



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 December 2022

Dear Parents

Re: December 2022 Headmistress's Letter

We have had an exceptionally busy term with trips in the Early Years, Juniors and Seniors. Pupils have been working hard and preparing for assessments at the end of term. It has been a pleasure to see students gathering for meetings to support the Eco-Team, School Council and Charity Committee. Pupils have shown leadership and decision making skills and have taken action on the issues that they highlighted from these meetings. It has been a pleasure to see Year 10 and Year 7 parents as the recent Parents' Evenings and it has been lovely to spend time talking to parents at the Coffee Mornings too. I hope to see you at our forthcoming events before the end of term.

Assessments and Results

If your child is in Early Years (Kindergarten and Reception) you would have been given access to your Evidence Me account back in August. Teaching staff regularly update you on your child's progress via this platform. It is a two way platform that allows parents to interact with the progress updates on a weekly basis. Please ensure that you look at these updates regularly to inform your discussions at home about your child's learning experience. It would be very beneficial for you to interact with the programme to show us what your child has been doing at home.

Pupils in the Seniors have had assessments before half term. Pupils then have individual feedback on their assessments and have the chance to respond in green pen. This is a chance for your child to re-do any questions that they found challenging after they have had their feedback. Please do engage with this process by asking your child to show you their books and assessment papers so that they can articulate what they need to do to improve. The next assessment week for Seniors will be from 5-9 December and reports will follow for pupils in Year 7-10.

Climate Change Steps

Both of the Eco-Teams from the Juniors and Seniors would like me to inform you of the importance of acting on Climate Change. They have decided to encourage you to take small steps in taking action by parking further away from school and enjoy the short walk to the Junior and Senior gates. The Eco-Team would also like to thank those pupils that walk to school or use public transport in supporting steps to tackle emissions caused by local traffic and short journeys.

Residents around the school

We have had many replies from our neighbours about attending the Senior led event called 'Carols Around the Christmas Tree'. Our neighbours in surrounding areas have been invited to listen to festive songs and enjoy a mince pie.

Please do be respectful when dropping your child to school. Do not block driveways or use private driveways to turn around. Please do not mount the pavement as pupils and members of the public are walking on them. Please try to use the surrounding roads to ease congestion around the school site. This makes drop off and pick up more pleasant and safe for everyone.

PE Provision

Miss Barrett would like me to remind parents and pupils in Years 7 - 9 that they will be doing hockey for PE after the Festive Break. They should bring a hockey stick and shin pads and wear their normal PE kit for this activity.

Charitable Events

On **Tuesday 13 December** it will be Festive Wear Day. We will be supporting the charity Action for Children again this year. Pupils will be invited to wear festive items for the day in exchange for a small donation. We will write to you separately about this event.

Epping Forest Foodbank would like to extend their thanks once again to parents for donating Christmas items to them for the Christmas Appeal. They have weighed the produce and it was the same as an artic wolf! It is heart-warming to know that we have supported local families to have a more enjoyable Christmas. Year 11 should feel very proud of themselves for organising this collection.

Pre-loved Uniform by FOBS

I am delighted to announce that FOBS have taken ownership of the 'pre-loved uniform' sales for this academic year. We would be delighted to accept the following Braeside uniform items: navy jumpers, navy blazers, skirts / kilts, pinafores, summer dresses, grey uniform trousers, Braeside tie, PE hoodies and PE leggings. These must, of course, be the Braeside branded uniform. FOBS will be collecting this uniform after the Festive Break (in January) ready for a sale in the Spring Term.

Autumn Term Activities and Christmas Schedule

This is a brief outline of events that have been planned for the festive period. I thought it be useful to detail these in chronological order. All events will be communicated to you directly nearer the date regarding timings and practical information about your attendance.

- **Friday 9 December** pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be performing their Nativity play and songs at St James Church in Palmerston Road in the afternoon. We have been working towards the energetic songs, dancing and script and pupils will all have an aspect of performance in this Nativity event. Parents will be invited to this event.
- **Monday 12 December** FOBS and Braeside School staff will be holding our annual Christmas Activity Event that includes a DJ and party entertainer, craft activities, food and sweet stalls. The number of staff members in attendance outweighs the supporters from FOBS. Please do get in touch with FOBS if you can support by giving your time or supplying some of the items that we need for the event. Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 9 will be invited to this event planned for after school.
- **Tuesday 13 December** it will be Christmas Dinner day for all pupils in the school. Pupils (and staff) very much look forward to a traditional roast dinner and scrumptious Christmassy dessert. This will also be Festive Wear Day for all pupils in the school. This is also the day where Key Stage 3 pupils will be hosting an event for the residents in the local area.
- **Wednesday 14 December** the annual Pantomime visit for pupils from Kindergarten to Year 8. Braeside have purchased tickets that fill most of the theatre and pupils will be transported on a coach there and back. FOBS have kindly offered to pay for the ice cream treat in the interval again this year. Year 11 prefect team will also be helping at this event.

Festive Photographs

We have been working with DE Photos for many years, and the team will be taking individual and group photos of the Christmas Nativity this year. Photographs will be available to purchase in the church car park after the event on Friday 9 December.

Pupil well-being during the Festive Period

Christmas can be overwhelming for children with its late nights, social gatherings and changes to routine. It helps if the few days leading up to the return to school could include as much 'normal' routine as possible such as going to bed at a sensible time and making sure that bags are packed and equipment is ready for learning. This prepares pupils for the return to the classroom and learning as best as possible. If you have any pastoral concerns about your child, please contact their class teacher or form tutor in the first instance. Miss Barrett is also available for you to speak to.

Dates for the Diary

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

Thur 1 Dec	Year 8 Trip to Stubbers
Fri 2 Dec	Junior Choir singing Christmas event EYFS Tea and Father Christmas Year 11 Mock GCSE Art
Mon 5 Dec	Year 10 & Year 11 Mock GCSE Art
Tue 7 Dec	Years 7,8 & 9 Spelling Bee
Fri 9 Dec	KG-Year 6 Nativity
Mon 12 Dec	KG – Year 8 Christmas Activity Year 7-Year 11 Flu Immunisations
Tues 13 Dec	Key Stage 3 Songs around the Christmas tree Festival Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
Wed 14 Dec	LK-Year 8 Harlow Playhouse Pantomime
Thur 15 Dec	Break up at 12pm
Tue 10 Jan	Start of Spring Term
Tue 27 Jan	Year 9 Expectations Review Meeting

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

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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