



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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3 June 2024

Dear Parents

Re: June 2024 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.

InCas

Between Monday 13 May and Friday 24 May, pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 took their annual InCas assessments. These are online tests in Mental Maths, General Maths, Reading and Spelling. The results of these assessments will appear on your child's end of Summer Term report.

Extra-Curricular Clubs 2024-2025

We continued the use of Google forms, introduced last year, as this is a simpler system and you will now have selected extra-curricular clubs for next year. In response to parental feedback we moved the opening of applications from 6pm to 8pm, which many parents had reported clashed with dinner and return from work time. I hope this worked well for the majority of parents.

Musical Instrument Lessons 2024-2025

You have received details of musical instrument tuition during the penultimate week before Half Term and we asked parents to complete the relevant request form. You will now have received confirmation of your child's lessons for the forthcoming academic year from the school office.

OPA Summer Fete on Saturday 15 June 12.00-3.30pm

The OPA is busy organising the Summer Fete which is due to take place on Saturday 15 June. If you are able to help in any way, please get in touch with your OPA Class Representative. These events simply cannot take place without an army of volunteers, even if you can only give an hour of your time please contact Miss Donoghue.

The Fete opens at 12pm and there will be a variety of different activities and rides/inflatables to keep the children amused, prizes to be won, and a range of barbequed food to eat and beverages to drink. Please do come along with friends and family.

Bottle donations for the tombola will be collected on Friday 7 June, which is a non-uniform day. This coincides with the Year 2 trip to Barleylands and I am more than happy for Year 2 to wear sensible non-uniform for a day at the farm in exchange for a bottle.

Sports Day on Friday 21 June

We are hoping for the weather to be good to enable Sports Day to take place on Friday 21 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

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Play at Lopping Hall on Friday 28 June

Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 are very busy rehearsing their parts in 'Ali Baba and The Bongo Bandits'. The production will be performed to family and friends on Friday 28 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 3 July

On Wednesday 3 July, we will be holding our annual Celebration of the Year for Lower Kindergarten, Upper Kindergarten and Reception children at 2pm followed by Prize Giving and Review of the Year for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 at 4pm. 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 5 on Friday 5 July

The annual ‘Meet the Teacher’ morning will take place on Friday 5 July. Pupils who will be in Reception to Year 5 in September 2024 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.

Water Bottles

We seem to have some enormous water bottles creeping into school. Children are allowed to fill their bottles throughout the day so water bottles do not need to be excessive in size. 500 to 750ml is a good size to stand on a desk and be easily carried around school. Please do not send bottles that spray, have flashing lights, play musical sounds or have anything dangling from them because they are distracting. Metal or strong plastic is preferable, we have found some of the novelty bear shaped bottles shatter easily when dropped.

Sun Cream

When we return after Half Term all children should be in the correct school uniform. Regulation sun hats should be in school every day as should blazers. If, at any point, I deem the weather too hot for ties and blazers you will receive an email. Sun cream should be applied before school, there is plenty of shade on the field and we limit exposure to the sun on very hot days. If you wish your child to apply extra sun cream before lunch, when they will be outside for a maximum of 30 minutes, please complete the necessary forms and send the sun cream, clearly labelled with your child’s name and class into the school office.

End of Year Reports

On Monday 8 July, end of year reports will be sent home for all year groups. These reports will be uploaded onto the portal as usual, please email teachers directly if you have any concerns.

Goodbyes

As in all schools, July sometimes sees staff moving on to pastures new and it is no different at Oaklands. Part of my job is to develop the teaching staff professionally; although we are a school with very special relationships and staff find it difficult to leave us! This year we have some of our long-established staff moving on.

Miss Gardner, as many of you already know, will be making her move to Devon permanent in July. Mme Bash is returning to her native France to take up an exciting new challenge. Mrs Georgiou will be taking a break from teaching whilst she considers her next career move. Miss Francis has a new exciting opportunity in another school. Miss Refalo has secured a place to begin her teacher training and Mrs Kelner has decided to dedicate more time to her family. Mrs Billington is moving to Coopersale Hall School, which is closer to her home. Very excitingly, Miss Constantinou is having a baby and will be taking her maternity leave in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for the commitment and energy they have given to Oaklands and to wish them all the very best of luck in their new ventures. They will all be greatly missed.

We have been very successful in our recruitment this year and have some highly experienced teachers joining us in September, two of whom are relocating from other Oak-Tree Schools. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them when the time comes. I will write in due course with further details.

Neurodiversity

In a world where neurodiversity is rightly receiving a great deal of attention, I thought some of you would like to read the following article. It is not exhaustive but it is interesting: [Click here to read the article.](#)

Dates for the Diary

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

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 by invitation
Thursday 6 June	AM/PM	Science Workshop	Year 1 – Year 6
	6pm	Music Concert for Parents	Year 3 – Year 6 by invitation

Friday 7 June	AM/PM AM/PM AM/PM	Trip to Barleylands Bring a Bottle for OPA Non-Uniform Day	Year 2 Whole School Whole School
Monday 10 June	8.45am	Father's Day Stay and Play	Reception and UK Foxes and Badgers
Tuesday 11 June	AM/PM 8.45am	Trip to Hylands Park Oak-Tree Camp 24-25 Parents Meeting	Reception Robins Year 2 (except leavers)
Wednesday 12 June	AM/PM AM/PM AM	Trip to Warner Bros Studio Trip to The British Library Father's Day Stay and Play	Year 6 Year 2S LK and UK Hedgehogs, Rabbits, Squirrels
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
Wednesday 19 June	AM/PM 8.25am – 8.50am	Trip to Old McDonalds Farm Drop-In Session	Lower Kindergarten Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 20 June	AM/PM	Trip to Southend	Year 1
Friday 21 June	9am – 3.20pm	Sports Day	Whole School
Friday 28 June	AM/PM 6.45pm	Trip to Hertfordshire Zoo Production at Lopping Hall	Upper Kindergarten Year 4 – Year 6
Wednesday 3 July	2pm – 3pm 4pm – 5.30pm	Celebration of The Year Prizegiving	LK, UK and Reception Year 1 – Year 6
Thursday 4 July	Am/pm	Trip to Wimbledon	Year 5 and Year 6 by invitation
Friday 5 July	AM/PM PM	Meet the Teacher Day Water Day	Whole School Year 6
Monday 8 July	PM	Summer Discos	Reception – Year 6
Tuesday 9 July	9AM	Leavers Assembly	Year 6
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 Holidays

Please note the EYFS Drop in Session on Tuesday 25 June published in the last Headmistress's letter has unfortunately been cancelled

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

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Gretchen Copeman
Headmistress



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BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

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