



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

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22 April 2025

Dear Parents

Re: April 2025 Headmistress's Letter

I hope you had a lovely Easter break, enjoying the sunshine and longer days. As you know, term begins tomorrow, Wednesday 23 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 after October half term. All children with longer hair (defined as longer than chin length) 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 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:

- Girls: Plain white ankle socks with no frills or colours
- Boys: Short grey socks with bottle green hoops (no grey plain socks)
- PE (boys & girls) – 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 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.

Sporting Events

We had a wonderful few weeks of sports fixtures and events before the Easter break. What a fabulous few weeks of sport for Oaklands, well done to everyone who took part and to Mr Paine for organising these events.

Charities

The whole school celebrated World Book Day on Friday 7 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 21 March when the school supported Comic Relief. Yet again, the school was overrun by pupils and staff dressed in various shades of red. We raised £138.04 on World Book Day and £202.10 on Red Nose Day: well done everyone and thank you for your continued generosity.

Year 1 to Year 6 Curriculum Overviews

The Curriculum overviews are published on your parent portals every term. They provide 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
Protractor/angle measurer (Y5 & Y6 only)

Coloured pencils
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

Thank you to our volunteers who held a 'Pre-loved' uniform sale towards the end of term to enable parents to purchase Summer uniform. The OPA also organised a visit from the Easter Bunny to Oaklands on Thursday 20 March, just before the end of the Spring Term. All the children were excited to receive an Easter egg and the older children enjoyed taking part in an egg hunt.

With the Summer Fayre on **Saturday 14 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 Fayre, so please do let your class representative know if you can help on a stall or activity as soon as possible. Thank you.

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 22 May**. 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 interest to our children. Thank you to all of the parents who have already visited school and given fantastic talks to the children.

PSHE: '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 will follow shortly. Please remember you can view the materials covered, with your child's class teacher ahead of the planned lessons.

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 6 May and Thursday 8 May**, this is ahead of the deadline for applications for Year 7 Autumn 2026 to Woodford County Girls' and Ilford County Boys Schools. Booking will be online and a more detailed letter will follow shortly.

11 plus registration for Ilford County High School for Boys and Woodford County High School for Girls, starting in September 2026, will open on 1 May 2025 and will close at 5pm on 15 June 2025.

Trips during the Summer term

As many parents will be aware when classes have trips in London we aim 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.

Residentials

Just before the May bank holiday our Year 4, 5 and 6 children will all take part in their residentials. The children are very much looking forward to exploring new activities and learning new skills. I look forward to sharing photographs with you all.

Drop-in Sessions Summer Term 2025

Our popular Drop-in sessions will be held again during Summer Term 1:

Tuesday 13 May	8.25-8.45am 2.30pm	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 Squirrels, Rabbits & Hedgehogs Reception
Thursday 15 May	8.25am or 2.30pm	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Foxes & Badgers
Friday 16 May	8.25-8.45am 2.30pm	

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.

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

Dates for the Diary

The following list provides a current list of events planned for the rest of the academic year:

Wed 30 April - Fri 2 May	All Day All Day All Day	Residential Trip to The Hive Residential Trip to Lambourne End Residential Trip to Danbury Outdoors	Year 4 Year 5 Year 6
Tuesday 6 May	Morning 3.30-6pm	Road Safety Workshop Secondary Transfer Parents Evening	Year 5 Year 5 Parents
Thursday 8 May	3.30-6pm	Secondary Transfer Parents Evening	Year 5 Parents
Friday 9 May	Morning All Day	Evolution Workshop OPA Break the rules day	Year 6 Whole School
Mon 12 May - Fri 23 May	All Day	INCAS Assessments	Whole School
Tuesday 13 May	8.25-8.45am 2.30pm	Drop In Session Drop In Session	Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 Squirrels, Rabbits & Hedgehogs
Wednesday 14 May	All Day 3.30pm	LAMDA Exams Settling In Chat	By Invitation Lower Kindergarten (New Pupils)
Thursday 15 May	All Day 8.25am or 2.30pm	LAMDA Exams Drop In Session	By Invitation Reception

Friday 16 May	8.25-8.45am	Drop In Session	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 20 May	Afternoon	Magistrates Workshop	Year 6
	2-3pm	Instrumental Music Concert	Year 2 by Invitation
Wednesday 21 May	5-6pm	Instrumental Music Concert	Year 3 to Year 6 by Invitation
Thursday 22 May	Morning	Class and Sports Team Photographs	Whole School
	5-6pm	Instrumental Music Concert	Year 3 to Year 6 by Invitation
Friday 23 May	All Day	Brentwood School Taster Day	Year 5
Monday 2 May – Friday 30 May – Half Term			
Tuesday 3 June	All Day	Trip to Hylands Park	Reception Owls
Thursday 5 June	All Day	Trip to Barleylands	Year 2
Monday 9 June	9am	Fathers Day Fun Morning	Reception, UK Foxes and Badgers
	Afternoon	Rainforest Workshop	Year 3
Tuesday 10 June	All Day	Trip to Hylands Park	Reception Robins
Thursday 12 June	All Day	Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo	Upper Kindergarten
Friday 13 June	All Day	Trip to Science Museum	Year 4
	9am	Fathers Day Fun Morning	LK & Squirrels, Rabbits, Hedgehogs
	All Day	Bring a Bottle Non-Uniform Day	Whole School
Saturday 14 June	12pm-3.30pm	Summer Fete	Whole School
Tuesday 17 June	All Day	Trip to Hylands Park	Reception Woodpeckers
Thursday 19 June	All Day	Trip to Warner Bros Studio Tours	Year 6
	All Day	Trip to Old Macdonalds Farm	Lower Kindergarten
Friday 20 June	All Day	Sports Day	Whole School
Friday 27 June	6.30pm	Lopping Hall Performance	Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 2 July	2pm – 3pm	Celebration of The Year	LK, UK and Reception
	4pm – 5.30pm	Prizegiving	Year 1 – Year 6
Thursday 3 July	Morning	Moving Up Day	Lower and Upper Kindergarten
Friday 4 July	All Day	Moving Up Day	Reception to Year 5
Tuesday 8 July	9am	Leavers Assembly	Year 6
Thursday 10 July	Morning	Last Day of Term - 12pm finish	LK, UK and Reception
	Morning	Last Day of Term - 12.15pm finish	Year 1 and Year 2
	Morning	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm	Year 3 to Year 6

I look forward to seeing you all 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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