



Oaklands School

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

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

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9 January 2023

Dear Parents

Re: **Headmistress's Letter**

I hope you all had a wonderful break during the festive period and I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2023. I hope you are all looking forward to the Spring term. Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts you and your children gave me and the rest of the staff at the end of last term.

We have another busy Spring term ahead so please regularly check our website and your Portal/Groupcall for information. Breakfast and Tea Time Clubs will start on Tuesday 10 January and, as detailed in my letter before Christmas, some extracurricular clubs will begin in the first week of this term. Year 3 and Year 5 will begin their swimming lessons for this half term on Wednesday 11 January.

We shall be continuing with our programme of coffee mornings for parents and there are some class assemblies and plays which parents will be invited to attend. Parents' Evenings for Reception to Year 6 will take place in March. Our 'Drop-in' sessions for parents to informally view their children's work, will also continue during this half term.

The Spring Term sees some of our pupils, particularly those 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 these exams.

OPA

I would like to once again, thank the OPA for funding all of the lovely Christmas events for the children. My thanks to the OPA committee, class representatives and parent volunteers who gave up their time to wrap Santa gifts and supervise the discos in the final week of term: great fun was had by all and the children all enjoyed 'Skittleman' and his antics! Our Grotto this year was wonderful and I would like to thank Mrs Hagger and Mrs Connelly, who gave their time to transform the library into a magical wonderland. My thanks also go to Father Christmas, who made a special guest appearance again this year!

The pantomimes were a great success, with EYFS and KS1 entertained by 'Out of the Box' productions in the school hall and KS2 going to the Millfield Theatre. Our Year 6 pupils took an exciting trip to the Hilton, Park Lane where they received a standing ovation, for their wonderful Christmas songs, at a Variety Club charity fundraising event. Christmas lunch went ahead despite the ice and snow, with crackers and party hats and was absolutely amazing on the last week 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 2023. We also publish current timetables for each age group to help ensure that each child wears their PE kit to school on the correct days of the school week.

Charities

The children were very busy with 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 £190 on 'Jeans for Genes' Day in September and £298.21 for 'Children in Need'. Our Christmas

Jumper event raised £182.60 for Crisis at Christmas, and the EYFS Festive Feet danceathon has raised £82 so far, with more sponsorship forms still coming in. Thank you for your generous donations!

House Points Cup

Congratulations to Sycamore House who won the House Points Cup for Autumn Term 2 with the grand total of 746 points; Beech came second with 688 points; Holly came a close third with 686 points and Willow gained 662 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 ensure you notify the school office before the end of the day if someone different is collecting your child. For younger children we may require a password.

Staffing

I am delighted to welcome Miss Andrie Constantinou to Oaklands this term. She will be teaching 3D for the remainder of the year and she thoroughly enjoyed spending the last week of the Autumn term getting to know her new class. Mr Olsson, our piano teacher, is taking a sabbatical, however, Piano lessons will continue as normal this term with Mrs Lizzie Doolan who is new to Oaklands.

School Uniform

All children should be wearing the correct school uniform, including the school scarf, hat and gloves. All items of school clothing and PE kit should be clearly labelled. Please can I remind you that only regulation green tights should be worn under pinafores, no leggings please. Blazers must be worn every day and at this time of year, it is essential that children wear their winter coat to school every day as they will be going out to play, except in adverse weather conditions.

Snow

Unusually, we had snow before the Christmas break! Our maintenance team work 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 7am 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

Coffee mornings for Years 2 to 6 took place last term and were well attended. We really welcome this opportunity to talk to parents on an informal basis to find out what we are doing well and ideas for areas of improvement. This term, parents of Year 1, Reception and Upper and Lower Kindergarten children have the opportunity to attend their Coffee morning on the following dates:

SPRING TERM		
CLASS	DATE	TIME
Year 1	17 January	8.45-9.30am
Reception	24 January	8.45-9.30am
Upper Kindergarten	31 January	8.45-9.30am
Lower Kindergarten	7 February	8.45-9.30am

We will write in advance of each coffee morning with further details.

Parents' Evenings, February 2022

Formal Parents' Evenings for Year 1 to Year 6 pupils will be held on March 22 and 23 this year and I will write with more information in due course.

'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. Due to Mothers' Day assemblies, UK and Reception will have only one drop-in session this term.

SPRING TERM		
CLASS	DATE	TIME
Y2, Y5, Y6	24 January	8.25-8.50am
Y1, Y3 & Y4	27 January	8.25-8.50am
UK Foxes and Badgers	7 February	8.25-8.50am
UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs, Squirrels	9 February	8.25-8.50am
Reception	10 February	8.25-8.50am
Y2, Y5, Y6	13 March	8.25-8.50am
Y1, Y3 & Y4	16 March	8.25-8.50am

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 be invited to 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 and 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

I am delighted to report that the 3PR scheme really worked last half term. We will continue this initiative in the Spring Term and look forward to announcing our first class winners of 2023. Thank you for your support in making Albion Hill a much safer road.

Online Safety

I am mindful that many of our pupils will have received devices with internet capability during the break and I thought that the information below from the Epping Forest Children and Young Persons Officer might be of interest to you all. Keeping your child safe online is not always an easy task. New technology, regular updates or upgrades can change how things work, sometimes making it difficult to keep up.

So, to help, Epping Forest have put together some simple things you can do to make your child's online devices safer.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/SortYourSettings>

Forthcoming Events Spring 2022

Tuesday 17 January	Year 1 Coffee Morning
Thursday 19 January	Ski Trip Meeting 4-5.00pm
Monday 23 January	Oak-Tree Maths Challenge at Braeside 4.00-5.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Forest Swimming Gala 4.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 24 January	Reception Coffee Morning Year 3C & Year 3D visit to the Roman Verulamium Museum Year 2, Year 5 & Year 6 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am U11 Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics – Peter May 2.00pm
Friday 27 January	Year 1, Year 3 & Year 4 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 31 January	Upper Kindergarten Coffee Morning

Friday 3 February	Lower Kindergarten – Year 6 NSPCC Number Day
Monday 6 February	PGL Meeting to parents 5.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 7 February	U11s Oak-Tree Tag-Rugby Festival - Eton manor RFC 2.00-3.00pm Lower Kindergarten Coffee Morning Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers Drop in Session 2.30-3.00pm Lower Kindergarten Butterflies Settling In Chat 3.15-5.00pm
Thursday 9 February	Upper Kindergarten Rabbits, Hedgehogs, Squirrels Drop in Session 2.30-3.00pm
Friday 10 February	Reception Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am and 2.30-3.00pm Year 3 Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am
Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February - Half Term	
Monday 27 February	Year 4-Year 6 Oak-Tree Swimming Gala – Loughton Leisure Centre 10.00-11.30am
Tuesday 28 February	Year 4-Year 6 ISA London North Cross Country – Abbots Hill School 10.00am
Wednesday 1 March	West Essex School Sports Partnerships Sports Hall Athletics Comp 1.30pm
Friday 3 March	Year 4-Year 6 Coopersale Hall Cross Country Relay Races 1.30-3.00pm
Monday 6 – Friday 10 March	Book Fair in School
Tuesday 7 March	Year 1V Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am
Friday 10 March	Year 1C Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am
Monday 13 March	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 14 March	Reception Mother’s Day Fun Sessions 9.00-10.00am and 1.30-2.30pm
Thursday 16 March	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am Reception Mother’s Day Fun Session 9.00-10.00am Lower Kindergarten Mother’s Day Assembly to parents 9.00-9.30am Reception Mother’s Day Fun Session 1.30-2.30pm
Friday 17 March	Upper Kindergarten Mother’s Day Assembly to parents 9.00-9.30am
Monday 20 March	Upper Kindergarten Parent Consultation 3.30-6.00pm Oak-Tree Spelling Bee at Oaklands 4.00-5.00pm
Tuesday 21 March	Lower Kindergarten Parent Consultations
Wednesday 22 March	Reception to Year 6 Parents Evenings 3.30-6.00pm
Thursday 23 March	Reception to Year 6 Parents Evenings 3.30-6.00pm
Friday 24 – Thursday 30 March	Oak-Tree Ski Trip
Monday 27 March	Year 4 and Year 5 Gilwell Park Parents Meeting 5.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 28 March	Year 2S Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am
Wednesday 29 March	Year 2Z Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am
Thursday 30 March	End of Spring Term

I look forward to seeing you all this term at the various school events we have planned.

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

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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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