



# Oaklands School

6-8 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA

Tel: 020 8508 3517

## 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 July 2021

Dear Parents

### Re: July 2021 Headmistress's Letter

We have come to the end of another successful year at Oaklands and I hope, like me, you enjoyed the novelty of attending your child's Celebratory End of Year Assembly and that you are looking forward to our re-scheduled Sports Day on Thursday.

The children never cease to amaze me with their ability to perform so confidently and enthusiastically, irrespective of their age, in front of a live audience. I hope you have managed to access the recording of your child's assembly on the school's website and enjoyed watching it again, maybe with friends and other family members.

### Reports

Reports have been published and all parents can download them from the Portal. I hope you find them informative and helpful. All Year 1 to Year 5 pupils have progress targets on which to build next year. Should you have any queries or questions about your child's report, please contact your child's class teacher or myself.

If your child is leaving Oaklands this summer, please ensure you have downloaded their reports and any other information from the portal you would like to keep by Friday 16 July.

### OPA Summer Raffle

I am delighted to inform you that the OPA Summer Raffle raised £685. Pupils of all different ages won raffle prizes; Aria in Year 1 won the first prize, a Polaroid Autofocus i-Type Instant camera and she is looking forward to spending her summer holidays photographing her family and friends!

Thank you once again for donating such a range of prizes and purchasing so many raffle tickets. The children certainly enjoyed the novelty of the event and there was great excitement and applause when someone in their class was presented with a prize.

### 'Meet the Teacher' via Zoom

Class lists, together with the names of staff and new classrooms for the academic year, September 2021 to July 2022 were sent out to parents on Tuesday 15 June.

Due to our current circumstances, we were unfortunately unable to organise our usual 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon this term. Instead, a series of Zoom meetings have been taking place over the last week to provide an opportunity for parents to see and speak to their new class teacher for September 2021.

Despite being an online experience, I hope you have found these meetings beneficial and reassuring.

'Meet the Teacher' sessions have also been taking place during the last two weeks of term so that each class can spend some time in the hall with their new teacher, "getting to know each other."

### Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

The Year 6 Leavers' assembly is due to take place on Wednesday 7 July at 5.30pm on the school field. We hope to make this an informal, but very special event to mark the end of the Year 6 pupils' time at Oaklands, within the limits of what is permissible according to current government guidelines.

## Staffing

At the end of a school year we sometimes have to say goodbye to a few members of staff. This July, Miss Jo Lawrence, Reception Woodpeckers class teacher, is leaving us to join a school which is nearer to her new home. We wish her every success and happiness in the next stage of her career.

## 'Pupil Spotlight Feature'

This month, our 'spotlight' pupil is Denzel in Y2C. To read about his footballing success, please go to:  
<https://www.oaklandsschool.co.uk/2021/06/28/pupil-spotlight-denzel-year-2c/>

## Resources

Most equipment is provided by the school. However, as from September 2021, following a relaxation in Covid restrictions and as stated in the Oaklands Parents' Handbook, pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 should bring a small plain pencil case into school with the following equipment:

Pencil case	Pair of compasses (Y5 & Y6 only)
Lead pencils, rubber and sharpener	Protractor/angle measurer (Y5 & Y6 only)
Coloured pencils	Blue Frixion writing pen (after Pen Licence is awarded)

The blue Frixion writing pens can be purchased from WH Smith, Ryman or Amazon. Please do not send anything not listed above, particularly felt tip pens, ink erasers or correction fluids. Please ensure that all equipment is named. Thank you.

## Start of the School Day

Please note that all of the school doors will continue to open at **8.25am** from the beginning of the Autumn Term. This provides a time frame of twenty minutes for all the children to arrive. Registration will take place at 8.45am. If you arrive after 8.45am, please go to the school office to sign your child in. A member of the office team will take your child to their classroom.

Many of the children will be using a different entrance to the school building to access their new classroom. There will be clear signage and additional members of staff available to help you to locate the correct door. Further details will be included in the September Head's letter.

We will be continuing with our current practice of requesting parents to say goodbye to their child outside the school building. Only the children should enter the buildings to go to their classrooms. We hope to be able to invite parents into the classrooms for Drop-in sessions later in the Autumn Term.

## Earrings

We have undertaken a review of the earrings policy across the Oak-Tree Group and made the decision that from September **pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 only** will be permitted to wear a single pair of earrings to school. Earrings may only be worn on the days when they do not have PE or Games lessons or extra-curricular activities.

Earrings must be a small plain gold or silver stud. No other earrings will be allowed. It is important for parents to realise that members of staff are not permitted to assist the pupils with the removal of earrings and the school can take no responsibility for any earrings that are brought or worn on site.

No other year groups will be allowed to wear earrings in school. This reflects the clear guidance provided by Essex County Council's Health & Safety Team. This is due to the well-documented increasing number of injuries received by children when earrings are caught and ear lobes are torn. As physical activities take up a significant proportion of the day in most schools (including in Early Years settings), earrings are not appropriate to be worn.

I therefore encourage any families who are considering ear piercing to use the long summer holiday so that ears are pierced early enough to allow the earrings to be removed by the time we return to school in September. There used to be a practice of taping over earrings in some schools, but this was recently withdrawn and is no longer permitted.

### PE Kit

After the success of having the children come to school in their PE kits on days when PE is on the timetable, we have decided to trial continuing this arrangement in September. When we start the new academic year, children should come to school in their PE kits and stay in their PE kits on the days they have PE, unless there is a special event taking place during the day such as open mornings or school photographs, when parents will be advised in advance.

This is not the case for extra-curricular clubs. Children need to wear their full school uniform and change into PE kits after school on the days when they have a sports club.

### Dogs on the School Site

As some of you may be aware, prior to the Covid epidemic we welcomed Dexter, who belongs to Mrs Booth, into school on a weekly basis. Dexter spent time with different classes and was very instrumental in helping some children, who were initially very apprehensive of dogs, to gradually overcome their fears.

We have had an increasing number of emails and calls from parents who are concerned about the large number of dogs present on the school site and the safety of their children. Having risk assessed the site, and also researched other schools in our local area, we have decided that dogs will not be allowed on the Oaklands site from September 2021.

Thank you in advance for respecting this decision.

### Wellbeing and Learning Ideas for the Summer Holidays

Everyone has worked very hard this year in school and deserves to have time away from screens and school work over the summer. However, if families are looking for some optional activities to support their children's wellbeing or to provide some consolidation and enrichment over the summer break, the Government has provided some useful resources for families to access.

- For children in Kindergarten or Reception: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/#3>
- For children in Year 1 – Year 6: <https://www.thenational.academy/enrichment>
- For older children: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/summer-learning-support>

### End of Term

Just a reminder that the last day of term is Friday 9 July. We will have our normal pick-up times for a final day:

- 12.00pm finish for LK, UK and Reception
- 12.15pm finish time for Y1 & Y2
- 12.30pm finish time for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6

### First Day of Term

Staff will return to school on Thursday 2 September for two training days. The children return to school on Monday 6 September. The doors will open at 8:25 am for the children to go to their classrooms and begin their morning activities.

As we come to the end of another, and very unique year at Oaklands, I would like to congratulate the children for all their hard work, perseverance and achievement. I would also like to thank you, our parents for your support that you have shown the school and for the many positive comments, letters and emails I have received.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the hard working staff, which includes not only the teaching staff, teaching assistants, specialist teachers and SEND staff, but also the finance and administrative staff in Oak House, office ladies, IT staff, lunchtime assistants, maintenance team, catering staff and cleaners for playing their roles at Oaklands.

## Complaints

As you are aware, we have an open door policy throughout the school and we make every effort to respond quickly to any queries or concerns you may have. I thought you might like to know that over the course of the last academic year we had one formal complaint, which was resolved quickly and to the satisfaction of all parties.

May I wish you all a lovely summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 6 September 2021 for the start of the Autumn Term.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely

*Sue Belej*

Sue Belej  
Headmistress



---

**OAK-TREE SCHOOLS** is the group name of:

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

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

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.

Oaklands School is the trading name of Oaklands School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 3654053

