



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

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1 March 2023

Dear Parents

Re: March Headmistress's Letter

The children have all returned to school after half-term ready for the next part of their learning journey and it feels incredible that we are now over half way through the academic year. It really has flown by.

11+ Entrance Examinations

For our Year 6 pupils and parents, January and February have been nerve wracking times. From the beginning of the Summer Term of Year 5 through to the Autumn Term of Year 6, the pupils have been working particularly hard preparing for their entrance examinations to a variety of different independent schools. They persevered to complete numerous practice papers, tackling complex sample questions and revisiting areas where they were not 100% secure.

I am delighted to inform you that our pupils have again done extremely well and have all been awarded places at a variety of schools. Many are in the enviable position of having some difficult choices to make as they received a number of offers. The staff and I are extremely proud of them all for their consistent hard work, but also for their caring and supportive attitude towards each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for the excellent standard of teaching they enthusiastically and consistently provide to the pupils and the outstanding pastoral care that surrounds every child and helps maintain the 'family' atmosphere of our school.

Further details of the results will be found on our website once all the offers have been finalised.

Parents' Evenings

Our second parents' evenings of the year will take place on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 March. The specialist teaching staff will be available on Wednesday only and there will be more details on booking arrangements soon.

Crossing Patrol Warden

During our final round of coffee mornings last term, many of you raised concern that crossing the High Road to enter school via the side gate is becoming increasingly dangerous. Our staff responded and together, in House meetings, the pupils have written letters to Essex County Council, our local MP and various local councillors to highlight this issue and ask for a Crossing Warden to be reinstated for Oaklands School.

We have received 2 responses, that I have shared below, and we are delighted with the news that the advert is now 'live' on Essex County Council's website. However, the hard work now begins. Many schools are looking for suitable people to fill these positions so please spread the word and ask people in the local community if they would be interested in applying for this position.

I am incredibly proud of all of the pupils who took part and it highlights to our whole community that together we can make changes!

THE RT. HON. DAME ELEANOR LAING MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs Charlotte Smedley
Office Manager and PA to Headmistress
Oaklands School
6-8 Albion Hill
Loughton

9 February 2023

Dear Mrs Smedley

Thank you for your recent email and the wonderful letters from the Year 6 students. I thoroughly enjoyed reading them and was most impressed – they make some very good arguments and I would like you to pass on my good wishes to them all.

Could you please just clarify whether the need for the Lollypop person is at Albion Road or on the High Road. If I could have a little more information I will do everything I can do try and help.

Thank you once again for the beautifully presented letters and I understand why the children are so passionate about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Laing



Cllr Marshall Vance
PO Box 11, County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX
07810 762 132
cllr.marshall.vance@essex.gov.uk

Mrs. Charlotte Smedley
Office Manager and PA to Headmistress
Oaklands School
6-8 Albion Hill
Loughton
Essex IG10 4RA

Request for Patrol Crossing Operative

Dear Mrs. Smedley and Year, 6 Pupils,

Many thanks for your letter and may I congratulate on raising a wonderful idea which I would very much like to support and will do all I can to help.

I was very pleased to hear that the pupils have requested a school crossing operate and it shows how they have their's and others safety in mind.

I can confirm that the resourcing team at Essex council have agreed to fund a patrol Officer and I have attached below an advert for you to display in your school.

Of course, the hard work now begins to find someone who is willing to take on the role, they will receive formal training, the appropriate safety equipment and clothing.

I believe there is an opportunity for a job share, i.e., one person could do morning whilst another do the afternoons.

I wish you all well in being able to appoint someone to fulfill the role and once again congratulate the pupils on their initiative.

020 7219 2086 eleanor.laing.mp@parliament.uk www.eleanorlaing.com @eleanor4epping
Constituency Office: 4 Meadow Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 4HX 020 8508 6608

School Crossing Patrol Officer Vacancy

Are you looking for an opportunity to support your local community?

Come and join Essex County Council's School Crossing Patrol Team,
We currently have a vacancy at:

Oaklands School, Loughton
£11.13 per hour
Term Time - Part Time hours available

To apply visit www.workingforessex.com, or contact the Resourcing Team at resourcing.team@essex.gov.uk



INSPIRED TO DO MORE

Essex County Council

Open Morning

Our second Open Morning of the academic year takes place on Thursday 9 March from 9.15 to 11.15am. You are welcome to come to this event. Prospective and current parents will have the opportunity to see the school at work and to hear more about what is happening at Oaklands. Refreshments will be available in the school hall from 9.00am. I shall be giving a short talk at 9.30am with tours, conducted by our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, commencing at 9.45am. Our older pupils are always happy and confident to talk about life at Oaklands from a pupil's perspective.

Drop-in Sessions Spring Term 2022

Our popular Drop-in sessions continue. These informal sessions provide parents with the opportunity to view some of their child's work in their classroom prior to the start of the school day. I know that the children thoroughly enjoy discussing their work with you. Please refer to the table below to check when your child's Drop-in session is being held.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Year 2, Year 5, Year 6	13 March	8.25-8.50am
Year 1, Year 3, Year 4	16 March	8.25-8.50am
Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers	23 May	2.30-3.00pm
Reception, Upper Kindergarten Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels	24 May	2.30-3.00pm
Year 2, Year 5, Year 6	25 May	8.25-8.50am
Year 1, Year 3, Year 4	26 May	8.25-8.50am
Year 2, Year 5, Year 6	26 June	8.25-8.50am
Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers	26 June	2.30-3.00pm
Year 1, Year 3, Year 4	27 June	8.25-8.50am
Reception, Upper Kindergarten Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels	29 June	2.30-3.00pm

World Book Day

The whole school is celebrating this special themed day on Friday 3 March. The children have been asked to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. Please remember to dress the children in sensible shoes and a warm coat for playtime.

There will be a special assembly organised by Miss Dee and Miss Sandford, our two English Coordinators, for Year 1 to Year 6 and Mrs Potts, Head of EYFS will be leading the EYFS assembly.

I would be grateful if each child could bring a donation of £1 which we will be sending to Book Aid International. Thank you for your support.

Here is a link to World Book day for families, with ideas for dressing up and some useful tips for developing a love of reading; <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Sport

We have many sporting events taking place over the next few weeks. On 3 March Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 are participating in Tag Rugby at Woodford Wells Cricket Club. Then on 9 March we have the Oak-Tree Cross Country relay races at Coopersale Hall. Our swimmers in Years 3 to 6 will take part in the Oaklands Swimming Gala at Loughton pool on 15 March followed by the Girls Oak-Tree Football competition at Shooters in North Weald on 23 March. Finally, our budding skiers in Year 6 will be travelling to Italy with other children from the Oak-Tree Schools to refine their skiing skills at the end of March, we look forward to hearing how they all got on.

Stratford Music Festival

In the last week before half term our choir, led by Mrs Rathbone, entered the Stratford Music Festival. There was fierce competition and it was quite a daunting prospect for our choir to compete, however, I am delighted to let you all know they came 2nd in the competition and were rightfully jubilant on their return to school. Well done to them all and a huge thank you to Mrs Rathbone who prepared them beautifully for their very first competition.

Assemblies

We continue to offer opportunities for the children to learn more about the world around them by covering a range of topics in our assembly programme. So far this term the children have attended World religion day led by Malcolm MacDonald from St Marys Church in Loughton. We all enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year in an assembly led by Mr Caunt. Our House assembly, to discuss the best way to encourage Essex County Council to employ a crossing officer, led to letter writing and the fantastic outcome of an advertisement being placed for this position. Our children in EYFS enjoyed a National Tell a Fairy Tale Day assembly.

In the next few weeks we will have assemblies led by our School Council and House Captains. World Book Day assembly to be led by Miss Dee and Ms Sandford. Mrs Georgiou will lead our Science week assembly, ahead of some very exciting Science week activities. We are very much looking forward to our assembly all about Hinduism that will be led by Mrs Christofi.

Epping Forest Food Bank Collection

Thank you all for your generous donations to this important charity. So many families from our local area will now benefit from your kindness in the form of food gifts. The children all enjoyed an assembly this half term led by Amy Perridge from the Epping Forest Food Bank. She gave an enormous amount of information about the incredible work this charity undertakes.

You can read more about their work here; <https://eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk/>

No Nuts

As you all know, in line with all other primary schools, Oaklands has a No Nuts policy. There are very few opportunities for pupils to bring food from home because we provide fruit for break and hot lunches. However, please can I remind you to be vigilant if your child is consuming snacks on the way into school, walking through the grounds. It would be extremely helpful if these snacks do not contain nuts, we do have pupils on site with very serious allergies, some of which are contact and airborne allergies. Thank you for your help in ensuring we keep all pupils safe at school.

Extra-Curricular Clubs 2023 - 2024

We are in the process of finalising our club schedule for next year and, in response to parental feedback, and to make the booking process easier we will be trialling use of Google Forms for you to use when booking. Please look out for the link, which will have very detailed instructions concerning how to book your child's clubs. We hope you all find this easier to navigate and of course, as always, we welcome feedback.

Important Summer Term Dates

I would like to bring to your attention some very important dates in our hectic summer term for you to add to your diaries:

The Oak-Tree Music Festival takes places for Years 3 to 6 on the evening of 16 May. Sports Day for all year groups will be held on Monday 26 June, weather permitting. The Celebration of the Year for Lower Kindergarten to Reception children will be on Wednesday 5 July at 2.00pm followed by our more formal Prize Giving ceremony at 4.00pm for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6.

More details will follow and I look forward seeing you all at these events before we break for the summer holiday.

Our INCAS testing will take place from 15 to 24 May this year and it is imperative that children are at school for these computer-based tests because we will struggle to fit them in after this date.

Forthcoming Events

We have yet another busy few weeks ahead of us before we break up for the Easter holidays.

The whole school will be celebrating 'World Book Day' on Friday 3 March.

On the 6 March Year 4 will be taking part in a very exciting Ancient Greek workshop.

There are visitors and workshops happening in school to celebrate Science Week on 8, 9 & 10 March which Mrs Georgiou, our Science Coordinator has organised.

We are holding our annual Book Fair from 7 March until 14 March. This event is always very popular.

Our Reception pupils will be taking part in a road safety workshop with their parents and teachers on 14 March.

On Monday 20 March Oaklands will be hosting the Oak-Tree Group Annual Spelling Bee, an enjoyable event with an element of friendly competition!

I am particularly looking forward to the Year 1 and 2 class assemblies to parents during March and hope you can all join us. We also have Mother's Day events for our EYFS department on 14, 16 and 17 March.

Please remember to check this letter and of course the website, for dates and times of the various events. Details will be sent out to the relevant group of parents in advance of events, but if you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or myself.

Dates for the Diary

The following list provides an update of events planned for the second half of the Spring Term and some key dates for the Summer Term.

Friday 3 March	World Book Day Tag Rugby – Select children from Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
Monday 6 March	Year 4 Ancient Greek Workshop
Tuesday 7 – Friday 10 March	Book Fair in School
Tuesday 7 March	Year 1V Assembly to parents 9.00-10.0am
Wednesday 8 March	Science Workshops for Years 1 to Year 6
Thursday 9 March	Open Morning 9 – 11.15am Lower Kindergarten, Upper Kindergarten and Reception Science Workshop Oak-Tree Cross Country Relay Races at Coopersale Hall School
Friday 10 March	Year 1C Assembly to parents 9.00-10.00am Year 1 – Year 6 Science Workshops
Monday 13 March	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Tuesday 14 March	Reception Road Safety Presentation to parents 9-10am Reception Mother's Day Treat Sessions 10-10.45am and 1.15-2pm Year 1 Trip to St Mary's Church, Loughton
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 Treat Sessions 9-9.45am and 1.45-2.30pm Lower Kindergarten Mother's Day Assembly to parents 9.00-9.30am

Friday 17 March	Forest U9 Football Tournament Upper Kindergarten Mother's Day Assembly to parents 9.00-9.30am Red Nose Day
Monday 20 March	Upper Kindergarten Parent Consultation 3.30-6.00pm Oak-Tree Spelling Bee at Oaklands 4.00-5.15pm
Tuesday 21 March	Lower Kindergarten Parent Consultations 3.30-6.00pm
Wednesday 22 March	Reception to Year 6 Parents Evenings 3.30-6.00pm – including Specialist Teachers
Thursday 23 March	Oak-Tree Girls Football at Shooters, North Weald 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 Term – Lower & Upper Kindergarten & Reception 12pm finish Last Day of Term – Year 1 and Year 2 12.15pm finish Last Day of Term – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 12.30pm finish

Summer Term begins on Tuesday 25 April 2023

Thursday 27 April	Class and Sports Team photos
Friday 28 April	Year 3-6 Primary Mini Tennis at Theydon Tennis Club
Monday 1 May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 May	Lower Kindergarten Coffee and Chat in the Science Room
Wednesday 3 - Friday 5 May	Year 4 and Year 5 Gilwell Park Residential Trip
Monday 8 May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 - Friday 12 May	Year 6 PGL Residential Trip
Tuesday 16 May	Oak-Tree Music Festival 5.00-8.00pm
Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 May	LAMDA Exams
Monday 15 - Wednesday 24 May	Incas Testing
Monday 22 May	Years 3-6 Athletics at Bedford Stadium
Tuesday 23 May	Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers Drop in Session 2.30-3pm
Wednesday 24 May	Reception, UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs & Squirrels Drop in Session 2.30-3pm
Thursday 25 May	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
Friday 26 May	Year 4-6 Oak-Tree Tennis at Chingford Tennis Club Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June - Half Term

Monday 5 June	Year 6 Trip to Warner Bros Studio Tour Years 2 Instrumental Concert 3.30-4.30pm
Friday 9 June	Year 1 Southend on Sea Visit Year 6 First Aid Course
Saturday 10 June	Summer Fete
Tuesday 13 June	Years 3-6 Instrumental Concert 6pm
Wednesday 14 June	Years 3-6 Instrumental Concert 6pm Year 2 Waltham Abbey Gardens Visit
Tuesday 20 June	Reception Trip to Hylands Park
Thursday 22 June	Year 6 Trip to Parliament
Monday 26 June	Sports Day Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am

Tuesday 27 June	Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers Drop in Session 2.30-3pm
Thursday 29 June	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am
	Year 4-6 Performance at Lopping Hall 6.45pm
Wednesday 5 July	Reception, UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs & Squirrels Drop in Session 2.30-3pm
Wednesday 12 July	Prize Giving Day
	Last Day of Term – Lower & Upper Kindergarten & Reception 12pm finish
	Last Day of Term – Year 1 and Year 2 12.15pm finish
	Last Day of Term – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 12.30pm finish

I look forward to seeing many of you all at the events taking place in the next few weeks.

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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