



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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2 September 2022

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

I hope you and your families have had a restful break over the summer and have managed some kind of holiday or staycation. I am very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back and for some new pupils starting their journey with Braeside.

Every year I seem to write about exciting new developments at Braeside, and this year is the start of the new uniform. All pupils should be wearing the new navy blue jumper and blazer that pupils helped to design last year. I am very proud that our pupils have given their input in changing the uniform that they think reflects Braeside in 2022.

Staff changes

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Aksoy to the Office Team after we said farewell to Mrs Sheffield. Mrs Pipe is now the new Office Manager and Mrs Cubitt remains the Admissions Secretary. Please do give Mrs Aksoy a very warm welcome!

Mrs Doss (Reception Teacher and Head of Early Years) will be leaving for Maternity Leave in the second week of September. You will notice that Miss Ali will be getting to know you all as the Reception Teacher until Mrs Doss returns. She has a wealth of experience both in UK schools and in Dubai and is very excited to be meeting you and your children this term. Mrs Doss and Miss Ali will be team teaching to support the transition of your child into Reception and with the change in staffing. Mrs Sek is the Teaching Assistant who will be with the children throughout the year.

A reminder that Miss Wood is the Deputy Head from September and Miss Barrett and Mr Masood join the Senior Leadership Team too. If you have any questions about the start of term, please email or call your child's class teacher or form tutor in the first instance. Miss Barrett and Mr Masood can also now take your questions and queries about the start of the term.

Assessments

Pupils will be sitting baseline assessments at the start of the term. For Year 10 pupils, this is called YELLIS. For Year 7 pupils, these are called MidYis and for all other pupils, these are referred to as baseline assessments. We will notify pupils when their assessment has been scheduled. These are not assessments that can be revised for. They are a snapshot of your child's potential ability on the day, and which staff refer to when planning for the year. If you have any questions about these assessments, please get in touch with Miss Wood.

Uniform

In my July Headmistress' letter, I wrote to you about having the correct uniform this term. This means that seniors must wear black tights. This also means no white or brown tights for any other pupil in the school. Coats must be regulation for Junior pupils and must be plain black or navy for senior pupils. Coats must be long enough to cover the body and MUST be waterproof. The uniform list can be found in the Parents Handbook and also on the website.

Shoes must be suitable for school and must not be boot or 'Kickers' style and cannot be canvas. You would have already read in the Parents' Handbook **that pupils from Year 5 to Year 11 are permitted to wear one plain stud in the lobe**. Please check your child's ears before the set off for school to ensure that they are wearing a plain stud in the lobe.

Swimming and PE Kits

Please ensure that your child has a clean towel and regulation swimsuit and house coloured hat for their Monday lesson. Pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 will be swimming. **Pupil should come into school in their school uniform (not PE Kit as in previous years)**. This is in response to parents finding the washing and drying of PE kit a challenge during the week. I completely understand. Now is the right time to revert back to wearing PE Kit only on the days that your child has PE.

In addition, PE leggings (again, requested by pupils) have been available from the uniform shop since the summer term. Only these leggings should be worn for PE. The new style hoodie for PE has also been available since the Spring Term.

Dropping off and collecting your child

School will be open from 8:25am and the register will be taken at 8:40am. Pupils can enter the site between these times. Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 2 will be dropped off by driving into the front of the school and dropping your child at the Main Entrance where they will be met by staff known to them (and also the Prefect Team attached to the Juniors). Pupils in Year 3 to 6 should be dropped at the Junior Gate on Ardmore Lane. Senior pupils will enter the site from the Senior Gate on Ardmore Lane.

Please remind your child that they must not sit on the pavement or block the pavement waiting for the gate to open.

Collection (if your child is not attending a club) will be at 3:30pm for Junior Pupils. This includes all pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6. Senior pupils will exit the site from the Senior Gate at 3:45pm.

Changes to Personal Details

Please let us know as soon as possible if any of your contact details have changed over the summer. This includes your address, telephone numbers and emergency contact details. You can check the current information we hold on your Parent Portal.

It is a requirement that all schools have at least two emergency contacts, who would be available if needed during the school day. We also need to know if your child's medical information has changed or if they have any food allergies or intolerances. Please ensure that we have this important information by Friday 16 September, including the hospital or GP notes to confirm any medical needs. Parents can update these details by logging onto the portal. If parents are away for any reason during term time and your children are being looked after by relatives – you should notify the office and class teacher with the name and contact details of the relative in advance, so that we know who has responsibility for your child while you are away.

If you have any questions or concerns about the information, contact the school office and a member of the team will be happy to assist you.

Parent Portals

The office will contact new parents this week with information about how to access the Parent Portals. The email will contain your username and password details. Please email support@oaktreeschools.co.uk if you need any assistance and our team will be happy to help. Your Parent Portal will contain much information, including the Parent's Handbook, timetable and Autumn Term 1 Curriculum overview. Please check your portal regularly as this is an important form of our parent/school communication. You should receive an email when new information has been uploaded.

Long Term Medication

If your child requires the school to store and, when needed, administer long term medication, please download and complete the appropriate forms. These forms and the labelled medication should be given to the office staff on the first day of term. Thank you.

Enhancements to the building

We are continually seeking to enhance the wonderful facilities that we have here at Braeside on the main site. Over the summer, the Junior classrooms have had a makeover as have some of the toilet facilities. The painting of the back of the building has begun (which is a significant job) and the remainder will be finished to return the back of the building to its splendour at Easter. We have added new lockers outside the awning for quicker and easier access for Year 9 pupils.

Parents' Evening and Curriculum Mornings

Parents' Evening and meeting dates should be published on the school website for all years. Please make a note of these. In addition, there are some information evenings for GCSE pupils. However, these will take place on Zoom (as requested by a majority of parents) so that they can be accessed at a convenient time and location. We are hoping to have Junior Drop-in Mornings this term and these dates are available for you on the school website. We are really looking forward to welcoming you back into the school this term.

Homework

A homework timetable will be available to you via the portal at the start of term. This is to help Senior pupils to plan and manage their time effectively. In addition, pupils in the Seniors will be using Show My Homework to view their homework (parents can view this too) and track their progress towards their deadlines. There is also a chat function where they can liaise with their teachers directly if they have any issues accessing the homework. A reminder that Mr Masood is the administrator for Show My Homework, so please ask your child to seek his assistance for password and other Show My Homework related issues. If your child is in Year 7, they will have a pupil and parent password given to them at the start of term.

Junior homework will be set by the class teacher or specialist teacher and this will appear on Seesaw. You will already be familiar with this application. If your child does not have a password yet, they will be given this at the start of term. Parents also have a parent log in.

Congestion

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.

The return to school – pupil well-being

Some pupils may find the start of the new year quite daunting. We are incredibly excited to welcome new pupils to the school this week and I know that our current pupils and staff will warmly welcome them. If your child has any questions, queries or worries, please encourage them to speak to their class teacher or form tutor in the first instance. Mrs Spencer will also be available in the mornings to speak to pupils to help them return to school in the most positive way.

Dates for the Diary

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

Mon 5 Sep	First Day of Term
Thur 8 Sep	Kindergarten and Reception RWI info meeting
Fri 9 Sep	Year 7 High Ropes
Wed 14 Jul	Year 1 Year 6 Curriculum Info meeting
	Year 10 to Year 11 Inspector Calls
Mon 19 Sep	Year 11 Mock Week
Tues 20 Sep	Year 10 GCSE Info meeting
	Year 4 WESSA Football Competition
Fri 23 Sep	Jeans for Genes Day
Tue 27 Sep	Year 11 Parents 6 th Form info meeting
Wed 28 Sep	Kindergarten to Year 6 Drop in Morning

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Miss Wood. In the meantime, I hope you have a lovely start to the new academic year.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



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