



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

24 April 2023

Dear Parents

Re: April Headmistress's Letter

I hope you had a lovely Easter break, enjoying the sunshine and longer days. We are looking forward to a busy and productive Summer Term.

Summer Uniform

All children should return to school at the start of the Summer Term wearing their summer uniform. Summer uniform continues to be worn until after October half term. All children with longer hair, as usual, need to have their hair tied back neatly with the school coloured hair accessories. Longer fringes should be clipped or tied back to prevent hair from falling over the eyes whilst children are writing.

There always seems to be some confusion regarding the colour and length of socks that should be worn with the summer uniform so for ease of reference I have included them below:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Lower Kindergarten – Year 6 Girls: | plain white ankle socks with no frills or colours |
| Lower Kindergarten – Year 6 Boys: | short grey socks with bottle green hoops (no grey plain socks) |
| PE (Boys & Girls): | short white ankle socks (no trainer socks) |

Please continue to adhere to the rule regarding the non-wearing of earrings for all pupils in Lower Kindergarten to Year 4. Year 5 and Year 6 pupils may only wear studded earrings to school on the days when they do not have PE or Games lessons, extra-curricular sporting activities or swimming.

Details of the uniform for each Key Stage is available on the school website: www.oaklandsschool.co.uk/parents-pupils/uniform-list/

Sporting Events

We have had a few very busy weeks with sport in the latter half of this term. On Monday 27 February, we held the annual Oak-Tree Swimming Gala at Loughton Pool and were delighted that Oaklands placed first with 206 points. On Tuesday 28 February, we entered a team for the ISA London North Cross Country at Abbots Hill School and Annabel and Alex in Year 4 qualified for the regional finals in Sheffield, where they competed with some of the ISA schools' finest athletes. A huge well done to both of them! On Friday 3 March the ISA London North Tag-Rugby 7aside tournament took place at Woodford Wells Cricket Club. Oaklands entered 8 children from Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 and we placed third, winning a cup.

On Wednesday 15 and 22 March Year 3 to Year 6 took part in the annual Oaklands House Swimming Gala. Due to pool time restraints, we carried this over two weeks and I am delighted to announce this year's winner was Beech House! Thank you to everyone who came to support us. On Thursday 16 March our team took part in the Forest U9 Football Tournament, we came third and won the plate and finally on Thursday 23 March the Oak-Tree Girls Football took place at Shooters, North Weald our U11 team placed third and our U9 Team placed first.

What a fabulous few weeks of sport for Oaklands School, well done to everyone who took part and to Mr Paine for organising these events.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Our extra-curricular club programme for the Summer Term begins on **Tuesday 25 April**. If you have any queries regarding which club/s your child is attending, please contact Mrs Sheers; clubs@oaklandsschool.co.uk in the office.

Charities

The whole school celebrated World Book Day on Friday 4 March, with the children and staff arriving dressed as their favourite book character. This was a super, fun-filled day as usual, with special assemblies and children of various ages enthusiastically sharing their favourite books with their peers.

More fun occurred on Friday 18 March when the school supported Red Nose Day. Yet again, the school was overrun by pupils and staff dressed in various shades of red. Jokes were shared and lots of photographs were taken which were published on our website and included in the school's Newsletter.

We also collected food for The Epping Forest Foodbank; the food donated was equivalent to the weight of a manatee!

We raised £160 on World Book Day and £237 on Red Nose Day: well done everyone and thank you for your continued generosity.

Year 1 to Year 6 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.

You will also find Summer Term 1 timetables for each age group on the portal to help ensure that your child wears their PE kit to school on the correct day/s of the school week.

I hope you will find these documents useful and informative.

Resources

As you are aware, pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 should bring a small plain pencil case into school containing the following equipment:

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|--|----------------------------------|
| Lead pencils, rubber and sharpener | Coloured pencils |
| Protractor/angle measurer (Y5 & Y6 only) | Pair of compasses (Y5 & Y6 only) |
| Blue Frixion writing pen (after Pen Licence is awarded) which can be purchased from WH Smith, Ryman or Amazon. | |

During last term in particular, there were a number of pupils bringing many additional items into school. Please ensure that your child does not bring anything not listed above, particularly felt tip pens, ink erasers or correction fluids.

OPA

Our OPA members were very busy near the end of the Spring Term. On Wednesday 15 March, a long awaited Nearly New School Uniform sale was held in the Year 6 classroom which was very well attended and very helpful to those parents stocking up on summer uniform.

The OPA also organised a visit from the Easter Bunny to Oaklands on Tuesday 21 March, just before the end of the Spring Term. All children were excited to visit the decorated Easter themed studio to receive their Easter gift.

The OPA are now in their busiest term of the school year as the Summer Term includes the Oaklands **Summer Fete on Saturday 10 June**. The Committee would welcome any parental support available, particularly on the day of the Fete, so please do let your class representative know if you can help on a stall or activity as soon as possible. Thank you in advance.

Parking

Thank you for your continued support in our 3PR parking scheme. We now have the majority of pupils arriving on foot either from the High Road entrance, the main car park or from considerably parked cars on Albion Hill. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you all that you must not pull into or park in the small car park at Oak House on Albion Hill. This is incredibly dangerous.

I would also like to remind you that Summer is the time that many road works will appear in our local area, causing traffic delays. You may need to factor this into your journey to ensure children arrive at school on time. We do still have a few issues with parents parking carelessly and this does cause distress to both residents of Albion Hill and our own parents walking to school. Please try to think of others when parking near school to avoid bringing us into disrepute in the local area.

Class and Sports Teams Photographs

Gem Photography will be taking class and sports teams photographs on **Thursday 27 April**. Weather permitting, they will be taken outside, or alternatively, in the school hall. The photographs will be available for parents to order before the half-term break.

Summer Term Assembly Programme

We always endeavour to make each term's assembly programme rich and varied in order to engage the children, stimulate further discussion and develop their awareness of local, national and international issues and religious and cultural celebrations. We will of course be celebrating the coronation of King Charles in May and will write to you in due course with further details.

PSHE: 'Relationships' Education

During Summer Term 1, the children will be exploring, at an age-appropriate level, the topic of 'Relationships'. For the younger children, this will involve looking at family life, friendships and how to be a good friend. In the older year groups, areas such as developing positive relationships, building self-esteem, developing social skills, managing feelings of love and loss, using technology safely and how to reduce screen time will be included.

Summer Term 2, will see us discuss the topic, 'Changing Me', again in an age appropriate way. We will write to certain year groups after the Easter break with more details and of course, parents are always welcome to view our teaching materials, for this topic, ahead of the lessons. I am sure the children will participate in a number of meaningful and reflective discussions with their peers and class teacher during both of these topics.

Year 5 Secondary School Options Meeting

This is a meeting for parents of children who are currently in Year 5 to discuss the options for secondary schools and the various procedures for applications. It will be held on **Thursday 11 May** at **4.00pm** in the school hall. Further details will follow in due course.

Drop-in Sessions Summer Term 2022

Our popular Drop-in sessions will be held again during Summer Term 1. 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. There will be no Summer 2 Drop in sessions due to Prize Giving, Father's Day sessions, trips and the KS2 play. Please refer to the timetable below for Drop in Sessions.

| CLASS | DATE | TIME |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers | Tuesday 23 May | 2.30-3pm |
| UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs & Squirrels | Wednesday 24 May | 2.30-3pm |
| Reception | Wednesday 24 May | 8.25-8.50am & 2.30-3pm |
| Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 | Thursday 25 May | 8.25-8.50am |
| Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 | Friday 26 May | 8.25-8.50am |

Oak-Tree Music Festival

The Oak-Tree Music Festival will be taking place on Tuesday 16 May from 6pm at the City Pavilion in Collier Row. This is an exciting return to the school calendar, where all pupils from Years 3 to 6 will be performing together alongside items from the other schools within the Group and an Oak-Tree medley. A letter will be coming out shortly with a link to book your tickets.

Dates for the Diary

The following list provides a list of events currently planned for the Summer Term. I would like to bring to your attention four key dates in our hectic Summer Term for you to add to your diaries, marked in bold.

Summer Term begins on Tuesday 25 April 2023

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|------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Thursday 11 May | Year 5 Secondary Transfer Parents meeting 4pm |
| Tuesday 16 May | Oak-Tree Music Festival 5-8.00pm |
| Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 May | LAMDA Exams |
| Wednesday 17 May | Lower Kindergarten Settling in Chat |
| Monday 15 - Wednesday 24 May | Incas Testing |
| Monday 22 May | Year 3-6 Athletics at Bedford Stadium |
| Tuesday 23 May | Upper Kindergarten Foxes and Badgers Drop in Session 2.30-3pm |
| Wednesday 24 May | UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs & Squirrels Drop in Session 2.30-3pm Reception Drop in Session 8.25-8.50am & 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

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|-------------------------|--|
| Monday 5 June | Year 6 Trip to Harry Potter Warner Bros Studio Tour Year 2 Instrumental Concert 3.30-4.30pm |
| Friday 9 June | Year 1 Trip to Southend on Sea Year 6 First Aid Course |
| Tuesday 13 June | Year 3-6 Instrumental Concert 6pm |
| Wednesday 14 June | Year 3-6 Instrumental Concert 6pm Year 2 Trip to Waltham Abbey Gardens |
| Saturday 10 June | Oaklands Summer Fete |
| Thursday 15 June | LK Hedgehogs, Rabbits and Squirrels Father's Day Stay and Play 8.25-10am |
| Friday 16 June | Reception, UK Foxes and Badgers Father's Day Stay and Play 8.25-10am |
| Tuesday 20 June | Reception Trip to Hylands Park |
| Wednesday 21 June | Lower Kindergarten Trip to Old MacDonald's Farm |
| Thursday 22 June | Year 6 Trip to Parliament |
| Monday 26 June | Sports Day (weather permitting, please note reserve date) |
| Tuesday 27 June | Upper Kindergarten trip to Paradise Wildlife Park |
| Thursday 29 June | Year 4-6 Performance at Lopping Hall 6.45pm |

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|-------------------|--|
| Wednesday 5 July | Celebration of the Year – Lower Kindergarten - Reception 2pm |
| | Prize Giving Ceremony Year 1 - Year 6 4pm |
| Thursday 6 July | New Reception September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.30-2.45pm (parents from 2.30pm) |
| | New UK September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.45-2.20pm |
| Friday 7 July | Reception – Year 5 Moving Up Day 9.15-10.15am |
| | New Reception September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.30pm-2.45pm (parents from 2.30pm) |
| | New UK September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.45-2.20pm |
| Monday 10 July | Reserve Sports Day |
| Wednesday 12 July | 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 greeting and chatting to you at our Summer Term events.

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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