



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

2 November 2022

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable half term break and are looking forward to the forthcoming half term, as we rapidly progress towards Christmas.

The school calendar is bursting with activity including, for example, engaging workshops for specific age groups, parents' evenings, drop-in sessions, sporting and House events, multi-cultural and 'Jigsaw' based assemblies and of course, the ever-popular Christmas performances and events.

Our School Council has arranged a meeting with Ian, our school chef, to put forward some of their own ideas for school lunches and themed days.

School Uniform and PE Kit

As we return to school, I would like to remind families that children should come to school in their full winter school uniform, unless they are timetabled for a PE/Games lesson when they wear PE kit to school for the whole day.

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school. This includes all children wearing the regulation school coat, which must be purchased from Forest Casuals in Loughton. In cold weather, the school woollen hat, gloves and scarf, which are also available from the uniform suppliers, should be the only accessories worn.

Boots are not suitable to wear for a day in school. Please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes through the winter months. If it does snow, pupils may wear boots to and from school, but will need to wear their normal school shoes in the buildings during the day.

As usual all items must be clearly named.

Individual Photographs

On Thursday 10 November, individual photographs will be taken of the children. It is particularly important that all the children look smart and are in correct winter school uniform for these photographs. All long hair should be tied back with the regulation coloured hair bands.

Prospective Parents

We welcomed a large number of families to our Open Morning on Thursday 6 October, many of whom are now returning for personal tours of the school. Our Year 6 Prefects, along with Year 5, acted as tour guides for our prospective parents and were congratulated for their knowledge about the school and their impeccable manners. Our Head Boy and Girl, Reggie and Betsy, spoke to a hall full of visitors with confidence and passion for Oaklands. Well done to everyone involved in this successful morning.

We will shortly be starting the 4+ and 3+ pre-offer taster/assessment programme before the Christmas holidays for children who wish to join the school for 2023-24.

Sports Update

Years 5 and 6 continue to enjoy their Tuesday PE sessions at the Peter May centre where they have the opportunity to work with pupils and staff from Normanhurst and Braeside. Being at the centre means we can provide an even wider selection of sporting opportunities than usual and we have received excellent feedback from the pupils.

Our Sports teams continue to represent us extremely well in the local area and I am delighted that our Girls Football team have secured a place at the Essex finals!

OPA

Thank you to Mrs O'Shea and her team who helped supervise all the children at the Movie Night on the second evening of Parent Consultation meetings just before half term. I know a substantial number of children thoroughly enjoyed watching the film, eating a bag of healthy 'goodies' and completing some arts and craft activities.

The OPA would like to extend a warm invitation to all parents to attend the **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 November at 8.50am** in the **studio**. Voting for the formation of a new Committee will take place at this meeting so it is an excellent opportunity for all parents, especially those who have joined the school during the last two years, to become involved.

The OPA are now very busy planning Christmas events for the children to enjoy and I believe most of our children will be visiting a very special person in his Grotto! Year 6 are looking forward to their Christmas celebration of a pizza lunch in Loughton.

Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to be the Class Reps for 2022 -23; your hard work is much appreciated.

Providing Information to Parents

As a school, we are always looking for ways to share with you the educational methods our teachers use in the classroom to teach your children.

During this Autumn Term, we have already organised a number of meetings for different groups of parents: Upper Kindergarten 'Welcome and Ready to Read', Reception 'Welcome and RWI' meeting, Year 1 Maths and English Information meeting, Year 3 Maths and English Information meeting and the Year 5 11+ meeting.

I hope that parents found the meetings helpful and beneficial in order to further support their child's learning at home.

Parents' Evenings and Drop-in Sessions

I trust you all found your recent meeting with your child's class teacher just before the half term holiday informative.

During this half term, we have timetabled a second series of 'Drop-in' sessions for all the classes in KS1 and KS2. These will take place first thing in the morning, 8.25-8.50am. Parents of children in the three areas of the EYFS will also receive invitations to attend another opportunity to view their child's work, either in the morning or the afternoon. We have combined some classes this half term due to the number of school events taking place. If you have a sibling clash, my apologies, please either split the time or ask one of the teachers to accommodate you on another day.

Please refer to the 'Events List' at the end of this Head's letter to check the date of the 'Drop-in' session for your child during this half term.

Awards

As you are aware, we present a number of different awards to the children throughout each term.

Merit certificates are presented to two children in each of the KS1 and KS2 classes on a fortnightly basis. A merit certificate can be awarded for a variety of reasons such as using ambitious words in creative writing, excellent problem-solving skills, imaginative art work or independent research work.

Good Behaviour and Friendship awards are also presented on a fortnightly basis.

A 'Good Behaviour' award is presented to a child who consistently displays positive behaviour and acts as a role model to their peers, or to a child who we can see is making extra effort to rectify any disruptive or unsocial behaviour in the classroom or the playground.

The 'Friendship' award is presented to a child who is a caring and understanding member of the class, willing to share, listen and help others. The children often discuss what it means to be a 'good friend' and the School's Code of Behaviour during their class assemblies or in a PSHE circle time.

'Wow' certificates are awarded once every half term in a special 'Wow' assembly. These are presented for an outstanding piece of work, independent research or presentation, or for displaying significant perseverance to complete a task.

I also award Head teacher's certificates to a class for a number of reasons, such as excellent attitude and participation during a school visit or an outstanding class assembly. Sometimes individuals receive a Head teacher's certificate for their contribution to the life of the school or for a special achievement or effort in their academic work.

On a fortnightly basis, KS1 and KS2 class teachers award badges for Handwriting, Timetables Star, Good Reader and Maths Master and English Superstar within their class. Photographs of the children who are awarded these badges are displayed on the 'Achievement' poster in each classroom.

All these awards are part of, and enhance, the school's aim to create a positive learning environment for the children, and to continually praise and celebrate their achievement and progress. By having a wide range of awards, we aim to ensure that a substantial number of children receive additional recognition for their effort and work during each half term.

Please be reassured that a log is kept for each award to monitor that there is a fair distribution of awards within each class during an academic year.

Siblings

As you know, we have a system whereby our staff supervise children in 'Siblings' (3.00-3.15pm) or in 'Lates' (3.15-3.30pm). Please collect your child by either 3.15pm from 'Siblings' or by 3.30pm from 'Lates' before you collect your older child. Any child who has not been collected by 3.30pm will automatically be taken to Tea Time club, which does incur a charge.

These arrangements mean that the office staff will be able to provide you with the correct location of your child if there is an occasion when you are late for collection. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Harvest and the Whitechapel Mission

Thank you very much for your generous donations to our Harvest Festival which were given, as usual, to the Whitechapel Mission for the homeless. As you will see from the photographs included in the next Newsletter, the hall stage was brimming with goods. Miss Dee led a wonderful assembly that highlighted to our pupils exactly where their wonderful donations were going.

Parking Reminder

Thank you to all our parents who are parking responsibly away from the school gates and avoiding the drives of our neighbours. I will be writing to you all again, very soon, about our partnership with 3PR parking. 3PR parking is a

branch of North Essex parking enforcement and they have agreed to help us keep Albion Hill safe for our pupils and local community. I shall also be holding an assembly with pupils in KS1 and KS2 pupils who will learn they can earn tokens each day by walking a very short distance to the school gates and then take part in a competition within school.

ISA Autumn Conference

Miss Dee and I shall be out of school on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 November as we are attending the Independent School's Association Autumn Study Conference. The conference provides a valuable opportunity to hear and learn about the latest educational developments in the UK and helps us to continue to provide an excellent educational experience for our pupils here at Oaklands. We can both be contacted via email for the duration of this conference.

Coffee Mornings

Our annual coffee mornings on Tuesday mornings with either Mr Hagger or Mrs Osborn and me start on Tuesday 8 November. 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 Kindergarten, Reception and Year 1 parents will be arranged in the New Year.

Forthcoming Events

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

Monday 23 October - Friday 4 November – Half Term

Monday 7 November	School begins
Tuesday 8 November	Year 6 Coffee Morning
Thursday 10 November	Lower Kindergarten -Year 6 Individual Photographs
Sunday 13 November	Oak-Tree Firework display at Oaklands School 4.30-6.45pm
Tuesday 15 November	Year 5 Coffee Morning
Tuesday 15 November	U11 Girls Football Essex Finals at Chelmsford FC
Wednesday 16 November	OPA Annual General Meeting 8.50am
Thursday 17 November	Lower Kindergarten Assembly to parents 9.00am
Friday 18 November	Children In Need non uniform day ISA Swim Gala
Tuesday 22 November	Upper Kindergarten Foxes & Rabbits Drop-In 2.35-3pm Year 4 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 23 November	Year 3 Drop-In 8.25-8.50am Upper Kindergarten Badgers, Hedgehogs & Squirrels Drop-In 2.35-3pm
Thursday 24 November	Year 2, Year 5 & Year 6 Drop In 8.25-8.50am Reception Christmas Show to parents 9am (Woodpeckers, Owls A)
Friday 25 November	Reception Christmas Show to parents 9am (Robins, Owls B) U9 & U11 ISA Indoor Athletics at Peter May Centre

Monday 28 November	Year 1 & Year 4 Drop In 8.25-8.50am Upper Kindergarten Foxes & Rabbits Drop-In 2.35-3pm
Tuesday 29 November	Year 3 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Thursday 1 December	Upper Kindergarten Foxes, Rabbits, Badgers Play to parents 9am
Friday 2 December	Upper Kindergarten Hedgehogs and Squirrels Play to parents 9am
Monday 5 December	Reception Drop In 8.25-8.50am and 2.35-3pm
Tuesday 6 December	Year 2 Coffee Morning 8.45am
Wednesday 7 December	Year 1-Year 6 Carol Service at St. Mary's Church 2pm
Thursday 8 December	LK, UK, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Pantomime at Oaklands School Year 3-Year 6 Pantomime at Millfield Theatre
Monday 12 December	Year 6 Christmas Pizza Lunch UK, LK, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Santa's Grotto Upper Kindergarten Hedgehogs, Badgers & Rabbits visit to Mellows Care Home
Tuesday 13 December	Year 3, Year 4 & Year 5 Santa's Grotto UK Foxes and Squirrels to visit Mellows Care Home Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Lunch Day Christmas Discos
Thursday 15 December	Last Day of term – LK, UK, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 12pm finish Last Day of term – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 12.15pm finish

I hope to see many of you at our annual Oaktree Fireworks display on Sunday 13 November, this is always a popular event with families within the group. Please ensure you park considerately in the surrounding roads. The children will undoubtedly become more excited as the half term progresses towards Christmas but rest assured a lot of learning will still take place. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various meetings and seasonal events the school is hosting this half term.

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.

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