



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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March 2019

Dear Parents

I trust you all had an enjoyable half term which now probably seems ages ago! Some of the children shared their holiday stories with me, whilst others have told me about family outings or meeting up with special friends. I hope you yourselves found some time to relax.

It seems incredible that we are half way through the academic year already!

11+ Entrance Examinations

For our Year 6 pupils and parents, January and February have been nerve wracking times. From the Summer Term of Year 5 through the Autumn Term of Year 6, the pupils have been working extremely hard preparing for their entrance examinations to a variety of different independent schools. They persevered to complete numerous practice papers, tackling complex sample questions and revisiting areas where they were not 100% secure.

I am delighted to write that our pupils have again done exceedingly well and have all been awarded places at their chosen schools. Most are in the enviable position of having some difficult choices to make as they received several offers. I am immensely proud of them all for their consistent hard work, but also for their empathy and caring and supportive attitude towards each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for the excellent standard of teaching they enthusiastically and consistently provide to the pupils and the outstanding pastoral care that surrounds every child and helps maintains the 'family' atmosphere of the school.

Further details of the results will be found on our website once all the offers have been finalised.

Building Project

The mild British weather has significantly aided the continued progress of our building project.

I am pleased to announce that the roof on the new extension to the hall has been completed and we expect the windows and doors to be fitted during the next few weeks.

During the half term break, the chimney breast in Y4C classroom was removed in readiness for further structural work planned below the classroom in the school hall over the Easter holidays. This involves the removal of the 'outside' wall linking the present and new sections of the hall.

New railings have been erected to either side of the main steps leading down to UK and our groundsmen have been working hard to level and reseed areas of the school field affected by the access required for the heavy machinery last summer.

The builders are presently erecting the new ramp between the studio and new science/DT classroom and completing the path and steps from Reception down to the playground.

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to personally greet so many of you as you arrived at school to attend our Year 1 to Year 5 Parents' Evenings last week. I hope you found the appointment with your child's teacher informative regarding your child's progress and reassuring about their personal development.

If you do wish to discuss any particular aspects in more detail, you are welcome to call the school office to arrange a follow-up appointment or contact the teacher directly by email.

Parents of children who started Oaklands in January 2019 attended their 'Settling-in' meetings just before half term. I am sure that you too found your chat with your child's keyworker a positive experience.

Year 6 parents will be having their Parents' Evenings during week beginning Monday 11 March as Miss Dee, our Year 6 teacher and Deputy Head has been on jury service since we returned to school after half term.

Drop-in Sessions

Our popular Drop-in sessions programme began again after the half term break. These informal sessions provide parents with the opportunity to view some of their child's work in their classroom prior to the start of the school day. I know that the children thoroughly enjoy discussing their work with you. Please refer to the dates list to check when your child's Drop-in session is being held.

Open Morning

Our second Open Morning of the academic year takes place on Thursday 7 March, 9.15-11.15am. You are welcome to come to this event. Prospective and current parents will have the opportunity to see the school at work and to hear more about what is happening at school. Refreshments will be available in the school hall from 9am. I shall be giving a short talk at 9.30am with tours, conducted by our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, commencing at 9.45am. Our older pupils are always happy and confident to talk about life at Oaklands from a pupil's perspective.

World Book Day

The whole school is celebrating this special themed day on Wednesday 6 March. The children have been asked to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Please remember to dress the children in sensible shoes and a warm coat for playtime.

There will be a special assembly organised by Miss Creedon and Miss Sandford, our two English Coordinators for Years 1 to 6 and Mrs Potts, Head of EYFS will be leading the EYFS assembly.

I would be grateful if each child could bring a donation of a £1 which we will be sending to Book Aid International. Thank you for your support.

Marie Curie Daffodils

Once again, we are supporting the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal. This charity raises money to help Marie Curie nurses care for people with a terminal illness. Please go to the office if you would like to make a £1 donation to be able to wear a daffodil. Thank you again for your support.

House Cup

As you are aware, the House Cup is presented every half term to the House which has gained the most house points. During the first assembly of this half term, Afyah, House Captain of Willow collected the cup on behalf of all the members of her house in KS1 and KS2. They collected a total of 547 house points during last half term. Congratulations to all the pupils in Willow House!

Sport

Our cross country runners, hockey players, Tag rugby, netball and football teams will be participating in competitions during this half term. KS2 children will be participating in the annual House football tournaments for their respective age group and the House swimming gala.

All the extracurricular sports clubs are 'bursting at the seams'; it is encouraging to see so many children involved in the different sports clubs, enjoying exercising and learning new physical skills.

Assemblies

We continue to offer opportunities for the children to learn more about the world around them by covering a range of topics in our assembly programme. So far this term the children have attended assemblies about 'School Values - Courage', Famous authors, Chinese New Year, NSPCC, Children's Mental Health Week- Place2be charity and celebrated a mixture of amazing 'Wow' work.

After half term there will be assemblies about 'School Values- Excellence', Comic Relief, World Book Day, National Science Week, School Council feedback and another 'Wow' celebration.

The EYFS programme is slightly different and includes more age appropriate topics such as 'Winnie the Pooh' and 'My favourite book'.

The children are always given a few moments to reflect about the content or message of each assembly before they leave the hall. Very often, this initiates further discussions during class assemblies or PSHE 'Circle times' back in the classroom.

Summer Ball, May 2019

The OPA Committee is busy helping to organise the Oak-Tree, James Bond themed Summer Ball which is taking place on Saturday 18 May at Chigwell Hall. It is an excellent social event and I know that some of you have already ordered your tickets with friends and family members. Please remember, you can request who you'd like to be seated with and we always make sure that people are with a group from the school.

Forthcoming Events

We have yet another busy four weeks ahead of us before we break up for the Easter holidays.

On Friday 8 March, the children in EYFS will be meeting 'Safari Pete' as part of their special curriculum day. Year 3 are visiting Hadleigh Park and Year 5 are looking forward to their canal boat trip. Both these educational visits will be extending the topic work these particular classes have been covering this term.

We are holding our annual Book Fair from Monday 18 March until Thursday 21 March. This event is always very popular and we will be sending out details of when you are able to visit the Fair with your child nearer the time.

I am particularly looking forward to the play performances by Y2C on Wednesday 20 March and by Y2S on Thursday 21 March. We also have assembly performances by Lower Kindergarten on Thursday 14 March and Upper Kindergarten on Friday 29 March to enjoy.

Please remember to check this letter and of course the website, for dates and times of all the various events. Details will be sent out to the relevant group of parents in advance of events, but if you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Forthcoming Events Spring 2019

Friday 1 March	Y1Z Drop In Session U11's Tag Rugby Competition
Wednesday 6 March	Bancroft Netball Tournament
Thursday 7 March	Open Morning 9:15am - 11:30am
Friday 8 March	Y3C Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Tuesday 12 March	Y3 Hadleigh Park visit 8:15am – 3:30pm
Thursday 14 March	Y2S Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 15 March	Y3L Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am Y2C Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Monday 18 March	Start of the Book Fair
Wednesday 20 March	2C Play to parents 2:00pm
Thursday 21 March	2S Play to parents 2:00pm
Thursday 21 March	Y4C Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 22 March	Y6 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	Oaklands Swimming Gala, Loughton Leisure Centre 9:30am – 12:00pm
Thursday 28 March	Y5G Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am Y6 PGL Parents Meeting in the Hall 3:30pm
Friday 29 March	Y6 First Aid Course 9:00am – 12:30pm Y5Z Drop in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Wednesday 3 April	End of Spring Term LK – Reception finish at 12pm Y1 + Y2 finish at 12:15pm Y3 – Y6 finish at 12:30pm

Important Forthcoming Events for the Summer Term

Monday 29 April	Y6 PGL Wiltshire 29 April – 3 May
Monday 13 May	Young Mariners Residential Trip 13 May – 15 May
Saturday 18 May	Oak-Tree Summer Ball
Friday 7 June	Sports Day
Wednesday 3 July	EYFS Celebration of the year
Wednesday 3 July	Prize Giving Y1-Y6

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

