



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Chloe Moon B.A. (HONS), M.A., PGCE

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1 November 2021

Dear Parents

Re: **November 2021 Headmistress's Letter**

This has been an incredibly busy term for all pupils across the school. New pupils have settled in well and have made strong bonds with their friends and the staff. Sporting fixtures are back with pupils playing in tournaments and local school matches for netball, football and rugby. In addition, we are planning and going on trips with Year 7 going to a high ropes course and Year 6 to the Science Museum. This has been so beneficial for learning and general well-being. There are more exciting trips planned ahead that I will detail in this letter.

School Uniform

Unfortunately, I am still seeing pupils in the juniors wearing brown or white tights. These haven't been a part of the uniform list for two years. Black tights or socks are acceptable, as are white socks. There should be no brown or white tights or brown socks in school.

The new style PE hoodies have been purchased by many pupils across the school and have modernised the PE kit. This is with thanks to our pupils for helping us to update the kit and make it more functional for sports. Please do ensure that your child's kit is named clearly to avoid losing it.

A reminder that Junior pupils **MUST** be in winter uniform after the half term break. Please do check the website to ensure you have the right uniform for the weather.

Thank you for supporting the updated uniform policy for earrings. Pupils who are not in Year 5 to Year 11 cannot wear earrings to school and must not tape them for PE. Pupils who are allowed to wear earrings must have one plain stud in the lobe of the ear.

Staff changes

I am incredibly sad to say that our cherished Admission Registrar, Mrs Amey, is retiring after 20 years' service to Braeside School. Mrs Amey has been instrumental in providing our new parents with all the information they need on starting school and making them feel welcome in our school community. Mrs Amey will be missed by staff, pupils and parents. We wish her a happy retirement!

Mrs Carruthers has already started in the school office as our new Admissions Registrar. Please join me in welcoming her into her new role supporting our new and existing families.

Flu vaccinations

The letter from the Immunisation Team will be circulated by email this year. If you would like to give your consent for your child to have this vaccination on 30 November, you must follow the link that will be sent out shortly. There will also be contact details for the immunisation team on this email communication. Please do call the immunisation team about specific details of the vaccination programme for the most relevant and up to date advice.

Senior Assessments

As you are already aware, it has been Senior assessment week(s). Your child would have been given a revision list and the success criteria before they sat the assessments. The most valuable element to the assessment process is the response to the teachers' feedback. Teachers will have marked these assessments and indicated where your child needs to improve. Your child is now expected to act upon this feedback to demonstrate improvement. Please ask your child to show you their books regularly and discuss their areas for improvement.

Parents' Evenings and Coffee Morning

These have been planned throughout the half term and are published on our website. The office will contact parents with their invitation to attend in the week leading up to the coffee morning. It has been lovely meeting with parents face to face again, and Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and I are looking forward to talking to as many of you as possible over a cup of coffee. Please do not feel you have to wait until these events to chat about your child. If you have any comments or wish to discuss anything, please do contact your child's teacher, form tutor or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Charity Events this term

We will be raising money for Children in Need charity, as we do every year) on 12 November. This will be a non-school uniform day for all pupils in the school for a donation to the charity. I am very grateful to the Junior pupils for organising lots of activities on the day for all the pupils in the school.

As you are already aware, we also support Festive Jumper Day in December in support of the charity Save the Children. We ask that pupils and staff wear a festive jumper and other festive items together with non-school uniform for a small donation to a very important charity. This has been planned for Wednesday 8 December.

Other Events this Term

We are pleased to say that **House Drama** for Senior pupils has been scheduled for Friday 26 November. You would have received a letter with the details of the event and also information regarding the ticket allocation. Senior pupils must come to school in practical clothing for the event and must come with a light bag containing water and snacks for a busy day of acting. I will be ordering pizza for pupils before the performance. I hope to see you there.

This year we have secured tickets for the **Pantomime at The Harlow Playhouse** for Thursday 9 December for all pupils in the school up to Year 9. This was in consultation with pupils in the seniors last year who indicated that they would like to be included in this festive outing. Pupils will be travelling by coach from school.

The Nativity has been organised for Friday 10 December at St James United Reformed Church and will involve all pupils in the Juniors. You will receive a letter shortly with the details. Your child will be busy rehearsing for this and may have lines to read and songs to perform during the event.

FOBS and Braeside School are planning a **school disco** and festive activities after school on Monday 13 December. More information will follow regarding the cost and events planned nearer the time. FOBS are inviting Kindergarten to Year 8 to this event. House Captains and the Prefect Team will be helping out too.

The **Whole School Christmas Service** will be held once again at St James United Reformed Church on Tuesday 14 December in the morning. All pupils in the school will be involved in this event and it is a lovely way to celebrate the festive period as a whole school.

Everyone's Invited and Keeping Children Safe in Education – New Government Statutory Guidance for Schools

Following the publication of the testimonies of the survivors of sexual abuse in schools, the Government asked Ofsted to undertake an immediate review of safeguarding in both state and independent schools. As a result of recommendations arising from the review, the Government issued new statutory guidance to all schools and colleges to be implemented from September 2021, which is found in the document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education': https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021914/KCSIE_2021_September_guidance.pdf.

This guidance requires schools to look again at a number of aspects of what we teach about how to keep safe, maintaining healthy relationships, recognising peer-on-peer abuse and addressing concerns about sexual harassment or sexual violence.

All schools have needed to review their Relationships and Sex Education curriculum and consider how they create a culture in which pupils feel able to raise concerns and know that they will be listened to when they do so. Schools are required to take all concerns seriously and to have a 'zero tolerance' approach to unacceptable behaviour.

The review found that pupils find it very difficult to raise concerns in school and that they can feel very vulnerable in so doing, so we have been looking at how we can make a safe space for this to happen more easily for the Oak-Tree pupils, particularly those in the Seniors. We have decided to have a dedicated email address, which can be anonymous, at both Braeside and Normanhurst. Pupils and parents will receive information about this over the course of the next term.

In addition, we will be looking at our PSHE programme in all of the schools to ensure that lessons explore thoroughly the idea of consent and the safe use of the internet, including aspects like the sending of 'nudes' and 'semi-nudes' at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way.

National Online Safety Advice about Netflix's Squid Game

Netflix's Squid Game is set to become the service's most successful show of all time, with huge numbers of viewers taking to social media to discuss each new episode. The South Korean thriller features some scenes of fairly brutal violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC. It follows a group of adults who compete to win innocent-looking playground games, but who are killed if they do not succeed at the tasks.

Squid Game's popularity is beginning to spread across various online platforms. Associated content has been created – ranging from memes to apps – that convey the violence of the show, so it is helpful for parents to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it: https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR0gR4_0HjAYvPINA6UK0aszIKc10-8yC4K5CrOI2Es-dGzj9MjxeYQkbtQ

Squid Game's 15 rating has not prevented clips and images from the show being uploaded onto social media sites such as TikTok, with the #SquidGame hashtag being viewed more than 22.8 billion times. There have been reports of children who have accounts on these platforms inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme, and parents should be mindful of the prevalence of these uploads.

The popularity of the programme has also led to online challenges based on various scenes, which see people taking part in seemingly innocent children's games. On the show, however, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

Parking

A polite reminder that Ardmore Lane is a residential road and is also a cul-de-sac. We have worked closely with our neighbours over the past year to resolve the congestion that often comes with the start of a new term. Please do not park over residential drive ways. Please do not park with your wheels on the pavement as this causes a safety risk to pupils and residents. Please do not park or wait on any yellow lines that are marked in the road. We found that parking in quieter roads around the site (and then walking to the entrance or gate) was the safest and most harmonious drop off and pick up.

Winter Wellbeing

The Autumn Term is incredibly busy. We have engagements with our family and friends as well as engagements at school. Children can often feel tired and overwhelmed with the stimulation of Christmas. I have included a link to promote calm and harmony in a busy period of time. Please do click on the link to find out more: <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/winter-wellbeing-toolkit/>.

I hope to see you at our events planned over the Autumn Term. Please do contact the office if you need clarification about these events as it can be a busy time for our families.

Dates for the Diary

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

Tues 2 November	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wed 3 November	Rec & Year 1 Coffee Morning
Wed 3 November	Year 3 & 4 Football Competition

Thurs 4 November	Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama 'Woman in Black'
Fri 5 November	U11 Oaktree Netball
Wed 10 November	Year 3 & 4 Coffee Morning
Friday 12 November	ISA U10/11 Football Festival
Friday 12 November	Children in Need Day
Tues 16 November	Year 10 Parents Evening
Wed 17 November	Year 5 & 6 Coffee Morning
Thurs 25 November	ISA U11 Indoor Athletics
Friday 26 November	Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby
Friday 26 November	Year 7 -11 House Drama Competition at Lopping Hall
Tues 30 November	REC-Year 11 FLU Immunisation
Wed 1 December	Year 7 Coffee Morning
Wed 1 December	Year 4 Charles Dickens Museum
Tues 7 December	Year 8 HVP1 Immunisation
Wed 8 December	Year 8 & 9 Coffee Morning
Thurs 9 December	LK – Year 9 Pantomime at Harlow Playhouse
Fri 10 December	LK – Year 6 Nativity performance
Mon 13 December	LK -8 Christmas Activity Event
Tues 14 December	Whole School Christmas Service
Wed 15 December	Last Day of Autumn Term: Finish at 12.00 noon

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mrs Copeman or Miss Wood.

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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