



Oaklands School

8 Albion Hill, Loughton
Essex IG10 4RA

Tel: 020 8508 3517
Fax: 020 8508 4454

HEADMISTRESS

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

E-mail: info@oaklandsschool.co.uk
Website: www.oaklandsschool.co.uk

1 December 2021

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

It seems incredible that this is my final Headmistress's letter for 2021. I am amazed at how fast the Autumn Term has flown by. Besides all the hard work by the children and the staff, this half term has been full of exciting events and performances, and there are still a few events to look forward to.

Oaklands welcomed many new children into the school in September and I am so happy to see how well they have done in their first term. Having read through many of the latest set of school reports, there is much to celebrate in pupils' achievements both inside and outside the classroom, and many encouraging comments about the ongoing personal development of the children.

We have competed in a range of sporting events or competitions where our pupils have shown good sportsmanship and dedication in their victories and in their defeats. Our Year 4 to Year 6 swimmers competed in the ISA LN Swimming Gala on 17 November and performed brilliantly, particularly those pupils in Year 4 who returned with a collection of medals for both individual and team events. Year 5 pupils worked hard during their Indoor Athletics competition against Daiglen School last week as did Year 5/6 Tag Rugby team at the WESSP Tournament and the Y6 pupils at the ISA Indoor Athletics Competition. Congratulations to all the teams and Mr Paine!

Pupils continue to be successful in Art competitions. We were awarded two second places and three third places in different categories of the ISA London North competition in October. We hope to receive the results of the local Loughton Town Council Christmas card competition before the end of term.

The Early Years department has been particularly busy. Lower Kindergarten performed for the first time for their parents on Thursday 11 November. They sang beautifully with the help of the Lower Kindergarten staff and Mrs Rathbone. We enjoyed a highly original performance by the Reception children of their Christmas Show on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 November, which included some amazing singing and dancing, closely followed by Upper Kindergarten entertaining their parents with their Nativity Play, which was simply delightful. Thank you to all the staff who helped prepare the children for these performances.

OPA

The OPA held their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 3 November at 8.50am in the studio. Voting for the formation of a new Committee took place with the following results:

- Chair – Mrs O'Shea
- Deputy Chair - Mrs Johal
- Secretary – Mrs Epaminondas
- Treasurer – Mr Tang

Thank you again to those parents who are busy fulfilling their roles as Class Reps for 2021-2022; your hard work is much appreciated, especially during the build up to Christmas!

Christmas jumper day

For the last morning of term, on Wednesday 15 December, all the children are invited to wear their favourite Christmas jumper to school to celebrate the end of term and the beginning of the festive holidays. I would be very grateful for a £1 donation from each pupil which we can send to 'Save the Children' charity. Thank you.

Christmas parties

The children at Oaklands are very lucky to have such a supportive OPA who have organised various pantos, parties and presents from Father Christmas. Remember that the children in EYFS and Y1 and Y2 can come to school on their 'Party Day' in party clothes, but please ensure they are wearing sensible shoes and have their coat, hat and gloves as they will still be going out to play. Please check the dates list at the end of this letter for your child's party date.

Carol Service

I look forward to seeing many of you, who have children in Year 1 to Year 6, at the Carol Service on Wednesday 8 December at 2pm in St Mary's Church, Loughton. The staff are working hard to prepare the children for what promises to be a lovely occasion. I have had the pleasure of listening to some of the singing rehearsals as I work in my office and the children continue to sound as beautiful as ever.

Pantomimes

Children in EYFS and Y1/Y2 will be entertained by Pyramid Pantomimes performing 'Aladdin' on Wednesday 1 December in the school hall. On Monday 13 December, Year 3 to Year 6 pupils will enjoy an online performance of 'Cinderella' by Panto-on-line. We used this company last year and the children had a fantastic, fun time. I know all the children are looking forward to these pantomimes; my thanks once again to the OPA for funding all these festive events.

The London Book Project

This charity collects donations of new and gently used children's books and gives them to targeted schools and organisations. Their aim is for all children to have the opportunity to choose, take home and keep their own books and to develop a love of reading.

Some of you may recall that we supported this charity two years ago. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic prevented us from helping them last Christmas/New Year so I am very keen to re-connect the school and the children with the work of this local London charity during 2022.

I am in the process of organising a representative from the London Book Project to visit Oaklands in January 2022 to deliver an assembly to the children. From Wednesday 12 January to Wednesday 19 January, we would like the children to bring into school any books they no longer enjoy reading or are now too young for them. Christmas is an ideal time for a sort out so I am hoping we can collect a healthy collection of books to pass to the charity. Details about where to bring the books and confirmation of the dates will be circulated in the New Year.

Thank you in anticipation of your support of this worthwhile charity.

Reports

All children will receive an Autumn Term report which will be sent to your portal on Monday 13 December. Further details on how to access these will following due course.

Coffee mornings

Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and I will be continuing to hold our annual informal coffee mornings on Tuesday mornings until the end of term and into the New Year. These meetings provide a valuable an opportunity for us to hear your views and to discuss school life. The coffee mornings take place in the studio or the hall from 8.45 to 9.30am. Please refer to the table below to check the date for your child's class.

Coffee Morning	Year Group
Tues 30 Nov 8.45-9.30am	Y6
Tues 7 Dec 8.45 9.30am	Y5
Tues 11 Jan 2022 8.45-9.30am	Y4
Tues 18 Jan 2022 8.45-9.30am	Y3
Tues 25 Jan 8.45-9.30am	Y1
Tues 1 Feb 2022 8.45-9.30am	LK

Parking reminder

Unfortunately, during the last few weeks, we have again been affected by different companies deciding to dig up parts of Albion Hill. Thank you to those of you who have adapted your arrival and collection routine to the closure of Albion Hill and are now parking elsewhere on the surrounding roads or in fact, are now using the school car park. I am however, still receiving communications from a number of residents about their driveways being blocked, parents sitting in cars, with their engines running, waiting on yellow lines or the zig zag lines whilst someone delivers their child/children into school and parents turning their cars around which involve mounting the pavement, causing a potential danger to children and parents walking to school.

I would again like to take this opportunity to repeat our request that parents do not park across, or obstruct in anyway, the driveways of our neighbours when dropping or collecting their children, to consider the safety of our children when parking and manoeuvring, particularly in Albion Hill, and to use the car park as much as possible. Thank you in advance of your understanding and support.

Festive Wellbeing

The festive period can bring immense joy when we reunite with family and connect with relatives and friends. It can often be an exhausting for young people as their normal routine is disrupted (for pleasant reasons). I have included a link to a website that provides some helpful tips to support children's wellbeing over the busy festive period: <https://happiful.com/6-ways-to-support-childrens-mental-health-this-winter/>

Forthcoming Events

The following list provides an update of events planned for the remainder of this half term:

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
Wednesday 1 December	EYFS + KS1 Pantomime at school
Wednesday 1 December	Y6 (selection of) Forest School Maths Day
Thursday 2 December	Y5 Victorian Workshop
Monday 6 December	Y1-Y6 Readathon finishes
Monday 6 December	LK Butterflies Tea Party 3.15-4.00pm (new starters)
Tuesday 7 December	Y5 Coffee Morning 8:45am – 9:30am
Tuesday 7 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service Rehearsal, St Mary's Church
Tuesday 7 December	LK Bumblebees Tea Party 3:15pm – 4:00pm (new starters)
Wednesday 8 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service at St. Mary's Church 2.00pm
Thursday 9 December	UK Hedgehog, Badgers + Rabbits visit to Mellows Care Home
Thursday 9 December	Y6 Mock 11+ exams am & pm
Thursday 9 December	LK Ladybirds Tea Party 3.14-5-4.00pm (new starters)
Friday 10 December	Y6 Mock 11+ exams am & pm
Friday 10 December	UK Foxes and Squirrels visit to Mellows Care Home
Friday 10 December	Y1+Y2 Christmas Party 2.00-3.00pm
Friday 10 December	Y3-Y5 OPA Christmas Party 4.15-6.00pm
Monday 13 December	LK-Y6 Christmas Lunch
Monday 13 December	Y3-Y6 Christmas online Panto 1.45pm
Tuesday 14 December	LK, UK + Rec Christmas Parties
Tuesday 14 December	Y6 Christmas Pizza Lunch
Wednesday 15 December	Last Day of term – LK-Y6 Christmas jumper morning in aid of 'Save the Children'

Spring Term begins on Thursday 6 January 2022

End of term

Please remember that the Autumn Term finishes at lunchtime on **Wednesday 15 December**. There are no afternoon sessions.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to school on Thursday 6 January 2022.

With kind regards and seasonal greetings

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

