



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 December 2023

Dear Parents

Re: 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 encouraging to see students gathering for meetings to support the Eco-Team, School Council and Charity Committee. Pupils have shown leadership, decision making 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 at the recent Parents Evenings and to spend time talking to parents at the Coffee Mornings. I hope to see you in 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.

Reports

Senior and Junior reports will be published at the end of term in December. These have been updated to reflect how we now assess and monitor progress in school. Junior reports have a slightly different format which we hope are easier to interpret. Senior reports have been changed in response to feedback from parents in order to make the data relatable to the progress pupils are making towards their GCSE exams.

Please do read these and discuss the comments and reflections by staff with your child. The narrative we use with children in school is that targets are set to support change and improvement.

Residents around the school

We have had many positive replies from our neighbours to our invitation to 'Carols Around the Christmas Tree'. Our neighbours have been invited to listen to festive songs and enjoy a mince pie on Monday 11 December. Pupils across the school will be taking part in this community event.

Please do be respectful when dropping your child to school and try to use the surrounding roads carefully to ease congestion around the 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. This makes drop off and pick up more pleasant and safe for everyone.

Charitable events

Tuesday 12 December 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 with more information about this event.

Epping Forest Foodbank would like to extend their thanks once again to parents for donating money for pupils to buy items to them for the Christmas Appeal. We are also delighted with the new toy donations from our families for children in need across the district. It is very important to our school community that children understand the importance of supporting families in need especially over the festive period.

Pre-loved Uniform by FOBS

FOBS are continuing to take 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 Christmas holiday (in January) ready for a sale in the Spring Term. Please donate via the office and place any pre-loved items in a carrier bag.

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 8 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. There will be no parking on site for parents – please use surrounding roads.

Monday 11 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. Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 9 will be invited to this event planned for after school. We are very grateful to the staff and FOBS who give up their time to provide a fun, community event for pupils to enjoy.

Tuesday 12 December 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.

Wednesday 13 December will be the annual Pantomime visit for pupils from Kindergarten to Year 9. 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. The Year 10 and 11 prefect team will also be helping at this event. When we arrive back in school, we will have a 'House Quiz'.

Thursday 14 December school finishes at 12pm. Pupils should bring a carrier bag to school so that they can take home any items that they usually leave in their classroom or locker. We have our special assembly for achievements in the morning.

Pupil well-being during the Festive Period

Christmas can be overwhelming for children with 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 learning mindset. If you have any pastoral concerns about your child, please contact their class teacher or form tutor in the first instance. Miss Barrett and Mrs Spencer are also available for you to speak to.

Dates for the Diary

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

Mon 04 Dec	Senior House Christmas Community Carols
Tues 05 Dec	Year 5 & 6 Netball Vs Daiglen
Tues 05 Dec	Year 7 & 8 Netball Vs Trinity
Tues 05 Dec	Y11 Parents Evening and Mock Feedback
Wed 06 Dec	Nativity Rehearsal
Thur 07 Dec	KS3 Spelling Bee
Thur 07 Dec	Year 10 & 11 Mock Art
Fri 08 Dec	Year 10 & 11 Mock Art
Fri 08 Dec	Nativity Performance @ St James
Mon 11 Dec	FOB's Christmas Activity
Mon 11 Dec	Senior House Christmas Carols
Mon 11 Dec	EY's Shooting Star
Tue 12 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Lunch
Wed 13 Dec	Year 1 Year 9 Panto @ Harlow Playhouse
Thur 14 Dec	12pm End of Term
Tue 09 Jan	First day of Spring Term
Wed 10 Jan	Year 1 & Year 2 Coffee Morning
Thur 11 Jan	Year 6 & Year 7 Harry Potter World
Fri 12 Jan	Year 10 & Year 11 Blood Brothers Workshop

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

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



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BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

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