



# Oaklands School

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## HEADMISTRESS

MRS SUE BELEJ B.A. (JNT HONS), CERT.ED.

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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all our families; may I wish you happy and healthy 2019. I hope you all had an enjoyable festive holiday with your families and friends and that your children are looking forward to the new term ahead. I wonder how many of us will be able to keep our New Year resolutions?

Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts you and your children gave me at the end of last term. I really appreciate your kindness and generosity.

We have another busy term ahead so do check our website and your portal/group call for information. All our extracurricular clubs begin next week (week beginning Monday 14 January) apart from Tea Time Club which starts on the first day of term. Year 3 and Year 5 will begin their swimming lessons for this half term on Wednesday 9 January.

We are holding three information evenings for parents in January: E-Safety on Wednesday 16 January, Y1 Maths on Thursday 24 January and Y3 Maths on Wednesday 30 January. We shall be continuing with our programme of coffee mornings for parents and there are some class assemblies and plays to which parents will be invited to attend. Parents Evenings for Years 1 to 6 will take place during the week after half term. Our 'Drop-in' sessions for parents to informally view their children's work, will also re-commence after February half term

The term also sees some of our pupils, particularly in Year 6, take entrance examinations to a number of independent secondary schools. I know you join with the Oaklands staff in wishing them all the very best of luck in their endeavours.

### E-Safety Training

As you will have read in my December Headmistress's letter, we have organised an E-Safety training day on Wednesday 16 January with workshops for all pupils from Year 3 upwards. Staff will be trained after school and the day will finish with a session for any parents at 6pm (not just parents of children in Year 3 upwards).

A letter providing more details about this event and inviting you to attend the parents' session has been sent to you today.

### Coffee mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Belej

Coffee mornings for Upper Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 parents took place last term. This term, parents of Year 3,4,5 and Lower Kindergarten children have the opportunity to attend their Coffee morning in the studio on the following dates:

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Year 5	Tuesday 15 January	8.45-9.45am
Year 3	Tuesday 22 January	8.45-9.45am
Year 4	Tuesday 29 January	8.45-9.45am
Lower Kindergarten	Tuesday 5 February	8.45-9.45am

## 'Drop-in' Sessions

The 'Drop-in' Sessions that we held during the second half of the Autumn Term continue to be 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. Please note below the dates and times for each year group.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Y1R	Thursday 28 February	8.30-8.50am
Y1Z	Friday 1 March	8.30-8.50am
Y3C	Friday 8 March	8.30-8.50am
Y2S	Thursday 14 March	8.30-8.50am
Y2C & Y3L	Friday 15 March	8.30-8.50am
Y4C	Thursday 21 March	8.30-8.50am
Y6J	Friday 22 March	8.30-8.50am
Y5G	Thursday 28 March	8.30-8.50am
Y5Z	Friday 29 March	8.30-8.50am

## Parents' Evenings

Annual Parents' Evenings are to be held on the following dates:

Y1 – Y6 Wednesday 27 February 3.30-6.30pm

Y1 – Y6 Thursday 28 February 3.30-6.30pm

More details will follow in due course and you will be able to book your appointments through your Portal.

## New Staff

Parents have already met Mrs Billington who started the maternity cover for Miss Bond on Monday 7 December. We also welcome Mrs Shea to Reception as the new Teaching Assistant in Woodpeckers, working alongside Miss Lawrence.

## Birth Announcement

I am delighted to share with you the happy news that Miss Bond had her baby just before the start of our Christmas holidays. Congratulations on the arrival of baby Frankie, who was born at 9.57am on 7 December weighing 6lbs 13ozs.

## OPA

I would like to thank the OPA for funding all the wonderful Christmas events for the children.

My thanks to the OPA committee, class representatives and parent volunteers who gave up their time to wrap Santa gifts, transform the library into the most amazing grotto I have ever seen at Oaklands, and supervised the Years 3-5 Disco on the last Friday of the term.

Children in EYFS and KS1 danced and laughed through their Christmas parties and their visit to Santa on the following Monday and Tuesday.

Children in Years 1 – 6 enjoyed their trips to see a pantomime at a local theatre while the EYFS children were entertained in school by the visiting Pyramid Pantomime Group performing 'Sleeping Beauty'.

### Summer Ball 2019

The four Parents' Associations of the Oak-Tree Group will be coming together again to organise another joint Oak-Tree Summer Ball on Saturday 18 May 2019 from 7pm to 1am in the marquee at Chigwell Hall (Metropolitan Police Club) for parents, staff and friends of the schools.

This year there will be a *Casino Royale* James Bond theme with a jazz band, DJ, casinos, cocktail bar and much more. Tickets will be going on sale very soon, but please do put the date in your diaries as this promises to be a fun event for us all.

### Curriculum Overviews and Timetables

The Curriculum overviews for each age group are published on your parent portals every half term. They provide you with detailed information about the teaching content in each subject. I hope you will continue to find them useful documents to refer to during 2019. We also publish current timetables for each age group to help ensure that each child has their PE kit in school on the correct days of the school week.

### Charities

The children were incredibly busy in their charity work last term. We began with generous gifts of tinned food and toiletries filling the school stage at Harvest in October, which were thankfully received by the Whitechapel Mission. The School raised £186.53p on 'Jeans for Genes' Day in October and £263.84p for 'Children in Need' in November. At the Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Loughton, your donations at the end of this festive event raised £175 for the Mill Grove Family Centre. During the last few days of term, the children enthusiastically raised just over £500 for 'Crisis at Christmas' by suggesting a name for our homeless cuddly reindeer. 'Snowflake' was taken home by Lucy in Y1Z on the last day of term and is having a wonderful time in his new home!

Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

We look forward to supporting other Charity days during the Spring Term including Children's' Mental Health Week, Book Aid International, Comic Relief and the NSPCC.

It promises to be yet another busy term working to help people less fortunate than ourselves in the world.

### Arriving late for the school day

Unfortunately, we were plagued by different sections of nearby roads undergoing repairs during last term which, on a number of occasions understandably, made some families late arriving for the start of school.

There are however some families consistently late, irrespective of traffic conditions. May I please request that everyone ensures that they leave enough time to make their journey to school to guarantee your child arriving by 8.45am when the register is taken.

If you do arrive after 8.45am, you must report to the school office to sign your child in. A member of the office staff will then escort your child safely to their classroom.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Collection at the end of school

Please notify the office if a different person from normal is collecting your child after school, activity clubs or Tea Time Club. This is to help ensure the safety of the children at all times. Thank you.

## School Uniform

All children should be wearing the correct school uniform, including the school scarf, hat and gloves. All items of school clothing and PE kit should be clearly labelled. At this time of year, it is essential that the children wear their winter coat to school every day as they will be going out to play, except in adverse weather conditions

## Snow

This is usually the term when the weather turns extremely cold and brings us snow. Our 'Boys in Blue' work hard to make the school paths, steps and entrances clear and safe for use in the event of snow. Please check the website for updates and announcements in the event of heavy snow. We also aim to text parents by 7.15am to provide up to date information about the condition of the roads surrounding the school and the organisation of the school day ahead.

## Building Work

The new gates were installed in the car park over the Christmas break and the roof is now on the rear extension building. The builders anticipate working through January and will then stop until the Easter break when they will take out the wall between the old and new halls. The 'big push' will be over the Summer Term with the aim of finishing by the end of August. This is still very ambitious, but we will keep you updated with progress over the coming months.

## EYFS Celebration of Year and Years 1-6 Prize Giving 2019

An advance date for your diaries: Both these events are due to be held on Wednesday 3 July, 2019 in a marquee on the school field. The EYFS Celebration of Year will be at 2pm and Years 1-6 Prize Giving will be at 4pm. These are both lovely events, when we celebrate together the successes and achievements of the children during the school year.

## Forthcoming events

Tuesday 8 January	Spring Term 2019 – First day for pupils
Wednesday 9 January	Y3+Y5 Swimming begins
Tuesday 15 January	Y5 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 16 January	Y4-Y6 E-Safety Workshop all day E-Safety Workshop for Parents 6pm
Monday 21 January	Y1 Lego Workshop 8:30am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 22 January	Y3 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am Forest School Swimming Gala 3pm – 6:00pm
Thursday 24 January	Y1 Maths Information Evening 6pm
Tuesday 29 January	Y4 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 30 January	Y3 Maths Information Evening 6:00pm
Tuesday 5 February	LK Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am Y5+Y6 Young Voices, O2
Thursday 7 February	Y3C & 3L Assembly to Parents 9.00am
Thursday 14 February	Reception Trip to St Albans Cathedral 9:00am – 3:00pm
Friday 15 February	Break up for half term

## Half Term Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February

Monday 25 February	First Day for pupils
Tuesday 26 February	ISA London North Cross Country 10:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday 27 Feb	Y1-6 Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Thursday 28 February	Y1R Drop-in Session 8.30-8.50am Y1-6 Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 1 March	Y1Z Drop-in Session 8.30-8.50am Y6 St Johns First Aid Skills Course U11's Tag Rugby Competition tbc
Wednesday 6 March	Bancrofts Netball Tournament tbc
Thursday 7 March	Open Morning 9.30-11.30am
Friday 8 March	Y3C Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Thursday 14 March	Y2S Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 15 March	Y2C & Y3L Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am SPAG Quantum Theatre Workshop/performance
Monday 18 March	Start of the Book Fair
Thursday 21 March	Y4C Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 22 March	Y6J Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am End of Book Fair
Monday 26 March	Y5 Lee Valley Geography Trip 9:00am – 3:40pm
Wednesday 27 March	Y3-Y6 Swimming Gala, 9.30am Loughton Pool tbc Last Swim of Spring Term
Thursday 28 March	Y5G Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 29 March	Y5Z Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Wednesday 3 April	End of Spring Term LK – TR finish at 12pm Y1 + Y2 finish at 12:15pm Y3 – Y6 finish at 12:30pm

I look forward to seeing you at the Parents' Evenings, Information evenings and various school events this term.

Best wishes for the coming term and for 2019.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

