autumn Conference

Miss Dee and I shall be out of school on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 November as we are attending the Independent School's Association Autumn Study Conference in Coventry. The conference provides a valuable opportunity to learn about the latest educational developments in the UK and helps us to continue to provide an excellent educational experience for our pupils here at Oaklands.

Forthcoming Events

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

Tuesday 7 November	GR Coffee Morning 8.45am Y4 Trip to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge 9.15am – 2pm
Wednesday 8 November	Y4 + Y5 Swimming Starts KS2 Maths Evening 6pm – 7pm
Thursday 9 November	1J Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am Whole School Individual Photographs
Friday 10 November	1R Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am Whole School Two minute silence 11am
Sunday 12 November	Oak-Tree Fireworks Display 4.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday 13 November	ISA Girls U11 Football, Barnet 10am – 3.30pm
Tuesday 14 November	TR Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 15 November	Y3-Y6 Anti Bullying Workshop 9am – 12pm KS1 Maths Evening 6pm – 7pm
Thursday 16 November	2C Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am LK Assembly to Parents in Hall 9.15am (refreshments in Studio from 8.30am)
Friday 17 November	2S Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am
Monday 20 November	Girls ISA London North Swimming Championships, Barnet Copthall 7.45am – 2pm
Tuesday 21 November	Y1 Coffee Morning 8.45am Y4 Tudor Day in school tbc
Thursday 23 November	3L Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am Oak-Tree Football & Netball at Peter May 1.15pm-4.30pm

Friday 24 November	Y6 Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am TR Show to Parents in Hall 9.15am (refreshments in Studio 8.45am)
Monday 27 November	Y2 x 5 Pupils Gymnastics Festival, Southbury Leisure Centre, Enfield 7.45am – 12.45pm TR Road Safety Workshop in Studio Y6 Anglo Saxon Workshop in school tbc
Tuesday 28 November	Y3/4 x 5 Pupils Gymnastics Festival, Southbury Leisure Centre, Enfield 8am – 12.30pm Y2 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 29 November	KS2 x 5 Pupils Gymnastics Festival, Edmonton Leisure Centre 8am – 12.30pm Y4 + Y5 Last Swimming of Autumn Term
Thursday 30 November	Y4C + Y4Z Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am KS2 x 5 Pupils Gymnastics Festival, Edmonton Leisure Centre 8am – 11.30am Choir St Mary's Church "Light up Loughton" 3.15pm (Event begins at 4pm)
Friday 1 December	Y5 Drop in session 8.30am – 8.50am GR Christmas Show to Parents in Hall 9.30am (refreshments in Studio at 8.45am)
Monday 4 December	KS1 Pantomime at Stratford Theatre 12.45pm – 5.30pm
Tuesday 5 December	Y6 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 6 December	EYFS Pyramid Pantomime in School Hall 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 KS2 'Jack & the Beanstalk' Pantomime at Milfield Theatre 12pm 4.30pm Y1 + Y2 Christmas Party 2pm Whole School – Reports out to parents
Tuesday 12 December	Christingle tbc LK + GR Christmas Party 10.30am TR Christmas Party 2pm
Wednesday 13 December	Last day of Autumn Term

The children will undoubtedly become more excited as the half term progresses towards Christmas. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various events the school is hosting this half 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
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

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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