



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 February 2024

Dear Parents

Re: February 2024 Headmistress's Letter

We now only have one week left of this half term and although it has been a short time since Christmas, the pupils and staff 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. The children are engaged and motivated in their lessons and always ready to talk, with confidence, about what they are learning with 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.

We have all been pleased to see the field in use this half term with our Key Stage 1 pupils wearing their wellies at lunchtime to play. It has been interesting to watch them make up their own games with the natural materials and engage in lots of walking and conversations. We will continue this after the half term break.

Coffee mornings

Our annual cycle of coffee mornings concluded this half term. 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. However, should you wish to bring issues to our attention away from coffee mornings, we are always happy to listen.

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 Measles and it might be useful to familiarise yourselves with the national guidance on the NHS website about these illnesses.

Holidays during term time

We discourage holidays during term time. We are fortunate that we have long school 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, and it is inevitable that pupils will miss aspects of their learning if they are away on holiday.

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 away from school and have been most grateful for our Crossing Patrol Warden. Whilst reminding you to be polite and considerate of our neighbours, I would ask you all to extend this courtesy to our Maintenance Team in the car park. They are well versed in site security and safety and if they ask you, politely, to move your car it will be in the interests of safety and consideration for all.

PSHE Jigsaw 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 2024

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. Please note below the date and time for each year group. There will be no Spring 2 Drop in for EYFS due to Mothers' Day Sessions.

Tuesday 6 February	8.25am – 8.50am 2.30pm – 3pm	Reception, Year 2, 5 and 6
Wednesday 7 February	8.25am – 8.50am	Reception, UK Foxes and Rabbits
Thursday 8 February	2.30pm – 3pm	Year 1, 3 and 4
Tuesday 6 March	8.25am – 8.50am	Badgers, Hedgehogs, Squirrels
Friday 15 March	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 1, 3 and 4
		Reception, Year 2, 5 and 6

Parents' Evenings

Just before our Easter holiday all parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and talk about progress so far this year. Please see below dates list for the date of your child's Parents' Evening. More details, including how to book, will be available soon.

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.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 1 February	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 4C
Friday 2 February	AM/PM	Number Day	Whole School
Monday 5 February	PM	Local Walk	Year 1
	PM	Stratford Festival Music Competition	Year 3-6 by invitation
Tuesday 6 February	PM	U11 Tag Rugby Festival 7-a-side-mixed	By invitation
	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Reception, Year 2, 5 and 6
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	Reception, UK Foxes and Rabbits
Wednesday 7 February	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Year 1, 3 and 4
	3.30pm – 6pm	Settling In Chats	Lower Kindergarten
Thursday 8 February	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 3Ca
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	Badgers, Hedgehogs, Squirrels
	AM/PM	ISA London North U11 Boys Football	By invitation
Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February – Half Term			
Tuesday 20 February	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening	Year 6
	5pm	Young Mariners Parents Meeting	Year 4 and 5
Thursday 22 February	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 3Co
Friday 23 February	Am/PM	Trip to Parliament	Year 6

Monday 26 February	AM	Swimming Gala	Years 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 27 February	AM/PM	Trip to St Albans Cathedral	Reception
Wednesday 28 February	AM	Trip to Loughton Library	Lower Kindergarten
Thursday 29 February	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 2S
	AM/PM	Tag-Rugby	Year 5 and 6 by invitation
Monday 4 March	9am – 10am	Mother's Day Fun Session	Reception
	1.45pm – 2.45pm	Mother's Day Fun Session	Reception
Tuesday 5 March	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Year 1, 3 and 4
	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 2Z
Wednesday 6 March	9am – 9.30am	Mother's Day Assembly to Parents	Upper Kindergarten
	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	AM/PM	Trip to Lee Valley Country Park	Year 5
	3.30pm – 5pm	Oak-Tree Spelling Bee at Oaklands	Years 3 – 6 by Invitation
Thursday 7 March	9.15 – 11am	Open Morning	Prospective Parents
	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	1.45pm – 2.45pm	Mother's Day Fun Session	Reception
Friday 8 March	9am – 9.30am	Mother's Day Assembly to Parents	Lower Kindergarten
	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	AM/PM	World Book Day	Whole School
Monday 11 March	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
Tuesday 12 March	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	AM/PM	Trip to St Marys Church, Loughton	Year 1
Wednesday 13 March	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
Thursday 14 March	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 1V
	AM/PM	Trip to Verulamium Museum	Year 3
Friday 15 March	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Reception, Year 2, 5 and 6
	9am – 9.30am	Class Assembly to Parents	Year 1C
Monday 18 March	AM/PM	Trip to St Marys Church, Loughton	Year 2
	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening	Upper Kindergarten
Tuesday 19 March	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening	Lower Kindergarten
	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening	Reception – Year 5
Thursday 21 March	AM	U9 and U11 Girls Football Tournament	Year 3 – Year 6
	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents Evening	Reception – Year 5
Friday 22 March	AM/PM	Easter Bunny	Whole School
	9am – 1pm	Road Safety Workshop	Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 27 March	12pm	Last Day of Term	LK, UK and Reception
	12.15pm	Last Day of Term	Year 1 and Year 2
	12.30pm	Last Day of Term	Year 3 – Year 6

Thursday 28 March – Wednesday 17 April – Half 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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