



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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February 2018

Dear Parents

January has raced past and the half term break is nearly upon us.

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 all the children have been engaged in their learning this term; every time I have walked into a 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.

During this half term a large number of children in Years 3 to 6 have represented the school in swimming and cross country, and a substantial number of children who attend the weekly Karate Club have passed their yellow or red belt grading. Well done to all of these children.

Coffee mornings

Thank you to those of you who were available to come along to your year group coffee mornings in January with Mr Hagger and me. 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 on Tuesday 6 February at 8.45am in the Studio.

Drop-in Sessions Spring Term 2018

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. The dates and times for each year group are as follows:

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Y1J	Thursday 22 February	8.30am to 8.50am
Y1R	Friday 23 February	8.30am to 8.50am
Y2C	Thursday 1 March	8.30am to 8.50am
Y2S	Friday 2 March	8.30am to 8.50am
Y4C/Z	Friday 9 March	8.30am to 8.50am
Y3L	Thursday 15 March	8.30am to 8.50am
Y5	Friday 16 March	8.30am to 8.50am
Y6	Thursday 22 March	8.30am to 8.50am

Please note that the Drop-in sessions for Y3L and Y4C/Z have been altered.

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 5 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 Parents' Evenings for each age group in the school.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Y1 – Y6	Wed 21 Feb	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Lower Kindergarten	Tues 13 March	3.15pm – 6.00pm
	Thurs 15 March	3.15pm – 6.00pm

Parents' Evenings for Transition and Garden Room children will be held at the beginning of the Summer Term 2018. The dates for these meetings will be included in the next Head's letter in March.

Parking reminder

May I politely request that parents do not park across, or obstruct in anyway, the driveways of our neighbours when dropping or collecting their children. We aim to have harmonious and positive relationships in the locality, so I ask for your cooperation please.

Assemblies

We aim to open and enhance the knowledge and minds of the children by covering a range of topics in our assembly programme. So far this term the children have attended assemblies about New Year resolutions, World Religion Day, Being a Good Friend and the celebration of 'Wow' work. After half term there will be assemblies about Famous Inventors, World Book Day, Chinese New Year, Sports Relief and Plastic in the Ocean.

Some of the assemblies are taken by myself, a member of the SLT, or a class teacher. They very often include an input from some of the children too. For example, Y4C helped Miss Creedon present World Religion Day and some members of Year 6 read out their New Year resolutions. Very often, Year 6 read out the prayer and Ethos words for the week and help me to present the weekly certificates and awards.

House meetings took place on Monday 22 January. Each House was requested to propose a name for the school mascot; a lovely teddy bear who lives in my room. He has now been christened as 'Oakley.'

Medical matters

I should like to reiterate to parents that all pupils should be kept off school for at least 48 hours following a sickness bug. Also, if they have started a course of antibiotics they should also be kept off school for the first 48 hours whilst taking the medication. This is to contain the spread of infection as far as possible. Likewise, if your child is taken ill at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. Thank you for your cooperation.

Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday, 6 February is "Safer Internet Day". During the week in Computing lessons, Mrs Bull (Computer Teacher) will be helping the children in KS1 and KS2 to complete various activities that will remind them of the importance of responsible and respectful internet use. They will be writing internet rules, designing posters and leaflets and discussing who they need to talk to if anything worries them whilst online.

These sessions will supplement our Computing curriculum, which already contains a range of age-appropriate internet safety lessons.

Events

We have a number of events that the children are participating in during the last seven days of the half term. On Friday 2 February we have a Maths workshop taking place in school for all KS1 and KS2 classes. The girls' football team are competing in a tournament at St. Edmunds School, Ware on Saturday 3 February and on Monday 5 February Year 2 are performing at the Stratford and East London Music Festival in South Woodford. I am looking forward to watching Y3L's assembly, 'The Romans' on Thursday 8 February in the School Hall. Good luck to all the children in these events!

You will see from the dates list that next half term is also very busy, so please make sure that you continually check our website and app for up to date information.

Forthcoming events/dates for Spring 2018

Friday 2 February	Y1 – Y6 Maths workshop
Monday 5 February	Y2 Stratford and East London Music Festival at St Mary's Church 1pm
Tuesday 6 February	LK Coffee Morning 8.45am
Thursday 8 February	3L Assembly to Parents 9am
Friday 9 February	Whole School Non Uniform Day – Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February Half Term

Wednesday 21 February	Y4 + Y6 Swimming begins Forest School Science Competition Y1 – Y6 (not 1R) Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 22 February	1J Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am OPA Movie Night, 3.15pm – 5.15pm Y1 – Y6 (not 1R) Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Friday 23 February	1R Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am Aldenham School, Elstree – Cross Country 12pm
Thursday 1 March	2C Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am Coopersale Hall School – Cross Country 12.30pm Y4/Y5 Young Mariners Parents Meeting 3.30pm
Friday 2 March	2S Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am
Wednesday 7 March	Bancroft's Netball Rally
Thursday 8 March	Open Morning 9.15am
Friday 9 March	4C + 4Z Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am LK Assembly to Parents 9.15am ISA London North U11 Netball at Redbridge Sports Centre 8.30am
Monday 12 March	KS1 + KS2 Quantum Science Workshop (Science week)
Tuesday 13 March	3L Hadleigh Park Bancroft's Science Fair - Y6 (by invitation only) LK Parents Evening 3.15pm – 6pm
Thursday 15 March	3L Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am 4C Assembly to Parents 9am LK Parents Evening 3.15pm – 6pm
Friday 16 March	Y5 Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am GR Assembly to Parents 9.15am
Wednesday 21 March	KS2 Swimming Gala 9.30am – 12pm Y2C Play to Parents 2pm OPA Easter Disco, EYFS 3.30pm – 4.45pm, Y1 – Y6 5pm – 6.15pm
Thursday 22 March	Y6 Drop-in Session 8.30am – 8.50am 2S Play to Parents 2pm
Friday 23 March	OPA Easter Bunny
Mon 26 – Wed 28 March	Y4/5 Young Mariners Base residential trip
Wednesday 28 March	Last day of Spring Term

May I wish you a lovely half term break when the time comes next week.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress



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

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