



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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November 2018

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 8 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 Monday 12 November. We will mark the day with a special Remembrance assembly and 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 on Thursday 11 October was extremely successful and my 'tour calendar' is rapidly filling up for this forthcoming half term. We will be shortly be starting the 4+ and 3+ pre-offer taster/assessment programme before the Christmas holidays for children who wish to join the school during 2019-2020.

Opening of new classroom

I am delighted to announce the opening of the new classroom on the middle corridor. This has been decorated and furnished during the half term break. I am sure that Year 5Z will thoroughly enjoy being the first class to occupy this additional teaching area.

OPA

The OPA continue to support the school with their fundraising events. Thank you to Mrs Griggs and her team for organising the MacMillan Cake Afternoon and the Halloween Disco. I know that a substantial number of children attended the Movie Night on Thursday 18 October and enjoyed watching a 'Troll' movie. Thank you to the parents who helped supervise all the children during this second evening of Parent Consultation meetings.

The OPA are holding their **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 14 November, 9.00-10.00am in the Studio**. They are looking forward to welcoming some new parents to their discussion forum. Please do join them.

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 already organised a number of meetings for different groups of parents so far this term. These include the Upper Kindergarten 'Ready to read' and Reception 'RWI' meetings followed closely by Year 2 7+ and Year 5 11+ meetings. This half term we are planning to hold Maths Information evenings for Year 1 and Year 3 parents. 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 just before the half term holiday informative.

During this half-term, we have timetabled a series of 'Drop-in' sessions for each of the KS1 and KS2 classes. These will take place first thing in the morning, 8.30-8.50am. Please check the 'Forthcoming Events' list at the end of this letter to check the date of your child's 'Drop-in' session. Please note that the date of the 'Drop-in' session for Y2S has been changed to Thursday 15 November as Miss Sandford is not in school on the original date of Friday 9 November.

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

Our programme of coffee mornings starts this Tuesday, 6 November with a meeting for Upper Kindergarten parents. Please refer to the Dates below to check the date for your child's class.

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.

Awards

As you are aware, we present a number of different awards to the children throughout each term. Merit certificates are presented to two children in each of the KS1 and KS2 classes on a fortnightly basis. A merit certificate can be awarded for a variety of reasons such as using ambitious words in creative writing, excellent problem solving skills, imaginative art work or independent research work.

Good Behaviour and Friendship awards are also 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.

The 'Friendship' award is presented to a child who is a caring and understanding member of the class, willing to share, listen and help others. 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 or progress in their academic work.

On a fortnightly basis, KS1 and KS2 class teachers also award badges for Handwriting, Timetables Star, Good Reader, Maths Master and English Superstar within their class. Photographs of the children who are awarded these badges are displayed on the 'Achievement' poster in each classroom.

All these awards are part of, and enhance, the school's aim to create a positive learning environment for the children, and to continually 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. Please be reassured that a log is kept for each award to monitor that there is a fair distribution of awards within each class during an academic year.

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 automatically 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.

Sport in November

The sporting calendar has already been very busy this term with KS2 pupils representing the School at the ISA London North Swimming Championships on Monday 15 October and the Oak-Tree Football and Netball tournaments on Friday 19 October. Later this half term, selected KS2 pupils will be involved in the ISA Girls Football Tournaments and the Oak-Tree Athletics event.

ISA Autumn Conference

Miss Sandford and I shall be out of school on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 November as we are attending the Independent School's Association Autumn Study Conference in Coventry. The conference provides a valuable opportunity to hear and 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

Tuesday 6 November	UK Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Thursday 8 November	2C Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Tuesday 13 November	Reception Coffee Morning 8.45-9.30am
Wednesday 14 November	OPA Annual General Meeting 9.00-10.00am
Wednesday 14 November	Y2 Gunpowder Mills visit 9:00am-2:45pm
Thursday 15 November	1Z Drop in session 8.30- 8.50am
	2S 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
Thursday 22 November	Oak-Tree Group Spelling Bee, Oaklands School 4:00pm
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
Thursday 29 November	UK Play to parents 9.15am (Badgers & Hedgehogs)
Friday 30 November	Y5G Drop in session 8:30am - 8:50am

Friday 30 November	UK Play to parents 9.15am (Rabbits & Squirrels)
Tuesday 4 December	Y6 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 5 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Loughton 2.00pm
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 Christmas Disco
Monday 10 December	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Monday 10 December	Y1+Y2 OPA Christmas Party
Tuesday 11 December	LK-Reception OPA Christmas Party
Wednesday 12 December	Last Day of 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 meetings and seasonal 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

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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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