



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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October 2018

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the half term break and the children are continuing to work hard in all their lessons. They are always so enthusiastic 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.

A number of children have already been presented with Merit certificates and our two Year 3 classes were both awarded a special Head Teacher's Certificate for their outstanding participation and effort during their camping experience. Our new arrivals in Reception received 'Settling in' certificates after the first full week of term.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to all the children in the school for starting the new school year with such a positive approach. Well done!

The recently published September Newsletter gave a picture of how much is going on in the school. We have had information events for Reception and Upper Kindergarten parents, Year 3 camp, Year 4 visits to Harlow Activity Centre and Hatfield Forest, Year 5 visit to the Gunpowder Mills, House and School Council meetings, Harvest assemblies and Jeans for Genes day. All the extracurricular clubs are underway, including the new KS2 Dance and Tag Rugby clubs.

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. A great number 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.

Open Morning Thursday 4 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 Prefects, assisted by our Year 5 pupils, will act as the official guides and I know they are looking forward to their first public appearance as 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.

School Development

The development project continues to make good progress. The path along the bottom of the main field with low level lighting to link the car park and pathway leading to our bottom gate is nearly finished. We are also in the process of constructing additional car parking spaces in the car park.

The new classroom above the new entrance lobby to the Reception classrooms is nearly ready for decoration and carpeting and the new outside play area for Lower Kindergarten, which will allow more free flow learning, is rapidly taking shape.

The walls for the new lower ground floor specialist classroom under the extended school hall are gradually being built and we hope to complete these and the roof by the end of the October half term.

This is an exciting phase in Oakland's history and I am looking forward to the many additional benefits that the development will bring.

Oak-Tree Challenge

Later this week I will be introducing The Oak-Tree Challenge Scheme to our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils. This scheme is designed to challenge all of our Oak-Tree schools' pupils from Year 4 upwards by providing an incentive to participate in the huge variety of opportunities provided inside or outside school. The scheme runs throughout the year from the first day of term in September until the end of June.

The Oak-Tree Scheme is voluntary and pupil-initiated. Some challenges are achievable in school time; others are designed to be undertaken out of school with parental support. Throughout the nine challenges there is a mixture of skills and activities being assessed, including voluntary work and independent study.

For each stage there is a requirement for self-reflection that is intended to become more detailed as the children get older. Pupils can only progress to each next award once the previous one has been completed.

Evidence of the successful completion of challenges will be recorded in a logbook that must be kept up-to-date and completed by the pupils themselves. The supervising teacher, parent or other adult should countersign the relevant journal entry to verify the contents.

Bronze and Silver Award certificates will be presented in the final assemblies at the end of each academic year, and Gold Award certificates will be presented at each Speech Day and Prize Giving. All pupils who gain an award will also receive a pin badge to wear on their lapel. The Awards will be entered onto the pupils' permanent records and may be referred to in future references. There will also be a monetary voucher for Gold Award recipients!

We hope that all children will choose to participate and enjoy the challenges and personal success that they will bring to them.

Parents' Evenings

Formal Parents' Evenings for Reception to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term on Wednesday 17 October and Thursday 18 October.

Upper Kindergarten parents are invited to attend a 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Tuesday 16 October (Badgers and Rabbits) or on Wednesday 17 October (Squirrels and Hedgehogs).

Lower Kindergarten parents are invited to attend their 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Monday 15 October.

You will be able to book your appointment on line. Further details will be sent to you during week beginning Monday 8 October.

Admissions Policy

Last year, we updated our Admissions policy which is, as always, available for reading on the school website. For those of you with pre-school children, please ensure that you familiarise yourself with the following section about '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 2019 is Monday 8 October 2018. 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.'

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 28 September, the OPA organised a very successful Macmillan Cake sale which raised over £400. Thank you for your support. The staff organised their cake sale on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 September and raised £90.52p. Well done to all the super cooks among you!

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 occasionally wearing large bright green 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 8 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 6 November. Please check the table below for your class time:

CLASS	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Upper Kindergarten	Tues 6 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Reception	Tues 13 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 1	Tues 20 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 2	Tues 27 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 6	Tues 4 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.

Dates for the Diary

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

Thursday 4 October	Open Morning 9:15am – 11:30am
Tuesday 9 October	Y5 11+ Meeting 8:50am – 9:15am in the Hall
Monday 15 October	LK 'Settling in chat' 3.15 – 5.30pm
Monday 15 October	ISA London North Swimming Gala 7:20am – 2:00pm
Monday 15 October	LK 'settling in' Meetings
Tuesday 16 October	UK 'Settling in' meetings for Badgers & Rabbits 3.15 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 17 October	UK 'Settling in' meetings for Hedgehogs & Squirrels 3.15 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 17 October	Reception - Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings 3:45pm – 6.30pm
Wednesday 17 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 18 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 18 October	Reception - Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings 3:45pm – 6.30pm
Friday 19 October	Oak-Tree Football and Netball Tournament 9:15am – 11:30am
Friday 19 October	Last day of term

Half Term Monday 22 October – Friday 2 November

Tuesday 6 November	UK Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Thursday 8 November	2C Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Friday 9 November	2S Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Tuesday 13 November	Reception Coffee Morning 8.45-9.30am
Thursday 15 November	1Z Drop in session 8.30- 8.50am
Thursday 15 November	LK Assembly to parents 9.15am
Friday 16 November	1R Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Tuesday 20 November	Y1 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Thursday 22 November	3L Drop in session 8.30-8.50am
Thursday 22 November	3C Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Friday 23 November	Reception Play to parents 9.00am
Tuesday 27 November	Y2 Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Thursday 29 November	4C Drop in session 8.30- - 8.50am
Friday 30 November	Y5G Drop in session 8:30am - 8:50am
Friday 30 November	UK Play to parents 9.15am
Tuesday 4 December	Y6 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 5 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service tbc
Wednesday 5 December	EYFS watching 'Sleeping Beauty' Pantomime in the Hall
Thursday 6 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 6 December	Y5Z Drop in session 8:30am – 8:50am
Thursday 6 December	LK Drop in session for Hedgehogs and Squirrels
Thursday 6 December	Y3-Y6 Pantomime at Millfield Theatre 12:30pm – 4:30pm
Friday 7 December	LK Drop in session for Badgers and Rabbits
Friday 7 December	Y1+Y2 Pantomime at Harlow 12:15pm – 4:30pm
Friday 7 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Friday 7 December	Y6 Drop in session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 7 December	Y3-Y5 OPA Disco tbc
Monday 10 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Monday 10 December	Y1+Y2 OPA Christmas Party tbc
Tuesday 11 December	LK-Reception OPA Christmas Party tbc
Wednesday 12 December	Last Day of term

I have enjoyed welcoming you to School in the mornings and meeting some of you at various events during this half 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 sharing these special moments with you and your children.

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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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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