



Oaklands School

6-8 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA

Tel: 020 8508 3517

HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

E-mail: info@oaklandsschool.co.uk

Website: www.oaklandsschool.co.uk

3 October 2022

Dear Parents

Re: **October Headmistress's Letter**

This half term is flying by and we are fast approaching our half term break. It has been wonderful getting to know so many pupils and parents in the past few weeks. The enthusiasm and focus of all our pupils are really quite contagious! There have been many positive comments made by external visitors during the term, including our local ISA representative who was overwhelmed by the wonderful atmosphere of our school.

Our **School Council, Eco Council and Sports Council** have now been elected and those pupils have begun meetings and undertaking new initiatives around the school. They have already generated some very interesting ideas for consideration.

Many pupils have received our Friday '**Congratulations' emails** and it has been a pleasure to read them all. Our two Year 3 classes were some of the first pupils this year to receive **Merit Certificates** for their resilience during the Oak-Tree Camp. They made new friends, put up their own tents and braved, under canvas, one of the coldest nights we have had for several months. Year 1 enjoyed a fascinating trip to Stansted Mountfitchet recently as part of their topic about Castles. Year 3 are very excited about their forthcoming trip to Celtic Harmony in Hertford.

Our new Reception, Lower and Upper Kindergarten children have begun to settle into the rhythm of school life and they have embraced their learning extremely well. I am impressed with how much they have already learnt from our dedicated staff.

I have been impressed with the 'can do' attitude of every one of our pupils since their return in September, their kindness, resilience and excellent attitude to learning is most impressive; they have embraced an 'anything is possible' approach.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have now returned to assembly together on Monday mornings which has freed space for us to reintroduce singing on a Wednesday morning. We are very excited to hear what our newly-formed choir will be performing in the next few weeks.

The September Newsletter gave a picture of how much is going on in school. We have had information events for Lower and Upper Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 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, a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind and Jeans for Genes day. We also commemorated the life of Queen Elizabeth II in a special assembly following the sad news of her death. The extracurricular club programme is underway, which now includes two Art Clubs and a separate KS1 and KS2 Karate Club. Many of our clubs are now full and we are working hard to add extra after school activities for the next academic year. If you have any enquiries about clubs please email clubs@oaklandsschool.co.uk

We have welcomed new peripatetic music teachers this term, some of whom are now teaching to capacity, but if you would like to be informed when vacancies arise please contact the office staff.

Coopersale Hall School 2023

We are delighted that Coopersale Hall School will be ready to accept Year 7 pupils from September 2023, and whilst building work is still in progress, I urge you to arrange a tour for more information, with the Headmistress Miss Barnard. For those of you who would like to remain within the Oak-Tree family this may be an exciting opportunity.

Open Morning - Thursday 6 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 tour guides and I know they will represent Oaklands in its best light to our visitors. As part of our presentation to parents, our Head Boy and Head Girl will be delivering their first public speeches.

Parents' Evenings - October 2022

Formal Parents' Evenings for Reception to Year 6 pupils will be held just before half term on Wednesday 19 October and Thursday 20 October.

Upper Kindergarten parents are invited to attend a 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Tuesday 18 October.

Lower Kindergarten parents are invited to attend their 'settling in' meeting with your child's keyworker on Wednesday 19 October.

Further details will be sent to you during week commencing Monday 4 October.

Coffee Mornings

Mr Hagger or Mrs Osborn will be joining me for our annual coffee mornings which take place on Tuesday mornings starting on Tuesday 8 November. We would really like to hear from you at these events so please check the table below for your class time:

AUTUMN TERM	
Tuesday 8 November 8.45-9.30am	Y6
Tuesday 15 November 8.45-9.30am	Y5
Tuesday 22 November 8.45-9.30am	Y4
Tuesday 29 November 8.45-9.30am	Y3
Tuesday 6 December 8.45-9.30am	Y2

Coffee mornings for Lower and Upper Kindergarten, Reception and Year 1 parents will be arranged in the New Year.

Uniform reminder

As the weather begins to turn colder please ensure that children have coats, hats and gloves in school every day as we will spend as much time as possible outside, unless the weather prevents us. After half term we return to winter uniform for all pupils, please check the website for specific items that need to be worn. All uniform can be purchased from Forest Casuals in Loughton.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that earrings may only be worn by Years 5 and 6 and should be a small, single plain stud in each ear. Pupils should be able to remove these earrings themselves for PE lessons and I would like to remind you that we cannot take responsibility for any lost jewellery.

Mr Paine has recently written to KS2 parents about PE kit, especially the correct footwear required for lessons. If you have any questions he will be more than happy to answer them, please e-mail apaine@oaklandsschool.co.uk

Can I remind you that items of religious jewellery may be worn to school but must be either removed or covered for PE lessons. The Essex Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) recommends a bandage or sports band to cover religious bracelets to prevent them from getting caught on equipment and causing injury.

Morning work

It might be useful to remind you that all children should arrive at school before 8.45am. It's surprising how much work is done in the first 15 minutes of the school day. This is a time when teachers give feedback and support to individual children and help them complete the next steps in their learning.

Sports events and fixtures

Mr Paine has been very busy diarising sporting events for this academic year. We will write with further information about fixtures this term which include house sports, Oak-Tree and WESSP events for lots of different year groups.

Art

Miss Zaydner, our art coordinator will be entering Oaklands art work into the ISA regional competition later this month. We are hopeful there might be a winner in our midst!

Miss Dee and I will attend the ISA Autumn Study conference later this term. This is an excellent opportunity for us to meet with leadership teams from schools across the country, to share good practice and bring fresh ideas back to school.

Parking

Many of you will have seen me walking up and down Albion Hill, talking to parents and residents this term and in particular dissuading parents from parking dangerously outside school.

We have received numerous complaints from our local residents and, increasingly, from parents with buggies and small children being forced to walk in the road as the pavement is blocked by cars.

Whilst I appreciate that many of you park considerately or walk to school, I am disappointed there is still a small number of parents not stopping or parking with due consideration to our pupils. Whilst I appreciate we all have busy lives, I urge you all to think carefully about the safety of our school community, and the impact fumes from cars so close to school can have on children, and to think about parking near to, or dropping off in our large carpark at the bottom of the school site.

Please support the school by considering our neighbours when journeying to and from school. Do not park on, or across, residents' driveways.

Reading for Pleasure

We encourage our pupils to ignite their imagination through the magic of reading and whilst we have a plethora of books at school, I know many of you like to purchase books at home. I am always happy to recommend books if children ask me but you may also find the link below useful, it includes classic and modern reads in age appropriate categories. <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/>

Oak-Tree Fireworks Display

The Oak-Tree Fireworks Display is back this year and will take place on Sunday 13 November at 4.30pm. It is an opportunity to bring families together across the group and will be a fantastic event with an amazing firework display. Please order your tickets, if you have not yet done so, here: [Fireworks Display 2022 - Book Here](#).

Dates for the Diary

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

Please note the change to Y3 Drop In Session

Tuesday 27 September	Y2 Drop-in Session 8.25-9am
Tuesday 27 September	Y1 Maths and English Meeting 6.00pm
Wednesday 28 September	UK Drop in sessions (Foxes & Rabbits) 8.25-9am and 2.30-3pm

Thursday 29 September	Y4 Drop in sessions 8.25-9am
Thursday 29 September	UK Drop in sessions (Badgers, Hedgehogs & Squirrels) 8.25-9am and 2.30-3pm
Friday 30 September	Y1 Drop in sessions 8.25-9am
Friday 30 September	Reception Drop in sessions 8.25-9am and 2.30-3pm
Tuesday 4 October	Y3 Maths & English Meeting 5pm
Wednesday 5 October	Y6 Drop in Session 8.25-9am
Thursday 6 October	Open Morning 9.15-11.15am
Friday 7 October	Y3 & Y5 Drop in Session 8.25-9am
Friday 14 October	Y5 11+ Parent Meeting 8.50am
Tuesday 18 October	UK Settling-in meetings 3.25pm – 6pm
Wednesday 19 October	LK Settling-in Meetings & R-Y6 Parents Evening Meetings 3.25pm-6pm
Thursday 20 October	Reception – Y6 Parent Evening Meetings 3.15pm-6pm
Friday 21 October	Y4 Assembly to parents. School finishes at normal time for Half Term
Monday 23 October - Friday 4 November – Half Term	
Monday 7 November	School begins
Thursday 10 November	Individual Photographs
Sunday 13 November	Oak-Tree Firework display (at Oaklands School)
Thursday 17 November	LK Assembly to parents 9.00am
Thursday 24 November	Reception Christmas Show to parents 9am (Woodpeckers, Owls A)
Friday 25 November	Reception Christmas Show to parents 9am (Robins, Owls B)
Thursday 1 December	UK Play to parents 9am (Foxes, Rabbits, Badgers)
Friday 2 December	UK Play to parents 9am (Hedgehogs and Squirrels)
Wednesday 7 December	Y1-Y6 Carol Service at St. Mary's Church 2pm
Thursday 15 December	Last Day of term – 12pm finish

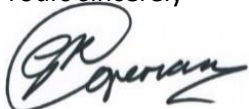
**More dates to be announced*

The second half of the Autumn Term, as we approach Christmas, is always incredibly busy in schools, not only with school work but with preparation for seasonal events. There will be lots of opportunities for you to attend a school event which involves your child and I look forward to sharing these special moments with you and your children.

I have enjoyed welcoming you to school in the mornings and meeting some of you at various events during this half term. Staff, pupils and parents have made me very welcome and shown me what a special place Oaklands is. I wish you all a lovely half term break.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Gretchen Copeman
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

