



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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October 2019

Dear Parents

Re: **October Head's Letter**

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, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificates and our Year 3 class was awarded a special Head Teacher's Certificate for their outstanding participation and effort during their camping experience last week. 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 September Newsletter gave a picture of how much is going on in the school, complementing the academic education of the pupils. We have had information events for Reception and Upper Kindergarten parents, Group Year 3 Camp, House and School Council meetings, Harvest assemblies and Jeans for Genes day. All the extracurricular clubs are underway, including the new Key Stage 2 Spanish and Gymnastics Clubs.

The beginning of the School day

All Key Stage 2 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 Wednesday 2 October

We are hoping for fine weather on Wednesday for our Open Morning, which is for both prospective and current parents to view the school at work. Our Year 6 Prefects will act as the official guides and I know they are looking forward to their first public appearance for the year 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 speeches.

Oak-Tree Fireworks – Sunday 10 November 2019

You have already received a letter about this lovely event, which is to be held from 4.30pm to 6.30pm in the Oaklands grounds. Tickets for this popular event in the Oak-Tree Group's calendar are available to families from all four schools. All profits from the evening will go back to the Parents' Associations, with the teams from the four schools joining together to help run the event.

Due to the enormous demand (over 1,000 tickets were sold in previous years), tickets will only be available to purchase before the event. Ticket sales will be limited to around 1000. Tickets will cost £5 per child or £10 per adult with a discounted price of £25 for a family of two children and two adults. This includes a hot dog (meat or vegetarian), with additional treats for children. There will be opportunities to purchase mulled wine, beer, hot drinks and various children's glow goodies during the evening.

Please note that your booking form and payment must be handed in by Wednesday 16 October 2019 to secure your attendance. Tickets will be issued during the week commencing Monday 4 November.

School Building Project

During the next few weeks, we hope to install the cupboard doors in the hall to house all the chairs and tables that we use at lunchtime. The railings required outside the science room and on the ramp are still being made and we hope that they too will soon be ready for installation.

The children are thoroughly enjoying a mixture of lessons in the new hall and in the science room. I am sure they have described lunchtime as a much more enjoyable experience since their return to school a few weeks ago.

Oak-Tree Challenge

This week Ms Zaidi, our newly appointed Oak-Tree Challenge Coordinator will be introducing The Oak-Tree Challenge Scheme to our Year 4 to Year 6 pupils this week. 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 are 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 will be countersigning 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!

Last year, a good number of pupils in Year 4 and Year 5 completed their appropriate Bronze or Silver Challenge and their names were announced at Prize Giving in July. We hope that all children will choose to participate and enjoy the challenges and personal success that they will bring to them during this academic year.

Parents' Evenings

Formal Parents' Evenings for Reception to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term on Wednesday 16 October and Thursday 17 October.

Upper Kindergarten parents are invited to attend a 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Tuesday 15 October (Foxes, Squirrels and Rabbits) or on Wednesday 16 October (Badgers and Hedgehogs).

Lower Kindergarten parents are invited to attend their 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Monday 14 October.

You will be able to book your appointment on line. Further details will be sent to you during week beginning Monday 7 October.

Admissions Policy

Our Admissions policy 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 2020 is Monday 7 October 2019. 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.

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 7 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 11 November. Please check the table below for your class time:

CLASS	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Upper Kindergarten	Tues 11 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Reception	Tues 19 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 2	Tues 26 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 6	Tues 3 Dec	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio

Coffee mornings for Lower Kindergarten, Years 1, 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:

Wednesday 2 October	Open Morning 9:15am – 11:30am
Tuesday 8 October	Y5 11+ Meeting 8.50am – 9.15am in the Hall
Thursday 10 October	Y5 Visit to Ragged Museum
Monday 14 October	LK 'Settling in chat' 3.15 – 6.00pm
Tuesday 15 October	UK 'Settling in chat' Rabbits, Squirrels and Foxes 3.15 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 16 October	Y4C Assembly to parents 8.50am
Wednesday 16 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exams 10.00-11.00am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday 16 October	UK 'Settling in chat' Hedgehogs & Badgers 3.15 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 16 October	Reception - Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings 3:15pm – 6.30pm
Thursday 17 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 17 October	Reception - Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings 3:15pm – 6.30pm
Friday 18 October	Last day of term

Half Term Monday 21 October to Friday 1 November

Mon 4 November	First Day back
Thursday 7 November	Individual Photographs – whole school
Friday 8 November	Y2C & Y2S Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Tuesday 12 November	UK Coffee Morning 8.45-9.30am
Thursday 14 November	Flu Immunisation day
Friday 15 November	Y1F & Y1Z Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Friday 15 November	LK Assembly to parents 9.00am
Tuesday 19 November	Reception Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Thursday 21 November	Y3C Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Friday 22 November	Reception Play to parents 9.00am
Tuesday 26 November	Y2 Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Thursday 28 November	Y4C Drop in session 8.30- - 8.50am
Friday 29 November	Y4Z Drop in session 8.30-8.50am
Friday 29 November	UK Play to parents 9.15am
Tuesday 3 December	Y6 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 4 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service St Mary's Church, Loughton 2.00pm
Thursday 5 December	Y6G & Y6J 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Thursday 5 December	Y5C Drop in session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 6 December	Y6G & Y6J Drop in session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 6 December	Y6G & Y6J 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am + 1.45-2.45pm
Monday 9 December	Y6G & Y6J 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Thursday 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
Headmistress

OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

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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