



# Oaklands School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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19 April 2021

Dear Parents

### Re: **April Head's Letter**

I hope you had a lovely Easter break, enjoying the sunshine and longer days. As you know, term begins tomorrow, Tuesday 20 April, and I am looking forward to a busy and productive summer term.

As Mr Hagger indicated in his letter to you, we will be continuing to follow the same Covid-19 procedures on the school site that were in place during the Spring Term. On arrival in the morning, between 8.25am to 8.40am, children should enter the school building via their normal designated entrance. At the end of the school day, class teachers will be using the same place or exit to dismiss the children into your care.

### Summer Uniform

All the children should return to school at the start of the Summer Term wearing their correct summer uniform and blazers should be worn from Year 1 upwards. The girls, as usual, need to have their hair tied back neatly with the school coloured hair accessories.

Please check the school website for further details of the uniform for each Key Stage.

### PE Kit

Children should continue to wear their PE kit to school on the day/s that their class or year group has PE/Games. For ease of reference, please find an updated list of PE/Games lessons for each year group in the school:

- Upper Kindergarten: Thursday
- Reception Owls: Thursday & Friday
- Reception Robins: Monday and Friday
- Reception Woodpeckers: Thursday & Friday
- Year 1F: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- Year 1Z: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
- Year 2C: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
- Year 2S: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
- Year 3C: Monday & Tuesday
- Year 4C: Monday & Friday
- Year 5G/Z: Monday
- Year 6C: Wednesday

### Clubs

Our extracurricular club programme starts on Tuesday 20 April. A separate letter for each Key Stage providing attendance details for each year group for the first half term will be sent to parents today.

### Class Photographs

Gem Photography will be taking class photographs on **Friday 14 May**. Weather permitting, they will be taken outside, or alternatively, in the school hall. The photographs will be available for parents to order before the half-term break.

## Swimming

I am delighted to announce that swimming lessons at Loughton Leisure Centre will restart on Wednesday 28 April 2021. A detailed Risk Assessment has been conducted by the Leisure Centre management staff and by Miss Dee, Oaklands Health and Safety Coordinator and myself.

Year 3 and Year 6 will be the first year groups to attend the swimming sessions; Year 4 will switch with Year 3 after the May half term holiday with Year 6 continuing to swim for the whole of the summer term.

Year 5 will not be attending swimming lessons during the Summer Term as they will be using this time to cover additional 11+ preparation work.

## Year 1 to Year 6 Reading, Writing and Comprehension Targets

As mentioned in my September 2020 Head's letter, one of our focuses this year is to raise the profile of reading in the school. During the Autumn and Spring Terms, all Year 1 to Year 6 classes enjoyed their 'Reading for Pleasure' sessions at least three times a week.

From April 2021, each Year 1 to Year 4 child will have a reading target sheet inside their reading record. These targets will be personalised, realistic and achievable for each child within a short space of time. Reading targets for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be kept in their English book with their writing and comprehension targets.

Besides the aim to highlight the importance of reading to the children, the purpose of this new strategy is to provide each child with separate personalised targets for writing and reading in Year 1 and Year 2, and for writing, comprehension and reading in Year 3 to Year 6.

## KS1 and KS2 RSE Consultation Meetings

A large number of parents were able to join me at the Relationships and Sex Education Consultation meetings which took place during the last week of the Spring Term on Wednesday 24 March. Thank you for the very positive parental feedback that I received both during, and following, these meetings.

As I'm sure many of you are aware, all four Oak-Tree Schools adopted Jigsaw as their PSHE curriculum in September 2020 because it is fully compliant with all the recent Government statutory publications regarding the content and teaching of Relationships, Health and Sex Education. It meets all the expectations of the DfE guidance as long as it is delivered fully and well.

Parents voiced their approval and support of the school's aim to deliver all this information in a safe, learning environment; one in which they know their children feel happy and confident in to share their concerns to teachers that are trained to deliver this material.

The PSHE and Sex and Relationships policies have been updated to reflect the new statutory requirements and these are now available for parents to read on the school website, in the Parents and Pupils tab under 'School Policies', or by following this link: <https://www.oaklandsschool.co.uk/parents-pupils/policies/>. If you require a paper copy of the policies, contact the school office to request one.

## Year 6 Prefects

In line with current government Covid-19 guidelines, our Year 6 Prefects are unfortunately still unable to fulfil their roles of responsibility around the school. I very much hope that this will change either by, or after, the May half term holiday.

## Year 5 Secondary School Options Evening

This is a meeting for parents of children who are currently in Year 5 to discuss the options for secondary schools and the various procedures for applications. It will be held on **Tuesday 25 May at 6.00pm** either in the school hall or via Zoom. Further details will follow in due course.

## Summer Term Assembly Programme

We always endeavour to make each term's assembly programme rich in flavour and varied in order to engage the children, stimulate further discussion and develop their awareness of local, national and international issues and religious and cultural celebrations.

The programme for our forthcoming summer term includes, for example, a number of 'special' days in the calendar such as National Tea Day, Shakespeare Day, International Space Day and World Baking Day. We will also be celebrating the Queen's Birthday and Father's Day, remembering the important work and life of Helen Keller and raising the pupils' awareness of the importance of protecting the natural habitats of the world and specific animal species on World Bee and Turtle Day.

## Charities

The whole school celebrated World Book Day on Tuesday 9 March, with the children arriving dressed as their favourite book character or as a super hero. This was a super, fun-filled day as usual, but much appreciated by both the staff and the children as it gave everyone a chance to dress up on their second day back to school after lockdown!

We had more fun on Friday 19 March when the school supported Red Nose Day. Yet again, the school was overrun by super heroes and people dressed in various shades of red. Jokes were shared and lots of photographs were taken which were published on our website and included in the school's Newsletter.

We raised £266.10 on World Book Day and £253.68 on Red Nose Day: well done everyone and thank you for your continued generosity.

## Drop-in Sessions

Unfortunately, we were unable to invite you into school for our 'Drop-in' sessions which are normally timetabled during the second half of both the Autumn and Spring Terms.

I appreciate that parents really enjoy these opportunities to informally view their children's work in their classrooms and the children are always proud to show and talk about their achievements.

In order to facilitate these valuable opportunities between you and your child/ren during the summer term, I will be periodically organising some of the children's workbooks to come home with them over a weekend to enable this 'sharing' experience to happen in the comfort of your homes.

## Summer Term Events

Normally the list of dates included in this Head's letter at this time of year is immense, ranging from trips and workshops, sports days, productions and Celebration of the Year and Prize Giving. I am sure you will appreciate that due to Covid-19 government guidelines, we are currently unable to organise mass gatherings on the school site.

We do however plan to hold a number of these events for the children, albeit in a slightly different format and record them, so that we can share each event with you.

The following list provides a current list of events planned for the Summer Term; it will be updated prior to the May half term holiday.

## Summer Term 2021 Dates

Tuesday 20 April	First day of Summer Term for pupils
Tuesday 20 April	All extracurricular clubs and peripatetic music lessons start
Wednesday 28 April	Y3 & Y6 First Swim of Summer Term
Monday 3 May	May Bank Holiday: school closed
Friday 14 May	LK-Y6 Class Photographs
Tuesday 25 May	Y5 Secondary School Options Evening, 6.00pm
Wednesday 26 May	Lamda speech exams

Thursday 27 May                    Lamda speech exams  
Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June May Half term Holiday  
Friday 5 July                        Y1-Y6 Meet the Teacher tbc  
Friday 18 June                      Y5 Virtual Taster Morning, Brentwood School  
Friday 9 July                        Last day of term for pupils, finish half day

Monday 6 September              First Day of Autumn Term for Pupils

As always, if you have any concerns or questions you wish to discuss, please contact your child's class teacher, Key Stage Coordinator, the Senior Leadership Team or myself by telephoning or emailing the school office to make an appointment.

Wishing you and your family a safe, healthy and rewarding term.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

*Sue Belej*

Sue Belej  
Headmistress



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**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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