



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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8 November 2023

Dear Parents

Re: **November 2023 Headmistress's Letter**

I hope you have enjoyed some family time over the half term and have had a good rest. We have started the term with enthusiasm and it has been lovely to see your children happy to share their news about the holidays.

Staff changes

As many of you will already know, Madam Flagg will be leaving at Christmas to take a role outside of teaching. She has also relocated to Somerset over half term and is commuting to Essex for the remainder of the term. We are very grateful for Madam Flagg and her exciting approach to science and we wish her the very best of luck in a new chapter!

Our new Head of Science will be Ms Egharevba who is currently Head of Science at a Harris Academy School. She has extensive experience in a range of local schools including Trinity Catholic High School. She impressed us with her dynamic teaching and her knowledge and experience of the senior science curriculum. I know that your daughters will welcome her in January.

Assessments

Both Senior and Junior pupils completed assessments before half term. The staff are now using the data to plan for this half term and pupils will be receiving their feedback. It is incredibly important that students 'close the feedback loop' by engaging with their next steps. This can include re-submitting work or re-wording a question. Please do discuss this with your child and have a look through their books and assessments.

Year 11 pupils are currently sitting their mock exams in exam conditions to prepare them for the public exams in the summer. We have spoken to all pupils in the school about being respectful and quiet around the school for the next two weeks. Feedback will be given to pupils in lessons after the exam series and Parents Evening will follow in December to share this feedback with you.

Uniform

All Junior uniform must reflect the winter uniform list on the website. It is important that children are warm and comfortable in school with a blazer and jumper at all times. Junior pupils must wear a regulation coat. Senior pupils can wear a plain black or navy coat that is waterproof. Pupils may wear boots to travel to school but they must remove these when they arrive at school.

On occasions, your child's trainers or football boots may get muddy. We will always send a text reminder to equip your child with a spare pair of shoes or trainers if we expect mud.

Parents Evening

We have a Parents Evening scheduled for Year 7 next week (Tuesday 14 November). If you are new to the school, please ensure you have your portal log in to hand to be able to access the booking system. Mrs Pipe will be sending you an invitation to book an appointment. This is a 'settling in' Parents Evening. Year 11 have a Parents Evening in December that will be focussed on feedback from the mock exams this month. Please bear in mind that owing to the scheduling of appointments, we cannot accommodate late comers on the evening.

FOBS and parent helpers

I was delighted to see so many parent helpers at the Oak Tree Fireworks Display this weekend. Thank you to those of you who helped out in various ways to make a special evening. We are pleased to announce that the FOBS Festive Disco will be on Monday 11 December. We have secured a DJ and party entertainer for Early Years to Year 9. Tickets will be available to buy from next week (following a separate communication).

FOBS will also be organising a pizza delivery kit, as we had last year, at the end of term. Again, FOBS will email you with the details about signing up for this event.

Assembly themes this term

This term we will be exploring the meaning of Remembrance in the 21st Century. We will also be highlighting hidden female stories in history as a theme. November marks anti-bullying week, which we will be discussing in assembly and form time. In addition, we will look at using mistakes as opportunities for growth and using the Christmas period to talk about the importance of giving to the community. If you have anything you could offer to the school community for an assembly – please do get in touch with some ideas and offers as we like to be as broad and relevant as possible.

Dropping off and collecting your child – darker nights

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.

It now gets dark at the end of the school day. Please make sure that your child is familiar with their route home and that they exit the school and start their journey home promptly on public transport.

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.

Key Events

We have in school events (starting off with the Mexican Dance Workshop this week), trips (Epping Forest Youth Conference on 17 November) and special Christmas events coming up.

The annual Junior Nativity will be on Friday 8 December at St James URC in the afternoon. Please note that there is no on-site parking at the church. Please use the surrounding roads. The performance will be recorded by DE Photos (who usually provide this service) and will be available to purchase after the event. Pupils have a schedule of morning rehearsals over the next few weeks.

The FOBS disco, as aforementioned, will be in the afternoon of 11 December – more details to follow. If your daughter has a responsibility on the prefect team, they will be expected to help out.

Festive Wear Day and Christmas Lunch will be held on Tuesday 12 December. We invite pupils to wear some festive accessories and their own clothes (this could include a Festive Jumper) in exchange for a £2 donation to Save The Children charity. A special Christmas Lunch will also be served on this day.

On Wednesday 13 December it is Pantomime Day. Early Years will be having a travelling pantomime come into school and the rest of the school up to Year 9, will be travelling to the Harlow Playhouse for their annual performance.

The Charity Committee have arranged a fund, raising day this month for Children in Need. The charity committee are responsible for planning the types of activities and the range of charities we support over the year. We are always very grateful to parents who work for companies that match fundraising events for charities in the school. Please refer to Miss Barrett's recent email about this fundraising event.

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. 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. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any issues in using this application.

Dates for the Diary

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

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| Mon 6 Nov | Return to school |
| Mon 6 Nov – Fri 17 Nov | Year 11 Mocks |
| Tue 7 Nov | Year 7 & Year 8 Flamenco Workshop |
| Wed 8 Nov | Years 10 & 11 Coffee Morning |
| Fri 10 Nov | Year 6 Junior Citizenship |
| Fri 10 Nov | Year 3 Trip to Science Museum |
| Mon 13 Nov | Year 2 Florence Nightingale Workshop |
| Mon 13 Nov | Year 5 & 6 Netball Vs NHS @ Home |
| Tue 14 Nov | Year 7 Parents Evening |
| Wed 15 Nov | Year 7 to 9 Coffee Morning |
| Wed 15 Nov | Oak Tree Maths Challenge |
| Thur 16 Nov | Year 3 to 11 ISA Cross Country |
| Fri 17 Nov | Flu Immunisation |
| Fri 17 Nov | Children in Need |
| Fri 17 Nov | EFYC – Youth Conference |
| Thur 23 Nov | U11 ISA London Girls Football |
| Fri 24 Nov | Year 5 & 6 Mixed Tag Rugby |
| W/C 27 Nov | Assessment Week |
| Tue 28 Nov | U11 Sports Hall Athletics @ Peter May |
| Wed 29 Nov | Year 3 to 6 Coffee Morning |
| Mon 4 Dec | Senior House Christmas Community Carols |
| Tue 5 Dec | Year 5 & 6 Netball Vs Daiglen |
| Tue 5 Dec | Year 7 & 8 Netball Vs Trinity |
| Wed 6 Dec | Nativity Rehearsal |
| Thur 7 Dec | KS3 Spelling Bee |
| Thur 7 Dec | Year 10 & 11 Mock Art |

Fri 8 Dec Year 10 & 11 Mock Art
Fri 8 Dec Nativity Performance @ St James
Mon 11 Dec FOB's Christmas Activity
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

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

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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