



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 December 2020

Dear Parents

Re: December 2020 Headmistress's Letter

This term has certainly flown by and I can't believe we are already in December and looking towards the festive period and New Year. The term has been busy and exciting for all the pupils now that our facilities and site have been enhanced to accommodate all pupils in the school. I thought it would be useful to detail all the fun and interesting events that are going on at the end of term so that you have one 'go-to' place to see them all.

Coronavirus Safety

I must thank your daughters for making this term such a special one. It has been amazing to work with all the pupils and staff under one roof. Your daughters have adapted to the safety measures really well and have continued to observe the social distancing rules. Your daughters have been proactive, kind, generous and incredibly cheerful throughout all of these measures and restrictions on our daily lives. Braeside has felt even more of a community than ever this term.

Staff Farewells

This term Mr Mark Hewitt, one of our much-loved caretakers, will be moving to Oaklands School as the main caretaker. I know he will be missed by your daughters as being cheerful and positive around the school. The pupils will still see him during the week when there are mini-bus runs.

We also say farewell to Mrs Bickford who has been the Year 3 teacher this term. Mrs Bickford has worked at Braeside, as well as elsewhere in the Oak-Tree Group, for many years and will be missed. After a procedure in the Autumn Term, she has decided to take some time to re-train in Special Educational Needs (Dyslexia) and we wish her well for the new challenge ahead. Mrs Willemse (who has been working at Braeside for 3 years) is taking over the Year 3 class.

Christmas Events

I have written to you recently about individual events that we have arranged for the last few days of term, but I thought you would find it helpful to have the whole programme of events here. The festive period isn't cancelled at Braeside!

Date	Year Group	Event
Friday 4 December	LK, UK, Rec, Year 2	Infant Nativity Performance and Christmas Service being filmed in bubbles
Monday 7 December	Whole School	Christmas Service being filmed in bubbles
Wednesday 9 December	Whole School	Wear a Christmas Jumper Fundraising Day for Save The Children (non-school uniform)
		Braeside Christmas Lunch (in bubbles)
	Whole School	Prefect Team Quiz
	Kindergarten – Year 6 inclusive	FOBS 'Crazy Legs' Bubble Disco
Thursday 10 December	Whole School	'Jack and the Beanstalk' Streamed in-school Pantomime
Friday 11 December	Whole School	End of Term Assembly
		School ends at 12pm for the Christmas Holiday

4 December: The Infants will be performing their Nativity scenes and songs, within their bubbles. This will be filmed and a link will be available for you to access this to watch at home with your family.

7 December: Unfortunately, this year we are unable to join together with our parents at our annual carol service due to the restrictions currently in place. Instead we will be holding a bubble Christmas Service with pupils coming together in their bubbles to sing. We hope parents will be able to watch at home and feel part of the Braeside community.

9 December: As we will not be holding our annual FOBS Christmas Fayre this year, we will just be raising funds for the Save the Children Charity. The pupils will wear festive jumpers with non-uniform and will be asked to make a minimum donation of £2 to be donated towards this charity. This will be collected between 7 and 9 December.

On the same day our excellent Chef, Steve, and his wonderful team will be providing a traditional Christmas lunch for the pupils. The usual alternative offer will be available to meet individual dietary requirements.

After lunch, the Senior Prefect Team will be hosting a junior and senior quiz in form groups via Zoom. They have been busy preparing this for the whole school. Year 11 will be leading the activity and we hope it will be a chance for them to demonstrate their responsibility across the school in a safe way.

During the afternoon 'Crazy Legs Disco' will be entertaining our pupils from Reception to Year 6 with their own style of fun and music. Parents of Kindergarten to Year 6 pupils will receive a separate letter with the details of this event.

10 December: In the afternoon, the whole school will sit in various locations around the school site in their groups to enjoy a performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', starring Peter Duncan, streamed into school. As an extra treat, pupils will have popcorn to enhance the festive atmosphere. A letter has already gone out to you about this event.

11 December: In the morning, we will have our end of term Achievement Assembly for all pupils. **We will break up at 12pm, as usual, at the end of the term.**

Relationships Education

As you may already be aware, there is a new national policy on Relationships Education by the government. Before we roll this programme out in school, we would like to explain the difference in the curriculum, show you the scheme that we are using to support us with this, explore some materials and literature and consult with parents. This will most likely be a Zoom meeting in the Spring Term. The PSHE coordinators and I will be showing you the resources and inviting any questions that you may have after reading through the information.

Coffee mornings

Thank you to those parents who have already joined Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and myself for coffee mornings this term. These have provided a different forum for meeting and we have welcomed the opportunity to be able to chat about our provision over Zoom. I really appreciate your positive feedback and the interesting questions that you have raised during these informal meetings. I have shared all your comments, suggestions and praise with the staff. The remaining coffee mornings are on 2 December (Year 7 and 8) and 9 December (Year 9, 10 and 11). We will email the link the week before.

Uniform

When we return in January the weather will be much colder so please ensure that junior pupils have the regulation blue hat, scarf and gloves in preparation for play and lunch times. May I remind you that earrings should not be worn on PE days and that senior pupils may only wear one stud in the lobe of each ear please. Also, please be aware that we have now moved to black socks and tights for all pupils so if you are purchasing new uniform please buy black socks and tights for the return in January.

After-School Offer

Teatime club still has availability every evening, please book via the school office in advance. We also have spaces available for Cookery Club on Mondays. If your daughter would like to join, please complete and return a booking form.

Reports

If your daughter is in Kindergarten to Year 10, her termly report will be available for you to read in the last week of term. This will be posted to the portal in the usual way. Please do take time to read through this report. If you have misplaced your portal log in details, please let the office team know before the reports are due so that you can access this important information. Year 11 will not have a report at this time, as they had their report after the GCSE Mock Exams last half term.

If you have any questions about the information above, please get in touch with your daughter's class teacher or form tutor. Members of the Senior Leadership Team are available to discuss any matters with you, but please do phone ahead.

Adjustments to School Arrival Times

We have kept to the temporarily advanced start time of 8.15am throughout this Autumn Term in order to train our pupils to keep their distance from others when entering the site. This also allowed for a wider window for arrivals and for pupils and families to establish new routines after the summer holidays. We feel that our Coronavirus procedures are now more settled and that we have a greater level of control over the initial morning routines, so we plan to start moving the arrival time back in order to help our staff prepare more effectively for the start of the school day.

From Wednesday 6 January 2021, the doors will open at 8.20am and Registration will be at 8.40am. We will be on hand as usual to welcome the children from this time. Breakfast Club will continue to run as usual from 7.30am.

We anticipate moving the start time to 8.25am from after the February half term, but I will confirm this in my February Head's Letter once we have had the opportunity to review the first month back.

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 6 January	School restarts for pupils
Tues 12 January	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thurs 21 January	Year 9 HPV2 Vaccinations
Thurs 11 February	Year 6 Visit to Epping Forest District Museum (Local War artist & WW1)
Mon 15-Fri 19 February	HALF TERM
Tues 2 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tues 9 March	Year 9 Options Meeting
Fri 19 March	Red Nose Fundraising Day
Mon 22 March	Year 9 DTP and Meningitis ACWY Vaccinations
Wed/Thurs 24/25 March	Oak-Tree Year 3 Residential Camp

I wish you a restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
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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