



# Braeside School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 December 2021

Dear Parents

### Re: December 2021 Headmistress's Letter

Pupils have made a fantastic start to the second half of the Autumn Term and it is going to be very busy as we lead up to the festive period. Thank you to those parents who have attended Parents Evening and Coffee Mornings. It has been a pleasure for me and the teachers to meet and to speak to you in person.

Pupils have enjoyed some sporting success this term with our Junior pupils winning an Oak-Tree Group netball tournament and our Senior pupils having two victories in netball matches against a local school. We are proud of our pupils who regularly train and take part in these exciting fixtures.

Most year groups have now had a trip or workshop and more are planned for this term and the Spring Term. It feels like we are doing the 'normal' things that make school an exciting place to be.

### Parents' Evenings and Coffee Morning

These have been planned and are published on our website, as well as in previous Headmistress's letters, and you have been sent communication on how to attend. It has been lovely meeting parents face to face again 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.

### Reports and Assessments

We continue to assess pupils regularly on the skills and knowledge they have acquired over the term. We use the results to inform our planning for the future and the direction of learning for all year groups. It is important to engage in conversations at home about what your child has learned, what they find challenging and what they have enjoyed, which helps to reinforce their learning further. Senior pupils are able to take their work home in their books and folders. Please regularly look through your child's books and discuss to keep up to date with their learning journey and their responses to feedback. Junior pupils also respond to feedback and set themselves targets in lessons on a regular basis.

Results from assessments and performance and participation in learning will be commented on by teachers in the end of term reports which will be available on the portal. Please do read this report as soon as it is available for the most up to date information on your child's progress. Year 11 have already received their reports, following their mock exams.

### Events this term

Year 4 are going to enjoy a trip to The Charles Dickens Museum on 4 December. This is a wonderful experience that enhances the learning that they have already started about The Victorians and wholly appropriate for the festive period.

We have booked the pantomime at the Harlow Playhouse on 9 December for pupils in Kindergarten to Year 9. Last year we had an online pantomime owing to COVID restrictions which Senior pupils enjoyed watching. We have included them in this trip on their request and it will be a lovely way to start the festive activities at school. FOBS are kindly paying for a treat during the interval and we are very grateful to have their support for this event.

This year, we were hoping that The Nativity would resume at the church on Palmerston Road (St James United Reformed Church). However, owing to staff and pupils absences over the past few weeks, we have decided to change the event to a musical performance instead. We are pleased to invite parents from Kindergarten to Year 6 to watch this Braeside Christmas Service on Friday 10 December. Pupils have been preparing to sing together as one group of Juniors and there has been much excitement in school. In light of these last minute changes, we have decided to also work towards a performance in the Summer Term.

FOBS and Braeside School will be hosting the Christmas Activity on Monday 13 December after school for pupils from Kindergarten up to and including Year 8. I have secured the disco and DJ that we hired last year for music and games. There will be snacks, craft activities and a visit from Father Christmas during the activity. I will be sending a letter very shortly about this with the cost and timings. It was a great success last year and we hope that with more pupils attending, this will raise money for the school. This will also be our charity event in support of Save The Children when pupils will be allowed to wear a festive jumper and /or other festive items along with non-school uniform in exchange for a £2 donation to the charity.

The Whole School Christmas Service will also take place at St James United Reformed Church on Tuesday 14 December in the morning. This will involve the Seniors and Year 5 and 6 only. Parents are very welcome to join us. There will be religious and secular songs and readings and we will ask for congregational singing from all. Pupils will return to school after for their annual Christmas Lunch.

Please note that school will finish at 12pm on Wednesday 15 December. Pupils will be dismissed from their usual locations on this date. Senior pupils may need an additional bag to take home the contents of their locker in order for the cleaning team to do a deep clean.

#### **Parking for the Christmas Events**

I am writing this regarding the location of our Christmas events at the United Reformed Church and the limited parking that surrounds the church. There will be **no parking** at the church during Christmas events at the church. Please be mindful of the parking restrictions in the surrounding roads. Please park safely and give yourself enough time to find a suitable parking spot offsite to enable you to be there at the start of the event(s).

#### **Festive Wellbeing**

**The festive period can bring immense joy when we reunite with family and connect with relatives and friends. It can often be an exhausting for young people as their normal routine is disrupted (for pleasant reasons). I have included a link to a website that provides some helpful tips to support children's wellbeing over the busy festive period:** <https://happiful.com/6-ways-to-support-childrens-mental-health-this-winter/>

#### **Dates for the Diary**

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

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 to Year 9 Pantomime at Harlow Playhouse
Fri 10 December	Christmas Service (Juniors)
Mon 13 December	LK to Year 8 Christmas Activity Event
Tues 14 December	School Christmas Service (Year 5 to Year 11)
Wed 15 December	Last Day of Autumn Term: Finish at 12.00 noon
Thurs 6 January	First Day of Spring Term
Tues 12 January	Year 10 & Year 11 Coffee Morning
Tues 19 January	Kindergarten Coffee Morning
Fri 21 January	Year 5 & 6 Young Voices
Mon 24 January	Year 9 & 10 Learning Performance

Thurs 27 January  
Mon 7 February  
Fri 11 February

Year 8 & GCSE Art Workshop  
Year 7 Healthy Eating Workshop  
Dip, Tet, Polio & Meningitis Immunisation

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mrs Copeman or Miss Wood. I wish you a happy and restful Christmas break with your families.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon  
Headmistress



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