



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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17 April 2024

Dear Parents

Re: April 2024 Headmistress's Letter

I hope you had a lovely Easter break, enjoying the sunshine and longer days. As you know, term begins tomorrow, Thursday 18 April, and I am looking forward to a busy and productive Summer Term.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest pupils and their families who begin in our Lower Kindergarten Butterflies class this week. We know you will be very happy at Oaklands.

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 October half term. As usual, all children with longer hair 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 is often 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:

- LK-Y6 girls:** plain white ankle socks with no frills, colours or patterns
- LK-Y6 boys:** short grey socks with bottle green hoops (no grey plain socks)
- PE (all pupils):** short white ankle socks (not 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, extracurricular sporting activities or swimming. Further details of the uniform for each Key Stage is available on the school website.

Charities

The whole school celebrated World Book Day on Friday 8 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 book with their peers. More fun occurred on Friday 15 March when the school supported Red Nose Day. Yet again, the school was overrun by pupils and staff dressed in various shades of red. We raised £133.58 on World Book Day and £224.72 on Red Nose Day: well done everyone and thank you for your continued generosity.

Year 1 to Year 6 Curriculum Overviews

The Curriculum overviews for each age group are published on your parent portals every term. They provide you with detailed information about the teaching content in each subject. The Summer term overviews are now available for you to read.

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:

- 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): these 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 Monday 25 March, a long awaited Nearly New School Uniform sale was held in school 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 Friday 22 March, just before the end of the Spring Term. This year our bunny broke loose and hopped around the school delivering chocolate to some very egg-cited children!

With the Summer Fete on **Saturday 15 June** approaching, the OPA are now in their busiest term of the school year. 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, especially reversing out onto a narrow road with many pupils and parents walking past. 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 25 April**. Weather permitting, they will be taken outside, or alternatively, in the school hall. Children in Sports Teams will be asked, ahead of time, to bring their kit to change into in school. 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 are delighted that some of our parents will be leading these assemblies to talk about their careers and interests to our children. If you have not yet indicated you would like to do this, please contact the school office or myself.

PSHE Lessons: 'Relationships'

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 and letters for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will follow shortly.

Year 5 Secondary School Options Meetings

Individual meetings for parents of children who are currently in Year 5 to discuss the options for secondary schools, and the various procedures for applications, will be held on **Tuesday 7 May and Thursday 9 May**, this is ahead of the deadline for applications for Year 7 Autumn 2025 to Woodford County Girls' and Ilford County Boys Schools. Bookings will be online and a more detailed letter will follow shortly.

School Blazer

We have been informed by Forest Casualwear that the long-standing bespoke Oaklands green blazer is no longer available. This is due to the increased cost of making it, which cannot be justified in today's climate. The new blazer will be the same style as worn at the other Oak-Tree Schools in our bottle green. It will cost half as much. Forest Casualwear will heavily discount the few bespoke blazers that remain in stock. Of course, pupils will be able to wear either blazer for the foreseeable future as we anticipate that it will take several years to fully phase out the old and move fully to the new.

Trips during the Summer Term

As many parents will be aware when classes have trips to London we are aiming to travel with TFL, using the Central Line. Please rest assured that we always take additional staff on these trips and we liaise closely with TFL staff to ensure the pupils are met at their destination station and escorted safely through busy stations. If you have any questions about a trip using TFL please do not hesitate to contact me or the class teacher for further information.

Drop-in Sessions Summer Term 2024

Our popular drop-in sessions will be held again during Summer Term 1. For the Summer term we will be inviting you to take part in a short activity with your child. The first of which will be a Maths activity, for Year 1 to 6 only. I know that the children will thoroughly enjoy undertaking an activity with you, but rest assured if you cannot attend the activity will take place with the class TA. Drop in sessions for our younger pupils will remain in the usual format. Please refer to the table below to check when your child's Drop-in session is being held.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 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 |

Information for Parents

And finally, I have included a link below to one of the useful pages from the NSPCC. This is a link to a variety of resources designed to help parents navigate difficult conversations with their children. These are conversations that as parents we often feel ill equipped to begin and the resources act as a helpful guide to us all.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/

Dates for the Diary

The following list provides an update of events planned for the Summer Term.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 25 April | AM | Class and Sports Team Photographs | Whole School |
| Friday 26 April | AM/PM | Non-Uniform Team-Building Day | Whole School |
| Monday 29 April | AM/PM | PGL Residential Trip | Year 6 |
| | AM/PM | Trip to Verulamium | Year 3 |
| Tuesday 30 April | AM/PM | PGL Residential Trip | Year 6 |
| Wednesday 1 May | AM/PM | PGL Residential Trip | Year 6 |
| | AM/PM | Young Mariners Residential Trip | Year 4 and Year 5 |
| | 3.30pm – 5.30pm | Parents Evening | Year 3Co |
| Thursday 2 May | AM/PM | PGL Residential Trip | Year 6 |
| | AM/PM | Young Mariners Residential Trip | Year 4 and Year 5 |
| | 3.30pm – 5.30pm | Parents Evening | Year 3Co |
| Friday 3 May | AM/PM | PGL Residential Trip | Year 6 |
| | AM/PM | Young Mariners Residential Trip | Year 4 and Year 5 |
| Tuesday 7 May | 2.30pm – 3pm | Drop-In Session | UK Foxes and Badgers |
| | 3.30pm – 5pm | Secondary Transfer Meetings | Year 5 by Appointment only |
| 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 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | AM/PM | Trip to Houses of Parliament | School Council by Invitation |
| Thursday 9 May | 8.25am – 8.50am | Drop-In Session | Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 |
| | 3.30pm – 5pm | Secondary Transfer Meetings | Year 5 by Appointment only |
| 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 | 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 for Parents | Year 2 |
| Wednesday 5 June | 6pm | Music Concert for Parents | 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 |
| | 8.45am | Oak-Tree Camp 24-25 Parents Meeting | Year 2 |
| Wednesday 12 June | AM/PM | Trip to Warner Bros Studio | Year 6 |
| | AM/PM | Trip to The British Library | Year 2S |
| Friday 14 June | AM/PM | Trip to The British Library | Year 2Z |
| 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 |
| Tuesday 9 July | 9AM | Leavers Assembly | Year 6 |
| Wednesday 10 July | 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 |
| 11 July – 3 September – Half Term | | | |

I look forward to seeing you all this term at the various school events we have planned.

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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