



Oaklands School

6-8 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

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1 March 2024

Dear Parents

Re: March 2024 Headmistress's Letter

We now only have a few weeks remaining of our Spring Term. Children throughout the school are working hard and enjoying their learning, although I suspect they are now ready for the warmer weather to return. Years 1 and 2 are still enjoying lunchtimes on the field and we have only had a few days, where the torrential rain prevented this play from taking place. It has been a pleasure watching them making their own games with the natural resources on the school field. A reminder that we return to school after our Easter break in summer uniform. Details can be found on our website.

11+ Entrance Examinations

For our Year 6 pupils and parents, January and February have been rather nerve-wracking. 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 academic year will take place on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 March. The specialist teaching staff will be available on Thursday 21 March only and there will be more details on booking arrangements soon.

Parking

We continue to receive numerous complaints on a weekly basis from our neighbours in Albion Hill and Albion Park. Please can I remind you that blocking drives, even if it is a few feet and for a few minutes is not acceptable. It makes it very difficult for people to enter and exit their properties on a narrow road. I would urge you, when attending assemblies and other school events, to park elsewhere. Once again, may I remind you not to engage rudely with neighbours who ask you not to obstruct their properties.

Open Morning

Our second Open Morning of the academic year takes place on Thursday 7 March, 9.15-11.15am. 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.

Attendance

Children should attend school unless they are unwell. When they are too unwell to attend school, work will not usually be provided unless there are specific reasons authorised by me, this could be a child recovering from an operation or from an injury that prevents them from being in school. Similarly, if you choose to take holidays in term time we will not provide work for your children as this creates extra work for our teaching staff, there are very few exceptions to this rule. I am required to track attendance data and act when I feel a child's attendance falls below the Essex benchmark of 95%. Our holidays are very long already and adding holidays in term time can be detrimental to a child's education.

Drop-in Sessions Spring/ Summer Term 2024

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 below to check when your child's Drop-in session is being held.

Tuesday 5 March	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
Friday 15 March	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 7 May	2.30pm – 3pm	UK Foxes and Badgers
Wednesday 8 May	8.25am – 8.50am	Reception
	2.30pm – 3pm	UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels
	2.30pm – 3pm	Reception
Thursday 9 May	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 10 May	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 17 June	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 18 June	2.30pm – 3pm	UK Foxes and Badgers
Wednesday 19 June	8.25am – 8.50am	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
Tuesday 25 June	8.25am – 8.50am	Reception
	2.30pm – 3pm	UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels
	2.30pm – 3pm	Reception

World Book Day

The whole school is celebrating this special themed day on Friday 8 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 Zaydner, 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/>

OPA

The OPA have now held their AGM and the new committee members have been voted in:

Chair - Geraldine Donoghue
Co Chair - Gemma Davies
Deputy Chair - Navreet Dhanoa
Co Deputy Chair - Sarah Barrett
Treasurer - Chun Tang
Secretary - Krissy Sheringham
Co Secretary - Lauren O'Shea

My huge thanks to all of those parents who give up their time to help the OPA and to those who volunteer for key roles. Thank you to our outgoing chair Mrs O'Shea for everything she has done while Chair for the children of Oaklands.

Sport

We have many sporting events taking place over the next few weeks. Please read email invitations carefully as some letters will contain important information about clothing required and timings of the day. Not all children will receive every letter, we only send them to those participating. When we publish dates of sporting events in advance there are times these have to change and I am afraid this is beyond our control and down to the individual schools hosting events. Well done to all of our Swimmers who took part in the Oak-Tree Swimming Gala, with a special mention to those pupils who volunteered to swim for one of our other schools! A magnificent performance by everyone. A huge well done to all pupils who have represented Oaklands in sports this term.

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 3rd 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 the children very well.

Assemblies

Thank you to those of you who have filled in our Google form indicating you would be willing to help lead assemblies or small group talks in school. I am aware we have a huge variety of talents and careers amongst our parents and would be most grateful if as many of you as possible would agree to share your knowledge and skills with the children. If you have missed the form, Mrs Smedley in the office can help.

On the subject of assemblies, in the past we have always allowed our siblings to come and watch class assemblies and going forward we will do this where we can. However, please bear with us on the occasions where there is a clash with specialist teaching or testing in your other child's class. On these occasions we would prefer they miss the assembly rather than important learning taking place, as in the busy school day is not always possible to catch up on the learning missed.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays and other important event in children's lives, we often sing Happy Birthday in the lunch hall and children are welcome to wear badges to school on their Birthday. However we cannot facilitate the sharing of sweets and gifts in school, mainly due to the large number of children with allergies we have in school. Staff who are asked to hand out sweets and chocolates bought in from home cannot be entirely sure of the ingredients and therefore potentially risk exposing some of our children to allergens. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this very important matter. This will extend to chocolate coins etc in Christmas cards.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are in the process of finalising our club schedule for next year and, once again we will be using Google forms. In response to parental feedback, we plan to make the release time of forms slightly later in the evening to help our parents who commute. There will never be one system that suits absolutely everyone so we are aiming for a best fit for our whole school community.

I have been talking to children in Years 1 to 6 about behaviour expectations in after school clubs. They have been reminded that they must be polite and well behaved in clubs with external staff at all times. Failure to behave politely and safely will result in places being taken away.

Safer Internet Day

Children throughout the school learnt a lot about staying safe on line in the week preceding Safer Internet day on 6 February. [Click here for some resources you might find helpful at home.](#)

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:

Sports Day for all year groups will be held on Friday 21 June, weather permitting; Celebration of the Year for Lower Kindergarten to Reception children will be on Wednesday 3 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 for both events will follow shortly.

Our INCAS testing will take place on the weeks of 13 and 20 May this year and it is essential that children are at school for these computer-based tests because we will struggle to fit them in after this date.

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.

Monday 4 March	9am – 10am 1.45pm – 2.45pm	Mother's Day Fun Session Mother's Day Fun Session	Reception Reception
Tuesday 5 March	8.25am – 8.50am 9am – 9.30am	Drop-In Session Class Assembly to Parents	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 Year 2Z
Wednesday 6 March	9am – 9.30am AM/PM 3.30pm – 5pm	Mother's Day Assembly to Parents Trip to Lee Valley Country Park Oak-Tree Spelling Bee at Oaklands	Upper Kindergarten Year 5 Years 3 – 6 by Invitation
Thursday 7 March	9.15 – 11am 1.45pm – 2.45pm PM	Open Morning Mother's Day Fun Session Visit to Bancrofts School	Prospective Parents Reception Year 6
Friday 8 March	9am – 9.30am AM/PM	Mother's Day Assembly to Parents World Book Day	Lower Kindergarten Whole School
Tuesday 12 March	AM/PM	Trip to St Marys Church, Loughton	Year 2
Wednesday 13 March	AM/PM	Book Fair in School	Whole School
Thursday 14 March	9am – 9.30am AM/PM AM/PM	Class Assembly to Parents Trip to Verulamium Museum Book Fair in School	Year 1V Year 3 Whole School
Friday 15 March	8.25am – 8.50am 9am – 9.30am AM/PM	Drop-In Session Class Assembly to Parents Book Fair in School	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Year 1C Whole School
Monday 18 March	AM/PM 3.30pm – 6pm	Trip to St Marys Church, Loughton Parents' Evening	Year 1 Upper Kindergarten
Tuesday 19 March	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents' Evening	Lower Kindergarten
Wednesday 20 March	3.30pm – 6pm	Parents' Evening	Reception – Year 5
Thursday 21 March	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
	PM	Road Safety Workshop	Reception
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 – Easter Break			
Thursday 25 April	AM	Class and Sports Team Photograph	Whole School
Friday 26 April	AM/PM	Non-Uniform Team-Building Day	Whole School
Monday 29 April	AM/PM	PGL Trip	Year 6
Tuesday 30 April	AM/PM	PGL Trip	Year 6
Wednesday 1 May	AM/PM	PGL Trip	Year 6
	AM/PM	Young Mariners Trip	Year 4 and Year 5
Thursday 2 May	AM/PM	PGL Trip	Year 6
	AM/PM	Young Mariners Trip	Year 4 and Year 5
Friday 3 May	AM/PM	PGL Trip	Year 6
	AM/PM	Young Mariners Trip	Year 4 and Year 5
Tuesday 7 May	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	UK Foxes and Badgers
Wednesday 8 May	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Reception
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	Reception
Thursday 9 May	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 10 May	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
Monday 13 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Tuesday 14 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Wednesday 15 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Thursday 16 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Friday 17 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Monday 20 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Tuesday 21 May	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Wednesday 22 May	AM/PM	LAMDA Exams	By Invitation
	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Thursday 23 May	AM/PM	LAMDA Exams	By Invitation
	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Friday 24 May	AM/PM	LAMDA Exams	By Invitation
	AM/PM	INCAS Testing	Year 1 – Year 6
Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May – Half Term			
Tuesday 4 June	AM/PM	Trip to Hylands Park	Reception Owls
	3.30pm	Music Concert	Year 2
Wednesday 5 June	6pm	Music Concert	Year 3 – Year 6
Thursday 6 June	AM/PM	Science Workshop	Year 1 – Year 6
	6pm	Music Concert	Year 3 – Year 6
Friday 7 June	AM/PM	Trip to Barleylands	Year 2
Tuesday 11 June	AM/PM	Trip to Hylands Park	Reception Robins
Wednesday 12 June	AM/PM	Trip to Warner Bros Studio	Year 6
Saturday 15 June	AM/PM	Oaklands Summer Fete	Whole School
Monday 17 June	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 18 June	AM/PM	Trip to Hylands Park	Reception Woodpeckers
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	UK Foxes and Badgers
Wednesday 19 June	AM/PM	Trip to Old McDonalds Farm	Lower Kindergarten
	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 20 June	AM/PM	Trip to Southend	Year 1
Friday 21 June	AM/PM	Sports Day	Whole School
Tuesday 25 June	8.25am – 8.50am	Drop-In Session	Reception
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	UK Rabbits, Hedgehogs and Squirrels
	2.30pm – 3pm	Drop-In Session	Reception
Friday 28 June	AM/PM	Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo	Upper Kindergarten
	6.45pm	Production at Lopping Hall	Year 4 – Year 6
Wednesday 3 July	2pm – 3pm	Celebration of The Year	LK, UK and Reception
	4pm – 5.30pm	Prizegiving	Year 1 – Year 6
Friday 5 July	AM/PM	Moving Up Day	Whole School

Wednesday 10 July

12pm
12.15pm
12.30pm

Last Day of Term
Last Day of Term
Last Day of Term

LK, UK and Reception
Year 1 and Year 2
Year 3 – Year 6

11 July – 3 September – Summer Break

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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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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