



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 March 2022

Dear Parents

Re: **March Headmistress's Letter**

I hope you all had an enjoyable half term despite the rain, gale force winds and storms! Some of the children have been sharing their holiday news with me and I hope you yourselves found some time to relax. It seems incredible that we are now more than half way through the academic year!

11+ Entrance Examinations

For our Year 6 pupils and parents, January and February have been nerve-racking times. From the beginning of the Summer Term of Year 5 through the Autumn Term of Year 6, the pupils have been working particularly hard preparing for their entrance examinations to a variety of different independent schools. They persevered to complete numerous practice papers, tackling complex sample questions and revisiting areas where they were not 100% secure.

I am delighted to tell you that our pupils have again done exceedingly well and have all been awarded places at their chosen schools. Most are in the enviable position of having received a number of offers. The staff and I are extremely proud of them all for their consistent hard work, but also for their caring and supportive attitude towards each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their consistently enthusiastic and excellent teaching and for the outstanding pastoral care that they have given every child. You will be able to read about all the offers on our website once they have been finalised.

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to greet so many of you at the Year 1 to Year 6 Parents' Evenings last week. I hope you found the appointments informative about your child's academic progress and reassuring about their personal development. If you do wish to discuss any particular aspects in more detail, you are welcome to call the school office to arrange a follow-up appointment or contact the teacher directly by email.

'E-Safety Day' at Oaklands

As you are aware, The Oak-Tree Group has organised a series of E-Safety workshops for Year 3 to Year 6 pupils, parents and staff. The 'two Johns' will be at Oaklands on Wednesday 2 March.

They will be giving two workshops for pupils:

- Years 3 and 4: 1.00-2.00pm
- Years 5 and 6: 2.15-3.15pm

The parents' Zoom live e-safety webinar is on Thursday 3 March from 6.30-7.45pm. The link to log onto the webinar is in the letter from Mrs Osborn, which was sent to parents last Thursday. The webinar will be recorded and sent out after the event so that any parents who are unable to join the live session will still be able to benefit from the information shared.

I am sure that by the end of the E-Safety training sessions we will all be more aware of the dangers faced by our children and how to protect them when they are using the internet.

Open Morning

Our second Open Morning of the academic year takes place on Thursday 3 March, from 9.15am to 11.15am. You are welcome to come to this event. Prospective and current parents will have the opportunity to see the school at work and to hear more about what is happening at school. Refreshments will be available in the school hall from 9.00am. I shall be giving a short talk at 9.30am with tours, conducted by our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, commencing at 9.45am. Our older pupils are always happy and confident to talk about life at Oaklands from a pupil's perspective.

Drop-in Sessions Spring Term 2022

Our popular Drop-in sessions programme began again after the half term break. These informal sessions provide parents with the opportunity to view some of their child's work in their classroom prior to the start of the school day. I know that the children thoroughly enjoy discussing their work with you. Please refer to the table below to check when your child's Drop-in session is being held.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Year 4C	Wed 23 Feb	8.25-8.50am
Year 3C	Tues 8 March	8.25-8.50am
Year 1C/Year 1F	Thurs 10 March	8.25-8.50am
Year 2S/Year 2Z	Tues 15 March	8.25-8.50am
Year 5Z	Wed 16 March	8.25-8.50am
Year 6C/Year 6G	Fri 18 March	8.25-8.50am

World Book Day

The whole school is celebrating this special themed day on Friday 4 March. The children have been asked to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Please remember to dress the children in sensible shoes and a warm coat for playtime.

There will be a special assembly organised by Miss Dee and Miss Sandford, our two English Coordinators for Years 1 to 6, and Mrs Potts, the Head of EYFS, will be leading the EYFS assembly.

I would be grateful if each child could bring a donation of a £1 which we will be sending to Book Aid International. Thank you for your support.

Sport

Our cross-country runners, tag rugby players and female footballers will be participating in competitions during this half term. Key Stage 2 children will be participating in the annual House football tournaments for their respective age group and the House Swimming Gala.

We are unable to host the Key Stage 2 Swimming Gala for all the classes at the same time. Consequently, Years 3 and 4 will have their gala on Wednesday 16 March, from 10.00am to 11.00am, and Years 5 and 6 will have their gala on Wednesday 23 March, from 10.00am to 11.00am. Both the galas will be held at Loughton Swimming Pool.

Assemblies

The children are continuing to learn more about the world around them in our assembly programme. So far this term the children have joined assemblies about 'Jigsaw – Dreams and Goals', 'World Religion Day', 'Chinese New Year', 'NSPCC' and 'Children's Mental Health week'.

This half term our assembly programme includes 'Jigsaw - Healthy Me', 'Water Aid', 'World Book Day', 'Commonwealth Day', 'British Science Week', 'International Day of Happiness', 'Comic Relief and 'World Poetry Day'. The EYFS programme is slightly different and includes topics such as 'National Tell a Fairy tale Day', 'Pancake Day' and 'My Favourite Book'.

The children are always given a few moments to reflect about the content or message of each assembly before they leave the hall. Very often, this initiates further discussions during class assemblies or PSHE 'Circle times' back in the classroom.

Important Summer Term Dates

I would like to bring to your attention a very important date in our hectic summer term for you to add to your diaries: **Celebration of the Year for LK to Reception** children will be on **Wednesday 29 June** at 2.00pm followed by our more formal **Prize Giving** ceremony at 4.00pm for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6.

Forthcoming Events

We have yet another busy four weeks ahead of us before we break up for the Easter holidays.

As well as World Book Day on Friday 4 March, there are visitors and workshops happening in school during Science Week beginning on 11 March which Mrs Georgiou, the Science Coordinator, has organised.

We have the annual Book Fair from Tuesday 22 March until Friday 25 March. This event is always very popular and we will be sending out details of when you are able to visit the Fair with your child nearer the time.

I am particularly looking forward to the Year 4C Class Assembly on Monday 21 March, the play performances by Year 2S on Wednesday 23 March and by Year 2Z on Thursday 24 March at 2.00pm. We also have a Mother's Day assembly performance by Lower Kindergarten on Friday 25 March to enjoy.

Please remember to check this letter and of course the website, for dates and times of all the various events. Details will be sent out to the relevant group of parents in advance of events, but if you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Dates for the Diary

Please note the change of date for the Year 4C Class Assembly.

Wednesday 2 March	'E-Safety' Day at Oaklands
Thursday 3 March	Open Morning 9.15-11.15am
Friday 4 March	U11 ISA LN Tag-rugby (selection of pupils to attend)
Tuesday 8 March	Year 3C Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Thursday 10 March	Year 1C and Year 1F Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Thursday 10 March	Coopersale Hall School Cross Country Races (selection of KS2 pupils to attend)
Friday 11 March	Year 4C Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 11 March	Bancroft's Science Fair (selection of Y6 pupils to attend)
Wednesday 16 March	Year 5Z Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Wednesday 16 March	Year 3and Year 4 Swimming Gala 10.00-11.00am
Friday 18 March	Year 6C and Year 6G Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Monday 21 March	UK Foxes and Hedgehogs Drop-in sessions 8.30-9.00am and 2.30-3.00pm
Monday 21 March	Year 4C Class Assembly to parents 9.00am
Tuesday 22 March	Reception Mother's Day Activity Drop-in sessions, am & pm
Tuesday 22 March	UK Rabbits, Badgers and Squirrels Drop-in sessions 8.30-9.00am and 2.30-3.00pm
Tuesday 22 - Fri 25 March	Book Fair in School
Wednesday 23 March	Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming Gala 10.00-11.00am
Wednesday 23 March	Year 2S Play Performance to parents 2.00pm
Thursday 24 March	Year 2Z Play Performance to parents 2.00pm
Friday 25 March	U9's & U11's Oak-Tree Girls' Football Tournament
Wednesday 30 March	End of Spring Term

I hope your child has an enjoyable and rewarding half term at school this term.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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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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