



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Sue Belej B.A. (JNT HONS), CERT.ED.

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1 February 2022

Dear Parents

Re: February 2022 Headmistress's Letter

With just over a week of the half term remaining, I am sure that you are looking forward to a well-earned rest with your children, whether you are travelling abroad for some sun or to catch up with family and friends.

Our Year 6 children in particular have been working extremely hard throughout January sitting all their challenging entrance examinations for various senior independent schools. They have all continued to act as role models to the younger children of the school despite the pressure of the examinations. They are a credit to Oaklands and to you, their parents, and we are very proud of them. I am sure that the Year 6 children and their parents are currently enjoying the well-deserved luxury of 'no homework' until after half term.

Throughout this half term, I have been particularly impressed by the enthusiasm all the children consistently show in their learning. On my weekly tours with prospective parents around the school site, many comments are made about the children's self-confidence, and the happy and positive working atmosphere that they see in the classrooms. Well done to all the children and staff!

Coffee Mornings

Our annual cycle of coffee mornings will be completed by the half term holiday. Thank you to those of you who were available to come along to your year group coffee morning. As always, we value your comments, suggestions and thoughts on the education we provide. It is pleasing to hear that the children are happy in their learning and continue to thrive and make progress.

Curriculum Information to parents

During a number of the coffee mornings held this academic year, some parents asked if they could receive additional weekly information about the Maths and English topics being taught each week to their children.

In response to this request, parents in Year 1 to Year 6 have started to receive a weekly Friday email via the portal providing details of the Maths and English areas of learning being taught in the forthcoming week. I hope you will find this helpful in your supportive role with homework tasks.

Covid-19

We are pleased that there has been a relatively small number of children who have tested positive for Covid-19 this half term and who have had to self-isolate at home in line with the guidance.

May I extend a special thank-you to those parents who were asked to conduct a LFT with their child (close contact) every morning for 7 days following one of these positive Covid results. This procedure, together with everyone routinely testing twice a week, is helping to keep the school community as safe as possible.

Parking reminder

As you are aware, we regularly send out letters about 'Parking'. I would 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 to use the car park as much as possible.

Medical matters

I would like to reiterate to parents that all pupils should be kept off school for at least 48 hours following a sickness or diarrhoea bug. Also, if they have started a course of antibiotics they should also be kept off school for the first 24 hours whilst taking the medication. This is to contain the spread of infection as far as possible. Likewise, if your child is taken ill at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. Thank you for your cooperation in doing this.

PSHE Scheme of Work, Reception to Year 6

After the February half term, the children will be exploring, at an age appropriate level, the topic of 'Healthy Me' which includes:

- What is personal hygiene?
- Understanding the importance of healthy eating
- Maintaining an active lifestyle
- Appreciating why they must get enough rest and sleep
- Safety education – road safety; on and off-line safety
- How to manage risk
- Looking after one's mental health
- Making healthier choices
- Having respect for myself
- Understanding the dangers of certain substances – alcohol, medicines, tobacco

The children will be introduced to the topic during the first assembly they attend after half term. Firstly, a slide of a car will be shown and the children will be asked to consider what is needed to keep the car 'healthy' and to make it go. Once the suggestions of using the right fuel, having periods of rest and the need to regularly use, clean and maintain the car have been provided, their next challenge will be to identify the link between how a car keeps working to our ways of keeping healthy.

Throughout the topic, the children will be encouraged to identify and make 'healthier choices' to their lifestyles.

Drop-in Sessions Spring Term 2022

Our timetable of 'Drop-in Sessions' continue to be very popular with both the children and parents; I receive many positive comments about them. The children enjoy showing off their work and I know many of you find them useful too. We plan to hold a second set of 'Drop-in Sessions' after half term. Please note below the date and time for each year group.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Y3C	Tues 8 March	8.25-8.50am
Y1C/Y1F	Thurs 10 March	8.25-8.50am
Y4C	Fri 11 March	8.25-8.50am
Y2S/Y2Z	Tues 15 March	8.25-8.50am
Y5Z	Wed 16 March	8.25-8.50am
Y6C/6G	Fri 18 March	8.25-8.50am

Parents' Evenings, Wednesday 23 February and Thursday 24 February 2022

After the February half term, parents in Y1-Y6 will have the opportunity to attend a Parents' Evening to discuss the progress of their child with his or her class teacher. Each year group will be receiving a letter with details about their Parents' Evenings this week.

We will be using the online booking system again. This will be available from Monday 7 February for you to book your appointment slot via the Portals.

Oak-Tree E-Safety Workshops 3 March

During the w/c 28 February, The Oak-Tree Group has organised e-safety workshops for pupils from Year 3 to Year 6. The staff will also have their own workshop to be able to support your child through the ever changing world of the internet. The day is run by two ex-police officers, known as 'The Two Johns', who have worked with CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) and within the police service. This is an incredibly useful and eye-opening support for parents. More details will follow in a separate communication.

Summer Ball 2022

Plans are in hand for the Oak-Tree Ball 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.

Events

We have a number of events that the children are participating in during the last two weeks of the half term. On Wednesday 2 February, our netball team will be competing at the ISA London North Netball Tournament at Redbridge Sports Centre and the Tag Rugby team will be participating in the Oak-Tree Tag Rugby event at the Eton Manor ground on Monday 7 February. Parents of pupils in Y3C will be attending their class assembly in the school hall on Thursday 10 February, whilst all Year 1 to Year 6 parents are invited to attend their child's Drop-in session before the half term concludes on Friday 11 February.

You will see from the dates list below that next half term is also very busy, so please make sure that you continually check our website and app for up to date information.

Forthcoming Events Spring 2022

Tuesday 1 February	Year 3C Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 1 February	LK Coffee Morning
Wednesday 2 February	Year 6 ISA LN Netball Tournament (selection of pupils to attend)
Thursday 3 February	Year 4C Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 4 February	Year 1C and Year 1F Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 4 February	NSPCC fundraising 'Number Day' (non-uniform)
Monday 7 February	Year 5 and Year 6 Oak-Tree Tag-rugby event (selection of pupils to attend)
Tuesday 8 February	Year 2S and Year 2Z Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 8 February	UK Foxes and Hedgehogs Drop-in sessions 8.30-9.00am and 2.30-3.00pm
Wednesday 9 February	LK Settling - in chats 3.15-6.00pm
Thursday 10 February	Year 5Z Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Thursday 10 February	Year 5Z UK Rabbits, Badgers and Squirrels Drop-in sessions 8.30-9.00am and 2.30-3.00pm
Thursday 10 February	Year 3C Class Assembly to parents 9.00am
Friday 11 February	Year 6C and Year 6G Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 11 February	Reception Drop-in sessions 8.30-9.00am & 2.30-3.00pm
Half Term Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February	
Wednesday 23 February	Year 1 to Year 6 Parents Evening
Thursday 24 February	Year 1 to Year 6 Parents Evening
Monday 28 February	Year 4 to Year 6 Oak-Tree Swimming Gala (selection of pupils to attend)
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 3 and Year 4 Swimming Gala 10.00-11.00am
Thursday 17 March	Year 4C Class Assembly to parents 9.00am
Friday 18 March	Year 6C and Year 6G Drop-in session 8.25-8.50am
Monday 21 March	UK Foxes & Hedgehogs Drop-in sessions 8.30-9.00am and 2.30-3.00pm
Tuesday 22 March	Reception Mother's Day Activity Drop-in sessions, am & pm
Tuesday 22 March	UK Rabbits, Badgers & 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

May I wish you a lovely half term break when the time comes next week.

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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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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