



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

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5 June 2023

Dear Parents

Re: June Headmistress's Letter

I hope you enjoyed the half term break spending time with family and friends. There are, as usual, many events organised to take place during the last part of the academic year. Please ensure that you check the details at the end of this letter and the school calendar on the website.

Our fantastic Oak-Tree Music Festival took place on Tuesday 16 May and it was lovely to be able to welcome so many of you to this evening of musical entertainment. Pupils from all four schools took part and I know, from parental feedback, that you all enjoyed watching as much as the children enjoyed performing.

More musical performances will take place by all the pupils who attend weekly instrumental lessons on the 5, 13 and 14 of June. I am looking forward to hearing all of the pupils perform and show how much progress they have made this year in their individual lessons.

InCas

Between Monday 15 May and Wednesday 24 May, pupils in Year 1 to year 6 took their annual InCas assessment tests. These are online tests in mental maths, general maths, reading and spelling. The results of these assessment tests will appear on your child's end of summer term report.

Parking

Thank you for continuing to park considerately and for not entering into confrontation with our residents in local roads. I am pleased to let you all know that one of our local councillors is supporting a site survey for a potential zebra crossing on the High Road, leading to the back gate. In the meantime, a crossing patrol person will be interviewed for this site and I will update you as and when I have more news.

Extra-Curricular Clubs 2023-2024

Our new extra-curricular clubs booking form was trialled this month. I hope you all found this a much easier system to use. We have responded to parental feedback regarding clubs that operated on a termly basis and I hope you will be pleased to see that all clubs now run for the full academic year. We have also added three new, exciting clubs for next year and feel certain the children will enjoy them.

Instrumental Music Lessons 2023-2024

We sent details of instrumental music tuition before half term and asked if you could complete the relevant request form and return it to the school office. We plan to confirm new lessons by the end of the Summer Term. We do have some changes in our specialist music staff next year and we are working hard to employ new teachers for some instruments.

OPA Summer Fete on Saturday 10 June 12.00-3.30pm

The OPA is busy organising the Summer Fete which is due to take place on Saturday 10 June. The Fete opens at 12.00pm; if you can help in any way, please get in touch with the OPA or your OPA Class Representative. These events cannot take place without an army of volunteers, even if you can only give an hour of your time please do get in touch with Mrs O'Shea.

There will be lots of different activities and rides/inflatables to keep the children amused, prizes to be won, a range of barbequed food to eat and beverages to drink. Please come along with friends and family.

Thank you for your bottle donations for the Bottle Tombola stall on the last Friday of half term. Please bring any raffle/toy/or book donations that you may have to the Parents' Waiting Room as you drop off your child/ren in the morning or when you collect them at the end of school during the forthcoming week. Cake donations, clearly labelled with allergens where possible, can be delivered to the school office on Thursday 8 June and Friday 9 June. Thank you in advance.

Sports Day on Monday 26 June

We are hoping for the weather to behave itself to enable Sports Day to take place on Monday 26 June. Fingers crossed for a sunny, warm day minus any rain. Please note the following times for the different age groups of the school:

- Year 1 and Year 2: 9.00am-10.20am
- LK, UK, Reception: 10.40am-12.15pm
- Years 3-6: 1.40pm-3.20pm

Should we need to cancel Sports Day on Monday 26 June due to rainy weather, our reserve Sports Day is scheduled for Monday 10 July.

Year 4, 5 and Year 6 Play at Lopping Hall on Thursday 29 June

The pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 are very busy rehearsing their parts in 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. The play will be performed to families and friends on Thursday 29 June at 6.45pm at Lopping Hall, Loughton. Further details about the purchase of tickets will be available soon.

Celebration of the Year and Prize Giving on Wednesday 5 July

On Wednesday 5 July, we will be holding our annual Celebration of the Year for Lower Kindergarten, Upper Kindergarten and Reception children at 2.00pm followed by Prize Giving and Review of the Year for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 at 4.00pm. Both events will be held in the marquee on the school field and we invite all parents to come along, but please be advised that due to space restrictions, we can only allow two family members per child. Thank you. The office will be sending out letters shortly with further information about these two events.

'Meet the Teacher' morning for pupils in Reception to Year 6, September 2023 on Friday 7 July

The annual 'Meet the Teacher' morning will take place on Friday 7 July. Pupils who will be in Reception to Year 5 in September 2023 will spend the morning with their new teacher and teaching assistant. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the teaching staff either first thing in the morning or at the end of the school day. This will be in the school hall for coffee and a chat. Formal curriculum information evenings will take place in the first two weeks of September. More details will be provided nearer the day.

End of Year discos

The OPA will be holding discos for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in the afternoon, and immediately after school, on Monday 10 July. More information will follow after the half term break.

Lunchtime and Club collections

Please can I remind you that if you are collecting children at lunchtime or from clubs after school you must exit the school site immediately afterwards. It is tempting to wander around the site to find other pupils you may know but I would like to discourage this. We find that some children can become unsettled if they see parents or friends during the school day and we must be accountable, in an emergency, for the number of people present in our grounds. May I also remind you that giving snacks, of any kind, to children playing on the field or under the supervision of club staff must not happen. We have several children at Oaklands with severe food allergies and the only food consumed on-site must come from our own kitchens. Thank you for your understanding.

End of Year Reports

At the beginning of the last week of term, beginning Monday 10 July, end of year reports will be sent home for all year groups. These reports will be uploaded onto the portal as usual.

A Special Goodbye

Very sadly for the Oaklands community Mark Hewitt, our caretaker, is moving to a new job closer to his home after half term. Mark has worked for the Oak-Tree Group for over 20 years! He has worked in a variety of roles from Teaching Assistant to Caretaker throughout his years with us and I know we will all miss his cheerful approach to absolutely every task he undertakes at school. Whilst the staff and parents will miss him, the pupils of Oaklands will miss his humour and cheerfulness, whatever the weather, when they arrive at school in the mornings. I know you will all join me in thanking Mark for his hard work and dedication throughout the years and in wishing him the very best of luck in his new job!

Forthcoming Events

Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June - Half Term

Wednesday 7 June	Year 5 Taster day at Brentwood School
Friday 9 June	Year 1 Trip to Southend on Sea Year 6 First Aid Course
Saturday 10 June	Oaklands Summer Fete 12.00-3.30pm
Tuesday 13 June	Year 3-6 Instrumental Concert 6pm
Wednesday 14 June	Year 2 Trip to Waltham Abbey Gardens Year 3-6 Instrumental Concert 6pm
Thursday 15 June	LK and UK Hedgehogs, Rabbits & 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
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 New UK September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.45-2.20pm
Friday 7 July	Reception – Year 5 Moving Up Day New Reception September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.30pm-2.45pm New UK September 2023 Meet the Teacher with Parents 1.45-2.20pm
Monday 10 July	End of Year Discos Year 1 – Year 6 Reserve Sports Day
Tuesday 11 July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
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 seeing you all at the many events during the 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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