



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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2 October 2023

Dear Parents

Re: October 2023 Headmistress's Letter

It has certainly been a busy start to the term. Our Early Years pupils have settled in very well to Kindergarten and Reception and have been busy exploring the gardens and Epping Forest as the season changes. We have had several sporting events and successes with football and skiing (for the first time ever at Braeside). We are busy preparing artwork from across the school to enter into the regional ISA competition and have been nominated for our art success for a national award through the Independent Schools Association.

This week has a focus on student wellbeing, which I have explained more about in this letter.

Staff reminders

We will be joined by a new member of the mid-day assistant team this month who will supporting pupils at lunchtime called Mrs Fleming. Mrs Fleming has been working in a local primary school and is very excited to be joining Braeside.

Assessments

Pupils in Year 10 will have been given their YELLIS data this week. They should display this data and their aspirational targets on the front of all their GCSE folders and workbooks. The purpose is to keep pupils on track during their GCSE courses and also to inspire them to aim high. Please do get in touch with Mr Masood (as Head of Seniors) with any questions you may have about the data that we use.

Uniform

Now the weather is truly reflecting Autumn, I remind you that coats must be the 'regulation' for Juniors available from the uniform supplier. Senior pupils may only wear a black or navy coat that is waterproof and covers the entire body. This also applies to scarves and hats. These can be purchased from Forest Casuals – please refer to the current uniform list. All pupils can wear boots to and from school but these must be removed and stored in a bag or in a locker at the start of the school day.

We have some lost property throughout the school beginning to build up. However, they are unnamed items of clothing which makes it difficult to return to the owner. Please ensure that you label items of clothing so that they find their way back to your child at the end of the day.

Open Day and Evening

Children across the school may be invited to support during Open Day and Evening on Wednesday 11 October. You would have already been sent a letter inviting your child to attend and help on the evening. Year 7 and 8 pupils have been invited to be guides and pupils in Year 9-11 may be selected to support in departments across the school. It is imperative that your child wears the correct uniform on the evening and looks smart and tidy in order to present the school in the best light. I would like to give my thanks ahead of the event for the help and support that your children give to the school.

Wellbeing Week

I am delighted that we have appointed pupil Wellbeing Ambassadors to help us develop a pupil-led strategy to support mental wellbeing. Dilly and Eliza in Year 10 are part of the prefect team and have organised some events and proposed some ideas that Braeside will be supporting. This week is 'no homework' week across the school. In addition, pupils in Key Stage 3 have been invited to a workshop this week delivered by Chartwell's (our food providers) to learn more about sensory experiences around food. A movie afternoon has also been planned for this term (and we thank FOBS for supporting the snacks for this event).

Assembly themes

This term we have explored different themes each week. We have reiterated safety around the school, safeguarding policy and practices and online safety. We have highlighted the importance of feedback and responding to the targets staff set. Our wellbeing ambassadors have delivered some information and advice about keeping well and healthy. The Junior and Senior Green Team and Eco Team have introduced their sustainable ideas for a greener school. Mrs Alahi has introduced the Oak Tree Challenge and how this can contribute to pupil resilience. Later in the term we will discuss the importance of giving ahead of the Harvest Festival.

Dropping off and collecting your child

Please remember to pull as far forward as you can when dropping your child off in the morning for Breakfast Club. Pulling level with the minibus allows staff to access the parking spaces so that they can start their day of work.

Pupils in Year 7 to Year 11 are expected to exit the site at 3:45pm (unless they are attending club). They must not congregate around the gate at the end of the day as this causes congestion on the pavement. We do not have Tea Time Club / After School Club for seniors as this is a Junior pupil facility.

Changes to medication

At this point in the year, we see more coughs and colds. It is important that you let the office know any medication your child has taken before arriving at school and update any medication records that we may have for your child. Pupils must not carry cold and flu remedies with them. They must not have paracetamol / pain relief on them during the day. This is administered by the office when you have dropped them off and completed the correct paperwork.

If you know your child is attending a trip, please ensure that they have their regular medication. Senior pupils must carry their own medication and it is important that this is in date and accessible especially if they are going off-site for a trip.

Harvest Festival

The annual Harvest Festival is at St James URC Church in Palmerston Road on 20 October. Every year, we are proud to have collected items for the Epping Forest Foodbank (who came to speak at Speech Day in July). We have already invited Junior parents to this event. The letter includes information about the foodbank and the timings of the event. We have also asked senior pupils to bring in items to support the foodbank.

Please remember that there is no available parking on-site at the church. This is residents parking only. Please do not use the car park for a turning circle as it poses a risk to Braeside pupils who are entering the church having walked there. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parents' Evening this term

Parents' Evening and meeting dates are published on the school website for all years. Please make a note of these. There will be a Parents' Evening for Year 10 and Junior pupils in the last week of term. Parents of Senior pupils must make appointments with teachers who teach their child at GCSE. Teachers will provide a snapshot of how your child is performing at the start of their GCSE journey. Junior parents' evening is a chance to see how your child has settled in and how they are responding to the curriculum. We ask that you arrive promptly for your appointment. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate late arrivals as this impinges on the other appointment times.

Homework

A senior homework timetable is available to you via the portal from 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. If your child is new, they will also receive this log in 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

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. Please do not park on the kerb. Pupils exiting the Junior and Senior gates have expressed a concern that parents have been parking with the wheels of their car on the pavement. This has made some pupils anxious when leaving school. Please park mindfully and use the adjacent roads to make our pupils feel safer.

Mild Illness and School Attendance

The Government has published some guidance for parents about school attendance if their children are slightly unwell, which is based on advice from Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer, as well as other eminent medical professionals.

Parents can view the letter here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The guidance says that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

The guidance also offers advice for parents whose children may feel anxious about coming to school: guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance.

Dates for the Diary

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

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| W/C 2 Oct | Wellbeing Week |
| Tue 3 Oct | Year 7 & 8 Senior Reports Meeting |
| | Year 1 – 3 Dance Workshop |
| | Year 2 & 3 Ray Park |
| Thu 5 Oct | Year 8 Home Safety |
| Fri 6 Oct | Year 5 & 6 Girls Football |
| Wed 11 Oct | Open Day |
| | Year 8 & 9 Netball Vs NHS @ Home |
| Thu 12 Oct | Year 9 Healthy Relationships |
| | Junior House Netball |
| Fri 13 Oct | Year 10 Trip to Waltham Abbey Church |
| Tue 17 Oct | Year 10 and Junior Parents Evening incl. Specialist teachers. |
| | U11 7-a-side Girls Netball @ Peter May |

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| Wed 18 Oct | Year 5 & 6 Art drop down day |
| Thu 19 Oct | Junior Harvest Rehearsal at St James |
| | Year 10 & 11 Netball Vs NHS @ Home |
| Fri 20 Oct | Harvest Performance @ St James |
| | Break up for half term |
| Mon 6 Nov | Return to school |
| | Year 11 Mocks |
| Wed 8 Nov | Year 10 & 11 Coffee Morning |
| Fri 10 Nov | Year 3 Trip to Science Museum |

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Miss Wood. We are all looking forward to welcoming your children back into school tomorrow.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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