



# Oaklands School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 October 2021

Dear Parents

### Re: **October 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 escort prospective parents around the school for a tour.

A number of children have already been presented with Merit, Good Behaviour or Friendship certificates and all Year 3 pupils were awarded a special Merit Certificate for their outstanding participation and effort during their camping experience during the last two days of the first week of term. Our new arrivals in Reception received 'Settling in' certificates after their first full week of term.

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!

The September Newsletter gave a picture of how much is going on in the school. We have had information events for Upper Kindergarten, Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 parents, a number of Drop-in Sessions for parents to visit their child's classroom, Oak-Tree Group Year 3 camp, House, Sport and School Council meetings, Harvest assemblies and Jeans for Genes day. The extracurricular club programme is underway, which now includes two KS1 Art Clubs and a separate KS1 and KS2 Karate Club.

### **Open Morning Thursday 7 October**

We are hoping for fine weather on Thursday for our Open Morning, which is for both prospective and current parents to view the school at work. Our Year 6 Prefects will act as the official guides and I know they are looking forward to their first public appearance as ambassadors for the School. Their enthusiasm for school life, the articulate way in which they talk about the school, their friendliness and good manners are among the best expressions for what Oaklands School stands for.

As part of our presentation to parents, our Head Boy and Head Girl will be delivering their first public speeches.

### **Oak-Tree Challenge**

Last week Ms Zaidi, one of our Assistant Heads, introduced The Oak-Tree Challenge Scheme to our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils for this year. 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. It serves as a vital part of each pupils' personal development and is linked intrinsically to our School Values and SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) education.

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.

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 the academic year, and Gold Award certificates will be presented at Prize Giving in July 2022. 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.

We hope that all children will choose to participate and enjoy the challenges and personal success that they will bring to them.

### **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.

### **Y1-Y6 Reading resources and Reading Targets**

During this academic year, we are continuing to focus on raising the profile of reading in the school.

Some of your children may already have shared with you their enjoyment of their 'Reading for Pleasure' sessions during the week when they are encouraged to read a non-fiction or fiction book or magazine. We have already purchased a selection of multi-cultural resources which are being circulated around the classes; they are proving very popular with the children. We are planning to increase the number of books available to children of all ages on subjects such as equality, Black History, diversity and disability as the year progresses.

Parents of Year 1 to Year 4 children will have noticed that their child has a reading target sheet inside their reading record. These targets are personalised, realistic and achievable for each child within a short space of time. Please remind your child of their current reading target when they are reading aloud to you or enjoying reading a book to themselves at home.

Reading targets for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils can be found in their English book with their writing and comprehension targets.

### **SMSC Assembly Programme**

Since the start of the Autumn Term, our assembly programme has been rich in SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education) and FBV (Fundamental British Values).

My presentation of the School Values included all the areas of SMSC, whilst Jeans for Genes Day and our Harvest celebrations provided the children with the opportunity to reflect on their moral and social responsibility to help people less fortunate than themselves.

Ms Zaidi's WWF assembly, presented with the assistance of our Year 6 House and Vice Captains, captured the attention of all the children as they were faced with the moral dilemma of which endangered animal to choose for the School to adopt. All the Y1 to Y6 children will be involved in a democratic vote before the October half term holiday following presentations by some of our Year 6 pupils on each of the proposed animals.

### **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 2022 is Monday 4 October 2021. 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.'

### Parking

As you are aware, the School would like as many parents as possible to use the school car park which is accessible from Warren Hill. In order to facilitate this, may I request that EYFS and KS1 parents collect their children as quickly as possible and then vacate their parking space in the car park. Currently, there are a large number of parents gathering in the car park area or on the grass verges to chat at the end of the school day. This unfortunately means that KS2 parents have nowhere to park when they arrive to collect their children.

As Mr Hagger wrote in his email on Tuesday, Thames Water have closed the High Road outside our bottom gate. Please avoid driving on Albion Hill at least until the end of these roadworks next week as we have seen a huge increase in vehicles circumnavigating the work and driving very quickly past the school main gate.

### Supervision

Since the beginning of term, I have noticed that there are a number of smaller children who are being allowed to play unsupervised on the paths and grass banks, climb on the low walls and jump up and down the steps near the main school building whilst parents are waiting for older siblings. For the safety and well-being of the children, it is imperative that parents supervise their children at the end of the school day at all times.

Please also ensure that your child remains with you if you use the path at the perimeter of the field to access the school car park on Warren Hill. This also applies to those of you who collect your children later from an extracurricular club or Tea Time Club. Thank you.

### Parents' Evenings, October 2021

Formal Parents' Evenings for Reception to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term on Wednesday 13 October and Thursday 14 October.

Upper Kindergarten parents are invited to attend a 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on either Monday 11 October (Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels) or on Wednesday 13 October (Badgers and Foxes).

Lower Kindergarten parents are invited to attend their 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Monday 11 October.

All parents, except those in Year 6, will be able to book their appointment on line. Further details will be sent to you during week beginning Monday 4 October.

### Coffee Mornings

Mr Matthew Hagger, Mrs Claire Osborn and I will be holding our annual coffee mornings on Tuesday mornings starting on Tuesday 2 November. Please check the table below for your class time:

AUTUMN TERM	
Tues 2 Nov 8.45-9.30am	UK
Tues 9 Nov 8.45-9.30am	Reception
Tues 16 Nov 8.45-9.30am	Y2
Tues 30 Nov 8.45-9.30am	Y6
Tues 7 Dec 8.45-9.30am	Y5

Coffee mornings for Lower Kindergarten, Years 1, 3, and 4 parents will be arranged in the New Year. We will write in advance of each coffee morning with further details.

## Oak-Tree Fireworks Display

After much thought and discussion, we have decided not to go ahead with the Oak-Tree Fireworks Display that had been booked to take place after the October half term. With the rise in positive Covid-19 cases nationwide and the cases that we are now seeing within the Group, we felt that it could be irresponsible to bring together some 1100 extended families from four different schools. Although the display is normally such a lovely occasion, there is the potential for this to become a 'super spreader' event and we would not want it to impact adversely on our families or the schools. Next year's display has been booked and will take place on Sunday 13 November 2022.

## Dates for the Diary

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

Tuesday 5 October	Y4C & Y3C Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Wednesday 6 October	Y2S/Y2Z Drop-in Session 8.25-8.50am
Wednesday 6 October	Y1 Maths and English Meeting 6.00pm
Thursday 7 October	Open Morning 9.15-11.15am
Friday 8 October	Y6C/Y6G Drop-in Session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 8 October	Y5 11+ Parent Meeting 8.50am
Monday 11 October	LK 'Settling-in' meetings 3.15pm – 6.00pm
Monday 11 October	UK 'Settling-in' Meetings 3.15pm-6.00pm
Wednesday 13 October	UK 'Settling-in' Meetings 3.15pm-6.00pm
Wednesday 13 October	Reception – Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings 3.15pm-6.30pm
Thursday 14 October	Reception – Y6 Parent Consultation Meetings 3.15pm-6.30pm

## Half Term Monday 18 October – Friday 29 October

Monday 1 November	First day back
Tuesday 2 November	UK Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Wednesday 3 November	UK Drop in sessions (Badgers, Rabbits, Squirrels)
Thursday 4 November	Individual Photographs
Friday 5 November	Reception Drop-in Sessions 8.30-9.00am
Tuesday 9 November	Reception Coffee Morning 8.45-9.30am
Thursday 11 November	LK Assembly to parents 9.00am
Tuesday 16 November	Y2 Coffee Morning 8.45-9.30am
Thursday 18 November	Reception Christmas Show to parents 9.00am (Woodpeckers and Owls A)
Friday 19 November	Reception Christmas Show to parents 9.00am (Robins and Owls B)
Tuesday 23 November	Y3C Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Wednesday 24 November	Y4C & Y5Z Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Thursday 25 November	UK Play to parents 9.00am (Foxes, Rabbits and Badgers)
Friday 26 November	Y6C/G Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 26 November	UK Play to parents 9.00am (Hedgehogs and Squirrels)
Monday 29 November	Y2S/Z Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 30 November	Y6 Coffee Morning 8.45 – 9.30am
Tuesday 30 November	Y1C/F Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 7 December	Y5 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Wednesday 8 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service at St. Mary's Church 2.00pm
Wednesday 15 December	Last Day of term

I have enjoyed welcoming you to School in the mornings and meeting some of you at various events during this half term. May I wish you all a lovely half term break. The second half of the Autumn Term, as we approach Christmas, is full of opportunities for you to attend a school event which involves your child. I look forward to sharing these special moments with you and your children.

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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