



Oaklands School

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Tel: 020 8508 3517

HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Sue Belej B.A. (JNT HONS), CERT.ED.

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1 October 2020

Dear Parents

Re: **Headmistress'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 talk to them in the lunch hall. 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!

A number of children have already been presented with Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificates and our Year 6 class were awarded a special Head Teacher's Certificate for their enthusiastic help with setting up the Harvest assembly last week. Our new arrivals in Reception received 'Settling in' certificates after the first full week of term.

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 House, Sport and School Council meetings, a range of different assemblies including introducing the new PSHE Jigsaw scheme to Year 1 to Year 6 pupils, and Jeans for Genes day. All the extracurricular clubs are underway, albeit with some bubble restrictions.

The beginning and end of the School day

Thank you for organising your arrival at school in the morning between 8.15am and 8.45am. The children are all happily entering through their allocated entrance with the assistance of some of the staff positioned at strategic points around the site. We will be continuing with this procedure after half term.

Although the school site is busier during the staggered collection times at the end of the school day, I have been impressed by those parents who are leaving the site as soon as they have met their child. May I remind parents to follow this good practice when they are collecting their child after an extracurricular club. Thank you.

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 2021 is **Monday 5 October 2020**. 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.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings for Lower Kindergarten to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term from Monday 12 October to Thursday 15 October. All year groups received their letter last week. Please check where your meeting is being held and which entrance to the school buildings we have asked you to use. As you will appreciate, it is essential that all parents adhere to the Covid instructions listed in the letter.

You will be able to book your appointment online (with the exception of Year 5). Further details will be sent to you on Monday 5 October.

Open Morning Thursday 8 October

We are presenting our Open Morning virtually this year due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. This new approach has provided some of the Year 6 Prefects the opportunity to be filmed conducting a tour of the school and the Head Boy and Head Girl have had their speeches recorded. We have a large number of prospective parents who have already registered to attend the event and we are looking forward to telling them all about the school. We are including a Question and Answer session in the last part of the morning. Current parents are also invited to join us virtually so please do access our website to register.

Oak-Tree Challenge

After the half term break Ms Zaidi, our Oak-Tree Challenge Coordinator, will be re-introducing The Oak-Tree Challenge Scheme to our Year 4 to Year 6 pupils. 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. This year, the scheme will run from Monday 2 November 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!

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.

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, including all hair bands or clips. Thank you for your cooperation.

Individual photographs will be taken by a professional photographer on Thursday 5 November and it is important to see the children smartly dressed in the correct uniform.

Dates for the Diary

The following list provides an update of events planned for the Autumn Term:

Thursday 8 October	Virtual Open Morning 9:30am
Monday 12 October	Parent Consultation Evenings EYFS: LK Ladybirds 3:15pm – 5:30pm EYFS: UK Rabbits, UK Foxes, Reception Robins 3:15pm – 6:00pm KS1: Y1F, Y2S 3:30pm – 6:00/6.30pm KS2: Y3C, Y6C 3:45pm – 6:30pm
Tuesday 13 October	Parent Consultation Evenings EYFS: LK Butterflies 3:15pm – 5:30pm EYFS: UK Badgers, UK Squirrels - 3:15pm – 6:00pm EYFS: Reception Robins, Reception Owls 3:15pm – 5:00pm KS1: Y1Z, Y2S 3:30pm – 6:00/6.30pm KS2: Y4C, Y5G, Y5Z 3:45pm – 6:30pm
Wednesday 14 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exams 10.00-11.00am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Wednesday 14 October	Parent Consultation Evenings EYFS: LK Bumblebees 3:15pm – 5:30pm EYFS: Reception Woodpeckers, Reception Owls 3:15pm – 6:00pm KS1: Y1F, Y2C 3:30pm – 6:00/6.30pm KS2: Y3C, Y5G, Y5Z 3:45pm – 6:30pm
Thursday 15 October	Y6 11+ Mock Exam 9:30am – 10:30am + 1:45pm – 2:45pm
Thursday 15 October	Parent Consultation Evenings EYFS: UK Hedgehogs 3:15pm – 6:00pm EYFS: Reception Woodpeckers 3:15pm – 5:00pm KS1: Y1Z, Y2C 3:30pm – 6:00/6.30pm KS2: Y4C, Y6C 3:45pm – 6:30pm
Friday 16 October	Last day of term

Half Term Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October

Monday 2 November	First Day back
Thursday 5 November	Individual Photographs – whole school
Thursday 3 December	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 11 December	Last Day of term

It has been lovely greeting so many of you with your children each morning and having the opportunity to chat briefly to others at collection times. May I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and safe half term, when it arrives, and hope you all keep safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these surreal times.

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 & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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