



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 March 2022

Dear Parents

Re: March 2022 Headmistress's Letter

Finally, we are seeing some lighter mornings and evenings as Spring approaches. The daffodil bulbs that were planted by our pupils are beginning to emerge in the garden and the new markings on the playground have made our outdoor space even more of a place of well-being and fun for all pupils. This is a very short term and we have Year 9 Options and Parents Evening coming up and Junior Parents Evening and Year 11 Mock Feedback Evening at the end of the term.

Face coverings

Please speak to your child about face coverings this half term. These have not been advised for use in school from 27 January, although we have said that pupils or members of staff may continue to wear them if they feel the need to. We do, however, want to be encouraging the pupils to return to normal pre-Covid life as much as possible. If you need any support for your child, please let a member of the Senior Leadership Team know.

Staff Changes

Kindergarten staff will be changing after the Easter break. Ms Piper is taking a career break from working with children. We thank her for her nurture and support over the past 5 years at Braeside School. Mrs Matthews (who has temporarily been covering after Mrs Toye's retirement) is also changing direction. Mrs Matthews has worked in Reception, Year 1 and Kindergarten and I am very grateful for her flexibility. We wish them the very best of luck in their new career paths.

I am incredibly pleased to announce that our new Kindergarten teachers will be Mrs Jessop and Mrs Patel. They have had extensive experience of working in a nursery and pre-school within a school setting. They are both familiar with the changes to the Early Years Framework and are very excited to be working with your children after the Easter break. Please welcome them to Braeside when you meet them. Mrs Jessop and Mrs Patel will both be visiting school for a handover and to meet the children.

Parents' Evenings coming up

We have three more Parents' Evenings scheduled for this term. Year 9 will have Options and Parents Evening on 15 March. This is a chance for you and your child to book appointments with teachers from Core Subjects and receive specific feedback from subject teachers about the GCSE course. The appointment scheduling will open prior to the evening, so please make sure that you use the booking system to book a convenient period of time. Staff have made a short film about the GCSE courses that are on offer at Braeside that pupils will have the opportunity to watch in school and at home with you ahead of the evening.

Junior Parents' Evening will be on Tuesday 29 March for all pupils up to Year 6. Please note that Year 1 Parents' Evening will now also be on the same evening. We will also be holding Year 11 Parents' Evening on the same night to give specific feedback in relation to the Mock GCSE exams that have recently taken place. Booking for these will open prior to the event. Please make sure you have made a note of these dates and times.

Coats, accessories and uniform

Please make sure that your daughter has a suitable coat for school. Junior pupils should have a regulation Braeside coat. Senior pupils must only wear a black or navy coat that is suitable for wet and windy weather. It must not have a logo on. Junior pupils should have regulation hats and scarves that are clearly marked with their name. Nameless items may go missing and cause anxiety for younger pupils when going out for playtime if they cannot be identified.

A reminder that earrings should only be worn by pupils in Year 5 to 11. Year 5 and 6 should not be wearing earrings on PE day. Plastic spacers cannot be worn in place of earrings for PE day or for younger pupils. Spacers are only permitted for a short period of time following a recent piercing and through discussion with me.

Another reminder that all pupils MUST have their hair tied neatly back if it is long enough to do so. If pupils have short hair and it interferes with their vision, please clip hair back. Hair accessories should be appropriate for school. They must be brown, blue or black.

Junior pupils can move to the Summer uniform after the Easter break and the list of regulation uniform items can be found on the school website. Please use the list on our website rather than the list at the school uniform shop.

Pupils wearing the Senior uniform must still wear black tights with their skirt until the weather is deemed hot enough for socks. I will let parents and Senior pupils know this information.

Events this term

Our Open Morning is on 3 March and some of Year 6 and 7 will be asked to be tour guides on this day. In the afternoon of 3 March, an author (David Long) will be delivering a workshop to juniors and Year 7.

On 3 March, The Oak-Tree Group have organised an e-safety workshop for pupils from Year 3 to Year 11. The staff will also have their own workshop to be able to support your child through the ever changing world of technology and access to the internet. Parents will also be invited to attend. The workshop is run by two ex-police officers who have worked with CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) and within the police service. This is an incredibly useful and eye-opening support for parents. More details will follow in a separate communication.

World Book Day is being planned for 4 March for all pupils up to and including Year 9. Senior pupils requested to be part of the celebration of literature and I welcome any suggestions from pupils to be involved in events at school. Mrs Doss will be communicating to parents about the theme and focus for World Book Day in due course.

Year 4 have a trip planned to the beautiful and interesting Kew Gardens on 16 March and on 17 March Year 6 pupils will be visiting The Imperial War Museum at Duxford to compliment the work they are exploring in History.

If your child plays an instrument and is taught by the peripatetic music staff at Braeside, you will be invited to attend a 'Peri Music Concert' on 25 March. To maximise the experience of pupils and parents, we are splitting the event into sections. Please reply to the text message to indicate whether you are available to attend so that we can arrange the timings and seating correctly.

Parking in and around the school

This is a polite reminder to be courteous and considerate when parking around the school site for drop-off and pick-up. Please do not mount any pavements around the school site as this poses a health and safety risk for pupils and residents walking along the pavement. Please also be mindful that a space between your car and the edge of the pavement must be left for wheelchairs and pushchairs to be able to use the pavement safely. Please do not block driveways of the houses in the surrounding roads.

When dropping your child off for breakfast club, please park up mindfully so that staff can access the parking spaces on the front drive in order to start their day promptly at school. Please also be mindful in evening when collecting your daughter from Tea Time Club or an after school club as all pupils walk across the drive to meet their parents.

Clubs

If you require Breakfast Club before school or Tea Time Club after school, please complete the on-line form on the Braeside website to secure your space and avoid disappointment. Please remember to supply school with a password if your child is in the Juniors – this is Early Years through to Year 6. This helps staff handover your child safely to an adult at the end of the activity or club if they are unfamiliar with the adult collecting your child. Please always phone the school before 3:30pm if the pick-up arrangements have changed.

Food on site

Whilst we like to celebrate special events and birthdays in school, I must remind you that we are a nut-free school. This means that food that contains nuts or traces of nuts is not allowed on site. To avoid disappointment with regard to school giving out cakes, please read the packaging of the product before you give it to the teacher. We will not distribute cakes and treats that contain traces of nuts.

Summer Ball 2022

The joint Oak-Tree Summer Ball is taking place this year in the Summer Term. Head Office has booked The Prince Regent Hotel in Chigwell on Saturday 18 June 2022 from 7pm until 1am, so do save the date! The Ball will have a 1920s Great Gatsby theme and will be open to parents and friends of the four schools. Mr Hagger will write in due course with further details.

End of term reminder

A polite reminder that the term finishes on Wednesday 30 March at 12pm. Senior pupils must clear their lockers for the deep clean of the locker room. Please make sure that your child (if a Senior pupil) brings spare carrier bags to school to take home any items in their locker.

Dates for the Diary

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

Wed 2 March	LK – Year 7 David Long visiting author
Thurs 3 March	Year 11 GCSE Drama Component 3 Examination
Thurs 3 March	Year 3 – 11 E-Safety Day
Fri 4 March	LK – Year 9 World Book Day
Fri 4 March	U11 London North Area Tag Rugby
Mon 7 March	Year 3 and 4 Netball @ Redbridge Sports Centre
Tues 8 March	Year 5 Netball @ St Aubyns
Wed 9 March	Year 7 and 8 Netball @ Park School
Fri 11 March	Year 1 Athletics @King Harold WESSP Sports Hall
Mon 14 March	Year 9 and 10 Netball v Park School @ Braeside
Tues 15 March	Year 9 Parents and Option Evening
16 - 17 March	Senior LAMDA Examinations
Wed 16 March	Year 4 Kew Gardens
Thurs 17 March	Year 6 Duxford
Fri 18 March	Comic Relief Day
Thurs 24 March	Junior LAMDA Examinations
Fri 25 March	U9 and U11 Oaktree Football tournament
Fri 25 March	Whole School Peri Concert
Wed 30 March	Last Day of Spring Term: Finish at 12.00 noon
Thurs 21 April	First Day of Summer Term

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

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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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