



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Gretchen Copeman B.Ed. (Hons)

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6 January 2025

Dear Parents

Re: **January 2025 Headmistress's Letter**

Welcome back to you all and I hope you had a wonderful, festive break with family and friends. Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts you and your children gave me and the rest of the staff at the end of term.

We have another busy Spring term ahead so please do regularly check our website and your portal/group call for information. Where sports events are listed in the date list you will be notified separately if your child is taking part.

This term we begin our class assemblies and other events which parents will be invited to attend. Parents Evenings will take place during March. Our 'Drop-in' sessions for parents to informally view their children's work, will also continue during this half term.

The Spring term sees some of our pupils, particularly in Year 6, take their final entrance examinations to a number of independent secondary schools. I know you join me and the Oaklands staff in wishing them all the very best of luck in these exams.

OPA/Christmas

I would like to, once again, thank the OPA for funding some of the wonderful Christmas events for the children.

My thanks to the OPA committee, class representatives and parent volunteers who gave up their time to wrap Santa gifts and supervise the film in the final week of term, great fun was had by all. Our amazing Grotto was constructed by our wonderful volunteers just in time for a visit from the real Santa Claus.

The pantomimes were a great success, with EYFS entertained by Out of the Box productions in the school hall and KS 1 and KS2 going to the Millfield Theatre.

Christmas lunch, with crackers and party hats, was amazing on the last Wednesday of term; thank you to Adam, our chef, and his team in the kitchen.

We ended our Christmas festivities with a whole school assembly, singing carols, playing instruments and celebrating with our Merit awards together with the awarding of our Sports and Science badges. We also celebrated the numerous sporting achievements we have had this term with Mr Paine.

Curriculum Overviews and Timetables

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. I hope you will continue to find them useful documents to refer to during 2025.

We also publish current timetables for each age group to help ensure that each child wears their PE kit to school on the correct day/s of the school week. Key Stage 2 parents please note the changes to year groups who will swim after February half term. We will write with more detail in due course.

Charities

The children were incredibly busy in their charity work last term. We began with generous gifts of tinned food and toiletries filling the school stage at Harvest in October, which were thankfully received by the Whitechapel Mission. The School raised £195 on 'Comfy Clothes' Day for Place2Be, £264 for Children in Need and £268 for Little Princess Trust on Funky Hair Day.

Our Christmas Jumper event raised £192 for Crisis at Christmas and our Carol Service raised £413 for Epping Forest Foodbank. Thank you for your generous donations!

Collection at the end of school

Please ensure you notify the school office before the end of the day if someone different is collecting your child. All children have a password and you should share this only with trusted adults you are sending to collect your child. Please remember to book your child into teatime club in good time, should you need this facility, please do not assume we have space at the end of the day.

School Uniform

All children should be wearing the correct school uniform, including the school scarf, hat and gloves. All items of school clothing and PE kit should be clearly labelled. Please can I remind you that only regulation green tights should be worn under pinafores, no leggings please. Blazers must be worn every day and at this time of year, children must wear their winter coat to school every day as they will be going out to play, except in adverse weather conditions.

Snow

This is usually the term when the weather turns extremely cold and brings us snow. Our maintenance team work hard to make the school paths, steps and entrances clear and safe for use in the event of snow. Please check the website for updates and announcements in the event of heavy snow. We also aim to text parents by 7.15am to provide up to date information about the condition of the roads surrounding the school and the organisation of the school day ahead.

'Drop-in' sessions

The 'Drop-in Sessions' that we held during the Autumn Term continue to be very popular and I received many positive comments about them. The children enjoyed showing off their work and I know many of you found them useful too.

We plan to hold another set of 'Drop-in' Sessions this half term. Please note below the dates and times for each year group.

Wednesday 29 January	8.25-8.45am	Reception, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
	2.30-3pm	Foxes and Rabbits
Friday 31 January	8.25-8.45am	Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
	2.30-3pm	Squirrels Hedgehogs and Badgers

Parents' Evenings, March 2025

Formal Parents' Evenings for Reception to Year 6 pupils will be held in March. Please see the dates below for your child/ren, more details will follow in due course. Please note Reception will have their parents evening in a different week to Year 1 to 6 because of the planned Mother's Day assemblies taking place the following week.

PSHE Jigsaw Scheme of Work

During this half term, pupils will be exploring, at an age appropriate level, the topic of 'Dreams and Goals' which includes:

- How to stay motivated when doing something challenging
- Showing resilience to keep trying even when the task is difficult
- Being able to work well with a partner or in a group
- Striving to always have a positive attitude in order to overcome obstacles

- Making a determined effort to help others to achieve their goals
- Coping with constructive criticism and overcoming disappointment
- Enjoying and celebrating the feelings of success when goals are achieved, however big or small
- Recognising that not every dream is easy to achieve but is still worth pursuing.

Parking

Please continue to park legally and considerately when collecting and dropping off your children to school. It is never acceptable to inconvenience our neighbours and bring Oaklands School into disrepute in the local area.

Air Tags and other Tracking devices

In line with many other schools I wish to make you aware that as the use of tracking devices such as Air tags has become more popular, these are NOT designed for tracking the whereabouts of children and should never be used to track a child or be worn at any school event. Airtags are an extremely dangerous device when used incorrectly and actually compromise the safety of others. They are also an intrusion and a breach of privacy, infringing on human rights. It is most definitely unwanted tracking on a school trip, we do not allow the children to carry any Bluetooth connectable devices of any kind on school trips as they compromise the safety of the whole group. We communicate with parents when children arrive at their specified destination and if there are delays on their return journey. It can be very unhelpful if parents tracking their children contradict our communications with parents.

This may be of interest to you all to read and consider in the Spring term and beyond; Apple condemns any use of their air tags on people - [An update on AirTag and unwanted tracking - Apple \(UK\)](#)

Dates for the Diary

The following list provides a current list of events planned for Spring Term:

Thursday 9 January	5pm	Meeting regarding Residential Trip	Year 5 Parents
Tuesday 14 January	5pm	Meeting regarding Residential Trip	Year 6 Parents
Thursday 16 January	All Day	Trip to The Globe	Year 4
	5pm	Meeting regarding Residential Trip	Year 4 Parents
Thursday 23 January	All Day	Trip to Parliament	Year 6
Wednesday 29 January	8.25-8.45am	Drop in Session	Reception, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6
	2.30-3pm	Drop in Session	Foxes and Rabbits Parents
Thursday 30 January	9am	Assembly to Parents	Year 3C Parents
Friday 31 January	8.25-8.45am	Drop in Session	Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4
	2.30-3pm	Drop in Session	Squirrels Hedgehogs and Badgers Parents
Wednesday 5 February	12.30-9.30pm	Young Voices at the o2	Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 6 February	9am	Assembly to Parents	Year 3V Parents
Wednesday 11 February	All Day	Trip to the London Eye	1C
Thursday 12 February	All Day	Trip to the London Eye	1W
Thursday 13 February	9am	Assembly to Parents	Year 4C Parents

Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February - Half Term

Monday 24 February	Morning	Oak-Tree Swim Gala	Year 4 , Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 27 February	9am	Assembly to Parents	Year 4D Parents
Friday 28 February	All Day	Trip to Hatfield WW2 Bunker	Year 6
Tuesday 4 March	9am	Assembly to Parents and Drop In	Year 2Z
Wednesday 6 March	9.30am	Open Morning	Prospective `Parents
Wednesday 12 March	All Day	Book Fair in School	Whole School
Thursday 13 March	All Day	Book Fair in School	Whole School
		Assembly to Parents and Drop In	Year 2Z
Friday 14 March	All Day	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	8.25-8.45am	Drop in Session	Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
Monday 17 March	Morning	Oaklands House Swim Gala	Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 18 March	Afternoon	Visit to St Marys Church	Year 1
	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening	Upper Kindergarten
Wednesday 19 March	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening	Lower Kindergarten and Reception

Thursday 20 March	All Day	Easter Bunny Visit	Whole School
	9am	Assembly to Parents and Drop In	Year 1C Parents
	Afternoon	Visit to St Marys Church	Year 2
	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening	Reception
Friday 21 March	All Day	Trip to Fishers Green	Year 5
Monday 24 March	9am or 1.30pm	Mothers Day Fun Day	Reception
Tuesday 25 March	9am	Mothers Day Assembly to Parents	Upper Kindergarten
	3.30-5pm	Oak-Tree Spelling Bee at Oaklands	Years 3 to Year 6 by Invitation
Wednesday 26 March	9am	Mothers Day Assembly to Parents	Lower Kindergarten
	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening	Year 1 to Year 6
Thursday 27 March	9am	Assembly to Parents	Year 1W
	1.30pm	Mothers Day Fun Day	Reception
	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening	Year 1 to Year 6
Friday 28 March	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
Saturday 29 March – Friday 4 April - Oak-Tree Ski Trip			
Monday 31 March – Tuesday 22 April – Easter 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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