



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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2 March 2020

Dear Parents

Re: **March Headmistress's Letter**

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term despite the rain, gale force winds and storms! Some of the children shared their holiday news with me, whilst others have told me about special family outings and meeting up with friends. I hope you yourselves found some time to relax.

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

11+ Entrance Examinations

For our Year 6 pupils and parents, January and February have been nerve wracking times. From the beginning of the Summer Term of Year 5 through the Autumn Term of Year 6, the pupils have been working particularly 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 inform you 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 a number of offers. The staff and I are extremely proud of them all for their consistent hard work, but also for their 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 our school.

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

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to personally greet and chat to so many of you as you arrived at school to attend our Year 1 to Year 6 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 2020 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.

Open Morning

Our second Open Morning of the academic year takes place on Thursday 5 March from 9.15am until 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 9.00am. I shall be giving a short talk at 9.30am with tours, conducted by our 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.

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 table below to check when your child's Drop-in session is being held.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
1F	Wed 4 March	8.30-8.50am
1Z	Wed 4 March	8.30-8.50am
2C	Fri 6 March	8.30-8.50am
2S	Fri 6 March	8.30-8.50am
3C	Thurs 12 March	8.30-8.50am
4C	Fri 13 March	8.30-8.50am
4Z	Fri 13 March	8.30-8.50am
5C	Thurs 19 March	8.30-8.50am
6G	Fri 20 March	8.30-8.50am
6J	Fri 20 March	8.30-8.50am

World Book Day

The whole school is celebrating this special themed day on Friday 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, Freya, 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 687 house points during last half term. Congratulations to all the pupils in Willow House!

Sport

Our cross country runners, hockey players, Tag rugby and netball 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.

Please note that due to new management at Loughton Swimming Pool, and despite numerous phone calls and emails, we are unable to host the KS2 Swimming Gala for all the classes at the same time. Consequently, Years 5 and 6 will have their gala on Monday 23 March, 10.30am to 12pm and Years 3 and 4 will have their gala on Wednesday 25 March, 11am to 12pm. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to parents who have two children in KS2 whose gala falls on both of these days.

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 'The London Book Project', 'SMSC: Making a Difference', 'Chinese New Year', 'Children's Mental Health week' and 'Wow' celebrations. Y1-Y6 pupils also attended their House Meetings where ideas for creating a collage of London landmarks for display in the school was discussed.

This half term our assembly programme includes 'SMSC- Sharing and Caring', 'Playground activities', 'Sport Relief', 'Mad Science' as part of Science Week, 'World Book Day' and another 'Wow' celebration.

The EYFS programme is slightly different and includes more age appropriate topics such as 'Winnie the Pooh', 'What has been happening in Upper Kindergarten?' 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.

Parking

The school office has received a number of complaints from residents living in Newnham Close, which is the first road on the right as you walk down Spring Grove. There have been a number of occasions when their rubbish has not been collected because the dustcarts cannot gain access to Newnham Close due to the number of cars parked on either side of the road.

Whilst these residents appreciate that some of the cars belong to commuters who leave their car parked there for the duration of the day, a large number belong to parents of Oaklands as they appear and disappear around our arrival and collection times.

Can I please ask you to use our school car park rather than Newnham Close and Spring Grove. Thank you in advance of your cooperation.

Important Summer Term dates

I would like to bring to your attention two very important dates in our hectic summer term for you to add to your diaries: Sports Day for all year groups will be held on Thursday 4 June, weather permitting; Celebration of the Year for LK to Reception children will be on Wednesday 1 July at 2pm followed by our more formal Prize Giving ceremony at 4pm for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6.

I look forward to greeting and chatting to you at these major public events of our school calendar.

May Bank Holiday

Although a little way off, please note that the early May Bank Holiday has moved this year from its usual position on a Monday to Friday 8 May. This means that the long weekend will coincide with the extended 75th anniversary celebrations of VE Day.

Forthcoming Events

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

There are visitors and workshops happening in school during Science Week which begins on Monday 2 March. On Thursday 5 March, Year 1 are due to visit St. Mary's Church in Loughton during the afternoon to discuss the Easter story and the whole school will be celebrating 'World Book Day' on Friday 6 March. Two of our KS2 classes are out on Tuesday 10 March: Y3C are visiting Hadleigh Park and Year 5 are looking forward to their canal boat trip along the River Lea. 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 16 March until Friday 20 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.

Continuing the theme of books and story writing, we have arranged for an author to visit Oaklands on Monday 23 March and Tuesday 24 March to hold creative writing workshops for all the pupils in Year 1 to Year 6.

I am particularly looking forward to the play performances by Y2C on Wednesday 18 March and by Y2S on Thursday 19 March at 2.00pm. We also have a Mother's Day assembly performance by Lower Kindergarten on Friday 20 March to enjoy.

Members of the OPA will be busy at the end of term organising the arrival of the Easter Bunny on Tuesday 24 March and the Easter Disco on Wednesday 25 March. Both these Easter themed events will take place in school.

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 Term 2 2020

Monday 2 March	Science Week begins: Dinosaur workshop
Tuesday 3 March	ISA LN Cross Country LK & UK Mini Zoo workshop
Wednesday 4 March	Y1F + Y1Z Drop-in session 8.30-8.50am Mad Science assembly 8.50am Rec – Y6 Silly Science Workshop pm
Thursday 5 March	Open Morning 9.30am-11.30am Y1 St Marys Church visit
Friday 6 March	Y2C + Y2S Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am ISA Tag Rugby Event Rec-Y6 Mini Zoo workshop
Monday 9 March	Bancroft's Science Fair 1:15pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday 10 March	Y5 Lea Valley canal trip Y3 Hadleigh House trip
Wednesday 11 March	WGPS Cross Country U9's – U11's tbc
Thursday 12 March	Y3C Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am Y4/5 Young Mariners Base Meeting in School Hall 3:30pm
Friday 13 March	Y4C + Y4Z Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am No Mad Science club
Monday 16 March	ISA U11's Mixed Hockey UK Mellows Care Home visit
Tuesday 17 March	UK Mellows care Home visit
Mon 16 –Fri 20 March	Book Fair
Wednesday 18 March	Y2C Play performance to parents 2.00pm Reception Mother's Day Fun Session 9:00am – 10:00am Reception Mother's Day Fun Session 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Thursday 19 March	Y5C Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am Reception Mother's Day Fun Session 9:00am – 10:00am Reception Mother's Day Fun Session 1:30pm – 2:30pm Y2S Play performance to parents 2.00pm LK Tea Party 3:15pm
Friday 20 March	Y6G + Y6J Drop-in Session 8:30am – 8:50am LK Mother's Day assembly 9:00am – 9:30am ISA Hockey event Y3+Y4 Oak-Tree Football + Netball Tournament Y6 PGL Meeting in School Hall 3:30pm
Monday 23 March	Y5 & Y6 Swimming Gala, 10.30am – 12.00pm Loughton Pool Y1& Y2 Author visit and talk
Tuesday 24 March	Y3-Y6 Author visit and talk Easter Bunny visit
Wednesday 25 March	Y3 & Y4 Swimming Gala, 11.00am – 12.00pm Loughton Pool Y2 St Mary's Church visit

Thursday 26 March

Last Swim of Spring Term
OPA Easter Disco 3:45pm
End of Spring Term
LK – Rec finish at 12pm
Y1 + Y2 finish at 12:15pm
Y3 – Y6 finish at 12:30pm

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress

OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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