



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

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1 February 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

We now only have two weeks left of this half term and although it has been a short time since Christmas, the staff and pupils have certainly managed to accomplish a lot of work.

Our Year 6 children in particular have been working extremely hard throughout January sitting all their challenging entrance examinations for various independent senior 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. Their resilience is admirable and wherever they choose to continue their studies this will be an essential skill for the future.

This half term during my tours with prospective parents there have been many comments about the positive work ethic of all of our pupils. They are engaged and motivated in their lessons and always ready to talk, with confidence, about what they are learning to our visitors. Our new pupils in Lower Kindergarten have amazed us all with the speed in which they have settled to the rhythms and routines of school life.

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 lovely to hear that the children are happy in their learning and continue to thrive and make progress and I hope you have found we are responsive in the light of suggestions from parents.

Medical Matters

I would like to remind 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. There has been a national upsurge of infectious diseases such as Scarlet Fever and Mr Hagger published guidelines to all parents before the holiday about this. Thank you for your cooperation.

Holidays During Term Time

We discourage holidays during term time. However, I have been mindful that some have occurred this academic year following postponements due to Covid. We are fortunate that we have long holidays and I hope, going forward, that parents will limit the amount of time pupils are taken out of school for vacations. Please note that if you do choose to take holidays during term time it is not possible to supply large volumes of work for your child to complete. Teacher input is essential in understanding the content of each lesson.

Parking Reminder

Thank you for your continued support with our 3PR parking initiative. We now have the vast majority of pupils walking a short distance to the gates. I know many of our parents park and then negotiate crossing the busy High Road. Some time ago Epping Forest Council withdrew crossing patrol wardens, however, I have noticed that a local school has now had theirs reinstated. To that end our pupils will be writing to Epping Forest District councillors to try to persuade them that Oaklands pupils need a Crossing Warden too. I hope we are successful.

PSHE Scheme of Work, Reception to Year 6

Our PSHE topic for Spring 2 is Healthy Me. Through this topic, children will learn and discuss many aspects of keeping themselves healthy including;

- Exercise, physical activity and fitness
- Sleep and keeping clean
- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Being safe
- Medicine safety with household items
- Road safety
- Relaxation and motivation
- Linking health and happiness
- Respect for myself and inner strength
- Dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs
- Peer pressure
- Healthy choices and healthy friendships
- Exploitation
- Managing stress

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.

SPRING TERM		
CLASS	DATE	TIME
UK Foxes and Badgers	7 February	2.30-3pm
UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs, Squirrels	9 February	2.30-3pm
Reception	10 February	8.25-8.50am and 2.30-3pm
Y2, Y5, Y6	13 March	8.25-8.50am
Y1, Y3 & Y4	16 March	8.25-8.50am

Parents' Evenings, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 March 2023

In the week before our Easter holiday all parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and talk about progress so far this year. More details, including how to book, will be available soon.

Events

We still have a number of events in the final two weeks of this half term including; Monday 6 February, Years 1-6 House Cross country competitions and choir competing in the Stratford Music Festival. Tuesday 7 February U11's Tag-Rugby festival at Eton Manor RFC.

You will see from the dates list 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.

Friday 3 February	Lower Kindergarten – Year 6 NSPCC Number Day
Monday 6 February	Year 1-Year 6 House Cross country competitions Choir Competition – Stratford Music Festival Year 6 PGL Meeting to parents 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 6 – Friday 10 February	Child Mental Health Week
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	
Tuesday 21 February	Year 1-Year 3 African Drumming Workshop
Wednesday 22 February	Year 4 and Year 6 Swimming Begins
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 March	Year 4 Ancient Greek Workshop
Monday 6 – Friday 10 March	Book Fair in School
Tuesday 7 March	Year 1V Assembly to parents 9.00-10.0am
Thursday 9 March	Open Day
Thursday 9 March	LK, UK, Reception Science Workshop
Friday 10 March	Year 1C Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am Year 1 – Year 6 Science Workshop
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
Wednesday 15 March	Year 3-Year 6 Oaklands House Swimming Gala
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 Forest U9 Football Tournament
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	Year 6 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	Last Day of Spring Term – LK, UK, Reception 12pm finish Last Day of Spring Term – Year 1 and Year 2 12.15pm finish Last Day of Spring Term – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 12.30pm finish

Spring Term begins on Tuesday 25 April 2023

Following parental feedback on the dismissal time at the end of last term, we have staggered the finish times to ease congestion in the carpark. Please note your child's dismissal time above.

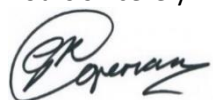
Finally, my link for you all this month is from Place2Be and it contains some very useful short videos and virtual leaflets from child mental health experts that can help parents address and understand some very common issues that often arise with primary aged children.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

I wish you a relaxing half term break, when the time comes, and hopefully when we return, spring and the warmer weather will be on their way.

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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