



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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5 February 2025

Dear Parents

Re: February 2025 Headmistress's Letter

We now only have a few weeks of this half term remaining, and although it has only been a short time since Christmas, the staff and pupils have certainly managed to accomplish a lot of work. Our Year 6 pupils have now completed their exams and we are incredibly proud of their determination and resilience during this busy period. Their results will be received during February half term.

This half term during my tours with prospective parents there have been many comments about the positive work ethic of all our pupils. They are engaged and motivated in their lessons and always ready to talk, with confidence, about what they are learning to our visitors. Our new pupils in Lower Kindergarten have amazed us all with the speed at which they have settled into the rhythms and routines of school life. They are thoroughly enjoying the wonderful outside space at school, especially in their wellies and rainsuits.

Wake up Wednesday

I aim to keep you updated, through these letters, with a variety of topics to read. Attached to this letter are some information sheets to help with setting parental controls on iPads and other devices. Along with information about social media and Roblox. I hope you find them useful. On 4 February, Essex Police visited our Year 5 and 6 pupils to talk in greater depth about Cyber Safety.

Medical matters

I would like to reiterate to parents that all pupils should be kept off school for at least 48 hours following a sickness or diarrhoea bug. Also, if they have started a course of antibiotics a child should be kept off school for the first 24 hours whilst taking the medication. This is to contain the spread of infection as far as possible. Likewise, if your child is taken ill at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately.

Holidays During Term time

We discourage holidays during term time; and due to new national guidance, no holiday in term time will be authorised for children in Reception upwards. We are fortunate that we have long holidays and I hope, going forward, that parents will limit the amount of time pupils are taken out of school for vacations. Please note that if you do choose to take holidays during term time it is not possible to supply large volumes of work for your child to complete. Teacher input is essential in understanding the content of each lesson.

Parking reminder

Thank you for your continued support of our 3PR parking initiative. We now have the vast majority of pupils walking a short distance to the gates. Please continue to look carefully at where you leave your parked car, it may be technically legal, but can buggies and pedestrians get past you on the footpath, and can an emergency vehicle access the school and houses on the road?

PSHE Jigsaw Scheme of Work, Reception to Year 6

After the February half term, the children will be exploring, at an age appropriate level, the topic of 'Healthy Me' which includes:

- What is personal hygiene?
- Understanding the importance of healthy eating
- Maintaining an active lifestyle
- Appreciating why they must get enough rest and sleep
- Safety education – road safety; on and off-line safety

- How to manage risk
- Looking after one's mental health
- Making healthier choices
- Having respect for myself
- Understanding the dangers of certain substances – alcohol, medicines, tobacco

Throughout the topic, the children will be encouraged to identify and make 'healthier choices' to their lifestyles.

Drop-in Sessions Spring Term 2025

Our timetable of 'Drop-in Sessions' continue to be very popular with both the children and parents; I receive many positive comments about them. The children enjoy showing off their work and I know many of you find them useful too. We plan to hold a second set of 'Drop-in Sessions' after half term. Please note below the date and time for each year group.

Wednesday 26 February	8.25-8.45am	Year 1 and Year 2
Friday 14 March	8.25-8.45am	Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Parents' Evenings, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 March 2025

In the week before our Easter holiday parents from Year 1 to Year 6 will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and talk about progress so far this year. More details, including how to book, will be available soon.

EYFS parents' meetings will be held on **Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 March**. The different dates for EYFS are to alleviate the strain for our working parents in the final week of term where you will be invited to Mothers' Day assemblies.

Events

We still have a number of events in the final two weeks of this half term including; Young Voices at the O2, NSPCC Number day, The Stratford Music Festival and some very exciting trips away from school.

Dates for the Diary

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

Tuesday 4 February	Morning	Cyber Safety Workshop	Year 5 and Year 6
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
Friday 7 February	All Day	NSPCC Number Day	Whole School
Monday 10 February	Afternoon	Stratford & E London Music Festival	KS2 Choir
Tuesday 11 February	All Day	Trip to the London Eye	1C
Wednesday 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
Wednesday 26 February	8.25-8.45am	Drop in Session	Year 1 and Year 2
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	Year 2S
Wednesday 5 March	All Day	Trip to Houses of Parliament	School Council
	All Day	World Book Day	Upper Kindergarten
Thursday 6 March	9.30am	Open Morning	Prospective Parents
Friday 7 March	All Day	World Book Day	Lower Kindergarten and Reception – Year 6
	All Day	Trip to Loughton Fire Station	Upper Kindergarten
Wednesday 12 March	All Day	Book Fair in School	Whole School
Thursday 13 March	All Day	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	9am	Assembly to Parents	Year 2Z
	All Day	Trip to St Albans Abbey	Reception
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	All Day	Book Fair in School	Whole School
	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	All Day	Trip to Verulamium	Year 3
	3.30-6pm	Parents Evening	Lower Kindergarten and Reception

Thursday 20 March	All Day 9am Afternoon 3.30-6pm	Easter Bunny Visit Assembly to Parents Visit to St Marys Church Parents Evening	Whole School Year 1C Parents Year 2 Reception Year 5
Friday 21 March	All Day	Trip to Fishers Green	Reception
Monday 24 March	9am or 1.30pm	Mothers Day Fun Day	Upper Kindergarten
Tuesday 25 March	9am 3.30-5pm	Mothers Day Assembly to Parents Oak-Tree Spelling Bee at Oaklands	Years 3 to Year 6 by Invitation
Wednesday 26 March	9am 3.30-6pm	Mothers Day Assembly to Parents Parents Evening	Lower Kindergarten Year 1 to Year 6
Thursday 27 March	9am 1.30pm 3.30-6pm	Assembly to Parents Mothers Day Fun Day Parents Evening	Year 1W Reception Year 1 to Year 6
Friday 28 March	Morning Morning Morning	Last Day of Term – 12pm finish Last Day of Term – 12.15pm finish Last Day of Term 12.30pm	LK, UK and Reception Year 1 and Year 2 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



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

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