



# Oaklands School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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5 January 2022

Dear Parents

### Re: **January 2022 Headmistress's Letter**

May I start my first Head's letter of 2022 by wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year. I sincerely hope that you all had an enjoyable holiday with your families and friends and that your children are looking forward to the new term ahead. Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts you and your children gave me at the end of last term; I really do appreciate your kindness and generosity, as do the rest of the staff.

We have another busy Spring Term ahead so please do regularly check our website and your portal/texts for information. **Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs will start on Thursday 6 January**, whilst all our **extracurricular clubs will begin during week commencing Monday 10 January**. Year 3 and Year 5 will begin their swimming lessons for this half term on Wednesday 12 January.

We shall be continuing with our programme of coffee mornings for parents and there are some class assemblies and plays to which parents will be invited to attend. Parents Evenings for Years 1 to 6 will take place during the first week after the February half term. Our 'Drop-in' sessions for parents to informally view their children's work, will also re-commence during this half term.

The Spring Term sees some of our pupils, particularly in Year 6, take entrance examinations to a number of independent secondary schools. I know you join me and the Oaklands staff in wishing them all the very best of luck in their endeavours.

### **Covid-19**

We are thankful that we are able to welcome the children back in to school this week. Please read Mr Hagger's detailed letter that was emailed yesterday to help us to keep our school community safe. We will continue to review the run of the school day, as well as the planned trips and events and communicate any changes to our families.

Thank you in advance for continuing to help your children to test routinely twice each week to keep them in school as much as we possibly can. We recommend Wednesday and Sunday afternoon/evenings. Please let us know immediately if there is a positive result.

Please bear with us if we have staff absence due to positive Covid test results. We will do everything possible to minimise any disruption to the children's education, but it may be necessary to put temporary measures into place whenever staff need to self-isolate.

### **Independent Schools Inspection**

As you know, on Thursday 9 December and Friday 10 December 2021, we welcomed two inspectors from the Independent Schools Inspectorate to Oaklands to conduct a full Regulatory Inspection of the school. During their 2-day visit, they inspected all our policies and procedures covering areas such as the provision of education and the content of the curriculum, pupil welfare, health and safety, the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of the pupils, safeguarding and the recruitment and suitability of staff, and the quality of leadership within the school.

It was a very robust and thorough inspection and we were delighted with the complimentary feedback we received. Mr Hagger will be writing to you with more details once we have received the final Inspection Report.

## OPA

I would like to thank the OPA for funding all the wonderful Christmas events for the children. I'm grateful to the OPA committee, class representatives and parent volunteers who gave up their time to wrap Santa gifts and supervise the Years 3-5 Disco on the last Friday of the term.

Children in EYFS and KS1 danced and laughed through their Christmas parties under the direction of 'Crazylegs', our new children's entertainer/DJ! LK to Y2 children thoroughly enjoyed their pantomime experience in the school hall. Members of the Pyramid Pantomime Group performed 'Aladdin' with the normal chants of "Oh no he didn't" and "Oh yes she did" which greatly encouraged maximum audience participation, whilst Y3 to Y6 pupils laughed and sang their way through their virtual 'Cinderella' pantomime.

Christmas lunch, with crackers and party hats, was absolutely amazing on the last Monday of term; thank you to Ian, our chef, and his team in the kitchen.

## Curriculum Overviews and Timetables

The Curriculum overviews for each age group are published on your parent portals every half term. They provide you with detailed information about the teaching content in each subject. I hope you will continue to find them useful documents to refer to during 2022. We also publish current timetables for each age group to help ensure that each child wears their PE kit to school on the correct day/s of the school week.

## Charities

The children were incredibly busy in their charity work last term. We began with generous gifts of tinned food and toiletries filling the school stage at Harvest in October, which were thankfully received by the Whitechapel Mission. The School raised £216.39 on 'Jeans for Genes' Day in October, £263.84 for 'Children in Need' and £561 for 'Crisis at Christmas' by participating in our Readathon in December.

At the Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Loughton, your donations at the end of this festive event raised £382.82 for the Mill Grove Family Centre. Children in the EYFS held their fundraising 'Festive Feet' event on Friday 10 December and I will include the final amount raised in my next newsletter. On the last day of term, we raised £145.22 as the children wore their Christmas jumpers to support 'Save the Children'. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

We look forward to supporting other Charity days during the Spring Term including Children's Mental Health Week and Book Aid International.

## House Points Cup

Congratulations to Sycamore House who won the House Points Cup for Autumn Term 2 with the grand total of 419 points; Beech came second with 311 points; Willow came a close third with 310 points and Holly gained 251 points. Well done to all the Year 1 to Year 6 pupils for working so hard to achieve such grand totals in just six weeks!

## Collection at the end of school

Please notify the office if a different person from normal, is collecting your child after school, activity clubs or Tea Time Club. This is to help ensure the safety of the children at all times. Thank you.

## School Uniform

All children should be wearing the correct winter school uniform, including the school scarf, hat and gloves. All items of school clothing and PE kit should be clearly labelled. At this time of year, it is essential that the children wear their winter coat to school every day as they will be going out to play, except in adverse weather conditions.

## Snow

This is usually the term when the weather turns extremely cold and brings us snow. Our Maintenance Team works hard to make the school paths, steps and entrances clear and safe for use in the event of snow. Please check the website for updates and announcements in the event of heavy snow. We also aim to text parents by 7.15am to provide up to date information about the condition of the roads surrounding the school and the organisation of the school day ahead.

### Coffee Mornings with Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and Mrs Belej

Coffee Mornings for Upper Kindergarten, Reception, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 parents took place last term. We will write in advance of each Coffee Morning with further details, but this term they will take place on the following dates:

	SPRING TERM	
CLASS	DATE	TIME
Year 4	Tuesday 11 January	8.45-9.30am
Year 3	Tuesday 18 January	8.45-9.30am
Year 1	Tuesday 25 January	8.45-9.30am
Lower Kindergarten	Tuesday 1 February	8.45-9.30am

### 'Drop-in' Sessions

The 'Drop-in Sessions' that we held during the Autumn Term continue to be very popular and I received many positive comments about them. The children enjoyed showing off their work and I know many of you found them useful too. We plan to hold another set of 'Drop-in' Sessions this half term. Please note below the dates and times for each year group:

	SPRING TERM	
CLASS	DATE	TIME
Y3C	Tuesday 1 February	8.25-8.50am
Y4C	Thursday 3 February	8.25-8.50am
Y1C & Y1F	Friday 4 February	8.25-8.50am
Y2S & Y2Z	Tuesday 8 February	8.25-8.50am
Y5Z	Thursday 10 February	8.25-8.50am
Y6C & Y6G	Friday 11 February	8.25-8.50am

### Parents' Evenings, February 2022

Formal Parents' Evenings for Year 1 to Year 6 pupils will be held just after half term on Wednesday 23 February and Thursday 24 February, 3.30-6.30pm.

All parents, except those in Year 6, will be able to book their appointment online. Further details will be sent to you during week beginning Monday 7 February.

### PSHE Jigsaw Scheme of Work

During this half term, pupils will be exploring, at an age appropriate level, the topic of 'Dreams and Goals' which includes:

- How to stay motivated when doing something challenging
- Showing resilience to keep trying even when the task is difficult
- Being able to work well with a partner or in a group
- Striving to always have a positive attitude in order to overcome obstacles
- Making a determined effort to help others to achieve their goals
- Coping with constructive criticism and overcoming disappointment
- Enjoying and celebrating the feelings of success when goals are achieved, however big or small
- Recognising that not every dream is easy to achieve but is still worth pursuing

In the first assembly and PSHE lesson of the term, pupils will create their own dreams/goals for the forthcoming weeks. We will be using the image of a rollercoaster to help the pupils visualise that the pathway to achieving a dream/goal is a bit like a roller-coaster, full of ups and downs and twists and turns which may feel uncomfortable or exciting at different times; but by staying positive and being resilient, they will finally get to the end of the roller-coaster and achieve their aspirations.

## Parking

As you are aware, we regularly send out letters and reminders about 'parking'. I would like to take this opportunity to repeat our request that parents do not park across, or obstruct in any way, the driveways of our neighbours when dropping or collecting their children, that they consider the safety of our children when parking and manoeuvring, particularly in Albion Hill, and use the car park as much as possible.

## Summer Ball 2022

We're hoping that the joint Oak-Tree Summer Ball will be able to take place this year in the Summer Term. Head Office has booked The Prince Regent Hotel in Chigwell on Saturday 18 June 2022 from 7pm until 1am, so do save the date! The Ball will have a 1920s Great Gatsby theme and will be open to parents and friends of the four schools. Mr Hagger will write in due course with further details.

## Dates for the Diary

The following list provides a list of events planned for the Spring Term 2022:

Thursday 6 January	Spring Term begins
Monday 10 January	All Extracurricular Clubs start
Tuesday 11 January	Year 4 Coffee Morning
Tuesday 18 January	Year 3 Coffee Morning
Thursday 20 January	Year 1 & Year 2 Lego Workshop
Friday 21 January	Year 3/4 Indoor Athletics Competition (selection of pupils to attend) tbc
Tuesday 25 January	Year 1 Coffee Morning
Tuesday 1 February	LK Coffee Morning
Wednesday 2 February	Year 6 ISA LN Netball Tournament (selection of pupils to attend) tbc
Thursday 3 February	Year 4C Class Assembly to parents 9.00am
Thursday 3 February	Year 4C Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 4 February	Year 1C & Year 1F Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 4 February	Year 5/6 WESSP Sports hall Athletics 1.00-3.00pm (selection of pupils to attend) tbc
Monday 7 February	Year 4 – Year 6 Oak-Tree Tag-rugby event (selection of pupils to attend)
Tuesday 8 February	Year 2S & Year 2Z Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Thursday 10 February	Year 5Z Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Thursday 10 February	Year 3C Class Assembly to parents 9.00am
Friday 11 February	Year 6C & Year 6G Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
<b>Half Term Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February</b>	
Wednesday 23 February	Year 1-Year 6 Parents Evening
Thursday 24 February	Year 1-Year 6 Parents Evening
Monday 28 February	Year 4-Year 6 Oak-Tree Swimming Gala (selection of pupils to attend)
Fri 4 March	Year 5/6 ISA LN Tag-rugby (selection of pupils to attend)
Thursday 10 March	Coopersale Hall School Cross Country Races (selection of KS2 pupils to attend)
Thursday 17 March	Year 4C Class Assembly to parents 9.00am
Tuesday 22 - Fri 25 March	Book Fair in School
Wednesday 23 March	Year 2S Play Performance to parents 2.00pm
Thursday 24 March	Year 2Z Play Performance to parents 2.00pm
Wednesday 30 March	End of Spring Term

I look forward to welcoming the children back into school tomorrow and seeing you at the various events this half term.

With kind regards

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

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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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