



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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6 July 2021

Dear Parents

Re: July 2021 Headmistress's Letter

This is my final letter of the year. You should be incredibly proud of your daughter(s) and the way that they have navigated this unusual and disrupted year. Pupils have been open and honest about their feelings towards the pandemic and the impact that it has had on their lives. This has helped us as a school community to celebrate the things that have gone well, such as our response to online learning during school closure.

We are very much hoping for a 'normal' school year in 2021/22. We are hoping to plan trips, hold more events that parents can attend and for pupils to mix on a whole school level. I hope the information below helps us to conclude the school year and to look forward to September.

End of Term Celebrations and Sports Day

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend these events. The events were recorded by the Oak-Tree Group Marketing Team and will be available for you to watch at your convenience. Pupils were thrilled to be able to showcase their highlights of the year and also share their wonderful learning with you.

Staff changes

We are very sad to announce that Mrs Wise, our wonderful Office Manager, will be retiring at the end of the term to be able to spend time with her new grandson. Mrs Wise has been instrumental in the sharing of information when the Oak-Tree Group took ownership of Braeside in 2015 and has been fantastic at supporting me in my role as a leader. She has served the Braeside community for 23 years and has taken a very active role in FOBS. She will be sorely missed and we wish her every happiness.

Also, Miss Krist (Head of English) will be leaving us after 3 years. She has enhanced English Language and Literacy in the school and has given senior pupils brilliant experiences of theatre and performance poetry. Miss Krist has facilitated many activities and competitions which have resulted in our pupils having work published. We are also grateful for the input she has had pastorally with her form. She leaves us to join a state school in Essex.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Bibby as the new Head of English. He has been a Key Stage 4 English Coordinator at Mark Hall School and has many years of experience teaching both Key Stage 3 and 4 English Language and Literature. He will also be supporting Year 7 in their transition to the Seniors.

Mrs Roth, one of our Lunchtime Supervisors, is leaving us at the end of the term to pursue a career in supporting young people with their mental well-being.

Miss Parrott, our much loved Learning Support Assistant and Breakfast Club supervisor, is also leaving us to continue her career in counselling full time. She is especially loved by our Early Years children, with whom she has worked closely over the years.

We thank both Mrs Roth and Miss Parrott for the support that they have given pupils at Braeside and we wish them well in the next chapter of their career working with children.

I am pleased to announce that our team of Lunchtime Supervisors has been enhanced by and additional four members of staff. Mrs Moulton, Miss Williams, Mrs Brosnan and Miss Marti will be joining the team from September.

Teaching staff

There have been some slight tweaks to the form tutor team for Seniors. These will be as follows:

- The Year 7 form tutor will be Miss Barrett (assisted by Mr Bibby).
- Year 8 will remain the same with Ms Coleman.
- The Year 9 form tutor will be Mr Masood.
- The Year 10 form tutor will be Mrs Hucbourg.
- Year 11 will remain the same with Mrs Alahi.

In the Juniors, Miss Wood will be the Year 6 teacher, Mrs Doss will be the Year 5 teacher, Mrs Gadd will be the Year 4 teacher, Mrs Willemse will be the Year 3 teacher, Miss Van Bergen will be the teacher for Year 1, Mrs Thompson will be the teacher for Reception, Mrs Toye will be the Keyworker for Lower Kindergarten and Miss Piper will be the Keyworker for Upper Kindergarten.

I am delighted that Mrs Stimpson, who has been working with the children at lunchtimes and in Breakfast Club, will be joining the team of Teaching Assistants and will be mainly based in Reception. We are grateful to her for expanding her role. Mrs Spencer will become the Teaching Assistant for the Seniors.

New uniform regulations

As we start a new chapter at Braeside in becoming co-educational, we have reviewed the uniform to meet the needs of our community. In consultation with pupils, we have reviewed some aspects of the uniform and as Mr Hagger has outlined this will be changing from September 2022 for girls. Boys from September 2021 will be wearing the new navy blue uniform.

I must remind you that brown socks and tights have not been permitted since 2019. Senior pupils must wear black tights only until the summer months when I will indicate via email when they can wear black or white knee length socks. Junior pupils have the option to wear the summer or winter uniform from September to October half term as usual. They can wear black tights or knee length / ankle length black or white socks. White tights are not permitted.

If your child will be in Kindergarten or Reception from September 2021, we require a spare pair of wellington boots or other waterproof outdoor boots to be left in school. We have an extensive site and we are adjacent to Epping Forest and often we like to take advantage of the outdoor space around us. This means that we need outdoor boots to be on hand at all times.

If your daughter is moving from Year 5 to Year 6 in September 2021, she will now be wearing the Senior uniform, which is a school kilt, shirt, jumper and blazer. Please refer to the uniform list on the website for more details.

All uniform clothing must be labelled very clearly. When items of clothing are not labelled, it can lead to members of staff using their time to find missing items that cannot be identified correctly.

PE Kit

Following the success of pupils wearing their PE kits to school for the whole day if they have PE on the timetable, we will continue this arrangement in the Autumn Term and we will look to review at the end of term. Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit (including socks). We will now allow black or white trainers as I understand the difficulty in buying trainers that are completely white. When your child has PE and it is an outdoor sport such as football, please make sure that they have a bag of spare clothes and shoes to change into in case they are muddy and wet.

Junior PE bags will be left in the bag rack adjacent to the science block. When your child enters the building in the morning, they will pass the covered bag rack in which they can leave their spare clothes.

Please take the time over the summer holidays to check that all the PE kit fits your child appropriately to allow time to purchase the kit from Forest Casuals. Please ensure that plimsolls or trainers fit correctly before the Autumn Term. Please note that the Junior PE kit changes significantly from Year 3 and can be found on the website. Pupils will be swimming if they are in Year 3 to Year 6 in September and will require a school swimming costume and a swimming hat that reflects the colour of their House. Mason is blue, Fry is white, Nightingale is yellow and Bronte is red.

Earrings

We have reviewed the earring policy across the Oak-Tree Group, in order to reflect the clear guidance provided by Essex County Council's Health & Safety Team.

In line with the other Oak Tree Group of Schools, we will only be permitting pupils from Year 5 to Year 11 to wear one plain stud in the lobe of their ear. If your child would like to have their ears pierced, they must do this at the start of the summer break so that it gives the ear time to heal and your child time to get accustomed to removing earrings when taking part in PE. There used to be a practice of taping over earring during activities in some schools, but this was withdrawn from September 2020. Earrings should be either plain gold or silver, not embellished with a gemstone or in a shape.

Early Years pupils to Year 4 must not wear earrings to school from September. This is largely due to the well-documented increasing number of injuries received by children when earrings are caught and ear lobes are torn. Please be aware that members of staff are not permitted to assist the pupils with the removal of earrings and the school can take no responsibility for any earrings that are brought or worn on site.

Timings of the day

All pupils will be required to be on site by 8:40am. The Junior and Senior gate will open at 8:25am and it will be a flexible start. This worked for our families on the return to school and it is something we will continue into the future. Parents of Kindergarten to Year 2 pupils will use the front drive and drop their child off at the Main Entrance as usual between 8:25am and 8:40am. Collection of Junior pupils remains the same (3:30pm) from the Junior gate if your child is in Year 3-6. Senior pupils exit the Senior gate at 3:45pm.

Wellbeing and Learning Ideas for the Summer Holidays

Everyone has worked very hard this year in school and deserves to have time away from screens and school work over the summer. However, if families are looking for some optional activities to support their children's wellbeing or to provide some consolidation and enrichment over the summer break, the Government has provided some useful resources for families to access.

For children in Kindergarten or Reception: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/#3>

For children in Year 1 – Year 6: <https://www.thenational.academy/enrichment>

For older children: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/summer-learning-support>

End of the term arrangements

School will end at 12pm on Friday 9 July and there will be no lunch provided on this day. Senior pupils will require an extra bag to take home their belongings from their locker. Junior pupils will be taking home their work from the year. We are required to keep a sample of work for some pupils. You will be notified if this affects your child.

GCSE Results Day

Year 11 will be collecting their GCSE results on 12 August. This is earlier than previous Results Days owing to Year 11 not sitting external GCSE exams. All schools have taken part in a rigorous process called TAGs (Teacher Assessed Grades) and this has resulted in Results Day being earlier. Year 11 must collect their results between 8:30am and 9:30am. Mrs Sheffield and I will be available until 1:00pm on the day to take queries regarding post-16 choices.

FOBS

FOBS have provided some safe and fun activities for pupils to take part in over the last few weeks of term. They have organised a local pizza making company to supply pizza making kits for a small cost. These will be delivered to school on 7 July provided your payment has been received. This email was circulated on 22 June. In lieu of their annual Summer Event that was not possible this year due to Covid, FOBS have also organised some remote competitions for pupils from Kindergarten to Year 11 to take part in. I have mentioned this date before, but please save the date of Friday 1 October for the 'School Dinner' event if you would like to attend.

Complaints

As you are aware, we have an open door policy throughout the school and we make every effort to respond quickly to any queries or concerns you may have. I thought you might like to know that over the course of the last academic year we had no formal complaints, which was a testament to the close working relationships that we have developed.

Dates for the Diary

Please make a note of the following dates for next term:

Mon 6 September	First Day of Autumn Term
Tues 14 September	Individual Pupil Photographs
Weds 15 September	Whole School Panoramic Photograph
Fri 1 October	FOBS School Dinners Event
Mon 18 - 29 October	HALF TERM
Fri 26 November	Senior House Drama Competition
Thurs 9 December	EYFS – KS3 Pantomime at Harlow Playhouse
Weds 15 December	Last Day of Autumn Term: Finish at 12.00 noon

Thank you for your continued support and for bearing with us whilst we have navigated some challenging times in this pandemic. I am hoping for a 'normal' start to the school year and wish you and your families a restful break.

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

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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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