



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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November 2019

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 7 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.

Oak-Tree Fireworks Display Sunday 10 November

The Oaklands School Parents Association is busy working with the parents' associations at the other three Oak-Tree schools to make the final preparations for the annual Oak-Tree Group of Schools Fireworks Display on Sunday 10 November, 4.30-6.30pm.

Details are on the website. Please remember that tickets need to be pre-ordered and will not be available on the night. I am sure the event will, once again, be a successful Oak-Tree event and I look forward to seeing you there.

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 11 November. We will mark the day with a 2 minutes silence in the playground at 11am.

Prospective parents

We continue to welcome a consistent flow of prospective parents to the school. Open Morning on Wednesday 3 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.

OPA

The OPA continue to support the school with their fundraising events.

Thank you to Mrs Griggs and her team who helped supervise all the children during the second evening of Parent Consultation meetings just before half term. I know a substantial number of children thoroughly enjoyed watching the new 'Aladdin' film with a bag of healthy 'goodies'.

The OPA are hoping to hold their **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** during this half term. They are looking forward to welcoming some new parents to their discussion forum. Please look out for the invitation once the date is set.

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 'Welcome and Ready to read' and Reception 'Welcome and RWI' meetings followed closely by the Year 5 11+ meeting. This half term we are planning to hold a Maths and English Information evening for both 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.

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.

Please refer to the 'Events List' at the end of this Head's letter to check the date of the 'Drop-in' session for your child.

EYFS 'Drop-in' sessions

We also invite parents of children in UK and Reception to 'Drop-in' sessions which occur at the beginning and end of the school day. Please refer to the table below to check when the 'Drop-in' session is for your child.

Class/Group	Date	Time
UK Foxes and Squirrels	Tues 5 Nov	8.30-9.00am or 2.30-3.00pm
UK Badgers and Hedgehogs	Wed 6 Nov	8.30-9.00am or 2.30-3.00pm
UK Rabbits	Fri 8 Nov	8.30-9.00am or 2.30-3.00pm
Reception classes	Fri 8 Nov	8.30-9.00am or 2.30-3.00pm

Coffee mornings

Our programme of coffee mornings with Mr Hagger and me starts this Tuesday, 12 November with a meeting for Upper Kindergarten parents. Please refer to the dates below to check the date for your child's class. These are usually informal discussions about each year group or life in general at around Oaklands.

Class	Date	Time	Place
Upper Kindergarten	Tues 12 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Hall
Reception	Tues 19 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Hall
Year 2	Tues 26 Nov	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio
Year 6	Tues 3 Dec	8.45am to 9.30am	Studio

Dates for coffee mornings for Lower Kindergarten, Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 parents will be advertised 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 and 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.

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.

ISA Autumn Conference

Miss Dee and I shall be out of school on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 November as we are attending the Independent School's Association Autumn Study Conference in Leeds. 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

The following list provides an update of events planned for this half term:

Mon 4 November	First Day back
Wednesday 6 November	Y4 + Y5 Swimming starts
Thursday 7 November	Individual Photographs – whole school
Friday 8 November	Y2C & Y2S Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am

Sunday 10 November	Oak-Tree Fireworks 4.30-6.30pm
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
Friday 15 November	Y2 to Gunpowder Mills Visit tbc
Tuesday 19 November	Reception Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Thursday 21 November	Y3C Drop in session 8.30 – 8.50am
Thursday 21 November	Reception (Woodpeckers and Owls A) Play to parents 9.00am
Thursday 21 November	Y4 to Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge tbc
Thursday 21 November	Y3 Maths and English Information Evening 6.00pm
Friday 22 November	Reception (Robins and Owls B) Play to parents 9.00am
Monday 25 November	Oak-Tree Netball & Football Tournament, Peter May Centre tbc
Tuesday 26 November	Y2 Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Thursday 28 November	Y4C Drop in session 8.30- - 8.50am
Thursday 28 November	UK Squirrels, Rabbits & Foxes Christmas Play to parents 9.00am
Friday 29 November	Y4Z Drop in session 8.30-8.50am
Friday 29 November	UK Badgers & Hedgehogs Christmas Play to parents 9.00am
Friday 29 November	Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics, Peter May Centre tbc
Tuesday 3 December	Y6 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 4 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service St Mary's Church, Loughton 2.00pm
Wednesday 4 December	LK, UK, Reception 'Cinderella' Panto in Hall
Thursday 5 December	Y5C Drop in session 8:30am – 8:50am
Thursday 5 December	Y6G & Y6J 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Thursday 5 December	Y3-Y6 to Millfield Theatre Pantomime
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
Friday 6 December	Y1 & Y2 'Jack and the Beanstalk' Panto, Harlow Playhouse
Friday 6 December	Y3-Y5 OPA Disco 4.15-6.15pm tbc
Monday 9 December	Y6G & Y6J 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am
Monday 9 December	Y1 & Y2 Party 1.15-3.00pm
Tuesday 10 December	LK - Y6 Christmas lunch
Wednesday 11 December	LK & UK Christmas Party 9.30-11.15am
Wednesday 11 December	Reception Party 1.15-3.00pm
Thursday 12 December	Last Day of term

Spring Term begins on Tuesday 7 January 2020

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

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

