



# Oaklands School

8 Albion Hill, Loughton  
Essex IG10 4RA

Tel: 020 8508 3517  
Fax: 020 8508 4454

## HEADMISTRESS

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

E-mail: [info@oaklandsschool.co.uk](mailto:info@oaklandsschool.co.uk)  
Website: [www.oaklandsschool.co.uk](http://www.oaklandsschool.co.uk)

6 January 2020

Dear Parents

### Re: Headmistress's Letter

May I start my first Head's letter of 2020 by wishing you all a happy and healthy 2020. I sincerely hope that 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 have already made our New Year resolutions? And I wonder how many of us will be able to keep them?

Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts you and your children gave me at the end of last term; I really do appreciate your kindness and generosity, as do the rest of the staff.

We have another busy Spring term ahead so please do regularly check our website and your portal/group call for information. All our extracurricular clubs begin this week including the Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs. Year 3 and Year 5 will begin their swimming lessons for this half term on Wednesday 8 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 first week after the February half term. Our 'Drop-in' sessions for parents to informally view their children's work, will also re-commence after February half term.

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

### New staff

We welcome Mrs Melanie Arnold as our new Office Manager and Mr Aaron Moore as our new Caretaker. I hope that they will quickly become part of our 'Oaklands family'.

### Parents' Evenings

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

Year 1 to Year 6 Wednesday 26 February 3.30-6.30pm

Year 1 to Year 6 Thursday 27 February 3.30-6.30pm

### Coffee mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Belej

Coffee mornings for Upper Kindergarten, Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 parents took place last term. This term, parents of Year 1,3,4,5 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 14 January	8.40-9.40am
Year 4	Tuesday 21 January	8.40-9.40am
Year 3	Tuesday 28 January	8.40-9.40am
Year 1	Tuesday 4 February	8.40-9.40am
Lower Kindergarten	Tuesday 11 February	8.40-9.40am

### **'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.

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Y1R & Y1Z	Wednesday 4 March	8.30-8.50am
Y2C & Y2S	Friday 6 March	8.30-8.50am
Y3C	Thursday 12 March	8.30-8.50am
Y4C & Y4Z	Friday 13 March	8.30-8.50am
Y5C	Thursday 19 March	8.30-8.50am
Y6G & Y6J	Friday 20 March	8.30-8.50am

### **OPA**

I would like to thank the OPA for funding all the wonderful Christmas events for the children. My thanks also go to the OPA committee, class representatives and parent volunteers who gave up their time to wrap Santa gifts, transform the library into one of the most amazing grottos I have ever seen at Oaklands, and supervise 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 to 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 'Cinderella'.

### **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 2020. 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 £216.39 on 'Jeans for Genes' Day in October, £263.84p for 'Children in Need' and £2,500 for the NSPCC in November. At the Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Loughton, your donations at the end of this festive event raised £237.49p for the Mill Grove Family Centre. On the last few days of term, we raised just over £170 as the children wore their Christmas jumpers to support 'Crisis at Christmas'.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity. We look forward to supporting other Charity days during the Spring Term including The London Book Project, Children's Mental Health Week, Book Aid International, Sport Relief and Haven House.

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

### **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.

### Oak-Tree Art Exhibition

The biennial Oak-Tree Art Exhibition will be taking place on Saturday 18 January between 12pm and 2pm at Lopping Hall in Loughton. There will be exhibits on display from all four schools, including many from Coopersale Hall. The exhibition will be open to the public and we hope that as many families as possible will come and support this event.

We will let parents know in advance if their children's work will be on display. Space will be limited so not all children's work can be exhibited.

### 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.

### EYFS Celebration of Year and Years 1-6 Prize Giving 2020

An advance date for your diaries: Both these events are due to be held on Wednesday 1 July, 2020 in a marquee on the school field. The EYFS Celebration of Year will be at 2.00pm and Years 1-6 Prize Giving will be at 4.00pm. These are both lovely events, when we celebrate together the successes and achievements of the children during the school year.

### Forthcoming events

Tuesday 7 January	Spring Term 2019 – First day for pupils
Wednesday 8 January	<b>Y3 + Y5</b> Swimming begins
Tuesday 14 January	<b>Y5</b> Coffee Morning 8:40am – 9:40am
Thursday 16 January	<b>Y4</b> Saatchi Gallery Visit
Saturday 18 January	Oak-Tree Art Exhibition at Lopping Hall 12pm-2pm
Tuesday 21 January	<b>Y4</b> Coffee Morning 8:40am – 9:40am
	Forest School Swimming Gala 3pm – 6:00pm
Friday 24 January	<b>Y1</b> Lego Town Planning Workshop
Tuesday 28 January	<b>Y3</b> Coffee Morning 8:40am – 9:40am
Wednesday 29 January	ISA U11's Boys Football Tournament
Thursday 30 January	<b>Y4Z</b> Assembly to parents
Tuesday 4 February	<b>Y1</b> Coffee Morning 8:40am – 9:40am
Wednesday 5 February	ISA Netball Tournament
Thursday 6 February	<b>Y3C</b> Assembly to Parents 9.00am
Tuesday 11 February	<b>LK</b> Coffee Morning 8.40-9.40am
Friday 14 February	Break up for half term

### Half Term Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

Monday 24 February	First Day for pupils
Wednesday 26 February	Reception Visit to St Albans Abbey
	<b>Y1-Y6</b> Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm
Thursday 27 February	<b>Y1-Y6</b> Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 28 February	Norfolk House Cross Country
Tuesday 3 March	ISA LN Cross Country
Wednesday 4 March	<b>Y1F + Y1Z</b> Drop-in session 8.30-8.50am
Thursday 5 March	Open Morning 9.30am-11.30am
Friday 6 March	<b>Y2C + Y2S</b> Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
	ISA Tag Rugby Event
Thursday 12 March	<b>Y3C</b> Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Friday 13 March	<b>Y4C + Y4Z</b> Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am

Tues 17-Tues 24 March	Book Fair
Wednesday 18 March	<b>Y2C</b> Play performance to parents 2.00pm
Thursday 19 March	<b>Y5C</b> Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
	<b>Y2S</b> Play performance to parents 2.00pm
Friday 20 March	<b>Y6G + Y6J</b> Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am
Wednesday 25 March	<b>Y3-Y6</b> Swimming Gala, 9.30am Loughton Pool tbc
	Last Swim of Spring Term
Thursday 26 March	End of Spring Term
	<b>LK – Rec</b> finish at 12pm
	<b>Y1 + Y2</b> finish at 12:15pm
	<b>Y3 – Y6</b> finish at 12:30pm

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

Best wishes for the coming term and for 2020.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

*Sue Belej*

Sue Belej  
Headmistress

