



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN MSc., B.A. (HONS), PGCE

November 2016

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Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families enjoyed the mid-term break and that you are looking forward to the forthcoming coming half-term, which has a number of special events as Christmas approaches. Please make a note of the dates at the end of this letter, on the app calendar and on the website.

As we return to school, may I remind you that all pupils should now be wearing the winter uniform. Juniors from Reception class should wear the regulation school coat from the uniform shop; seniors can wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat.

In the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, a plain black or navy scarf is to be worn.

Senior Trip to Rome

I am most grateful to the staff team who led the excellent trip to Rome during the holiday. Around thirty pupils went to Rome with Mr Beint, Miss Bonella and Mrs Kazim. The trip was a great success; the sun shone and the group had some marvellous experiences spending time at many of the iconic sites in Rome. Our students' behaviour was excellent and staff were proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout. Please look at the website to see photos of their adventure.

Oak-Tree Holiday Clubs

There were holiday activity weeks offered to our pupils from Upper Kindergarten to Year 6 during the half-term and a large number of Oak-Tree pupils participated. I hope parents found these useful and that your children enjoyed the sports and the chance to make friends with children from our other schools. Additionally, there will also be an activity week in the first week of the Christmas holiday this year.

Holiday Work on Site

A new block of toilets has been built for the infant children in Years 1 and 2. This is located near the Reception toilets in the Early Years' garden. In addition, a number of new sheds have been built and the Reception toilets have been refurbished and painted. There is still some painting to be done in the new toilet block and we hope it will be open by the end of the first week back.

The rear of the school hall has been re-clad over the holidays and a new hall door fitted. The maintenance staff have completed a number of other painting and maintenance projects, including the Computing Suite and junior landing.

Christmas Card Competition

Mr Beint launches the Christmas card design competition in assembly on Monday 7 November. The final date for entries is Friday 18 November. There will be a winner from the juniors and the seniors and we will have the images professionally printed to be the school's official Christmas card this year.

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Every year we support the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, with a target of collecting 100 boxes to send overseas to children who would not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas. As well as decorating your own empty shoe box, it is possible to buy a ready-prepared one provided by the charity from the school office for 50p, which can then be filled in the normal way. The deadline for boxes to be given to Mrs Prior is Friday 18

November. Please do contact the office, or your child's form teacher, if you need any more information about how to take part.

Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Poppies will be on sale in school this week and the Charity Committee will be going round to form rooms during morning registrations. Poppies will also be available from the school office. We hope to see all our pupils wearing a poppy on Friday 11 November. We will mark the day with a minute's silence in the playground and at the front of school at 11.00am. I am very grateful to Max Sheard, our Head Boy, who will play the Last Post for us.

Oak-Tree Firework Display Sunday 13 November

The Normanhurst School Parents' Association (NSPA) is working with the parents' associations at the other three Oak-Tree Schools to run the fireworks display on Sunday 13 November. Details are on the website. Tickets need to be pre-ordered and will not be available on the night. The event will be great fun and we look forward to seeing you there.

National Anti-Bullying Week 14-18 November 2016

Every year we support the national anti-bullying week campaign, which aims to raise awareness of what bullying is and how to tackle bullying. This year the theme is 'Power for Good'. As part of our commitment to ensuring that we are 'anti-bullying' schools, we are giving each pupil a booklet on bullying to take home and share with parents. This will go home during Anti-Bullying Week.

School Production Rehearsals

The school production takes place as usual in the Spring Term. Mrs Kazim is in the process of casting and arranging the rehearsals for this year's show. It is an excellent opportunity to work in a team, develop performance skills, or to help as part of the production team and back stage crew. I look forward to seeing it take shape in the coming months.

Staff News

Mr Jonathon Walwyn, who has been the Head of Science at Normanhurst for the past two years moves on to a new position in January. We are delighted that Ms Shani Jacobs is joining us to head the Science department. She will be in school on a Monday this term to ensure there is a smooth handover with Mr Walwyn. Ms Jacobs is currently the Head of Science Faculty and Assistant Head at the Burnt Mills Academy, where she has been teaching since 2009. She has a Biology degree from Loughborough University as well as a Masters' degree in Teaching and Learning and the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership.

ISA Autumn Conference

Miss Barnard and I shall out of school on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 November at the Independent Schools Association Autumn Conference, which this year addresses some important current educational issues including adolescent mental health, examination developments, the impact of innovation and raising standards in schools.

The Normanhurst School Parents' Association (NSPA)

The NSPA held its Annual General Meeting before half-term and I am delighted that the officers were re-elected. I know the Committee was pleased to see a number of new parents and to hear their new ideas. The NSPA wants to be a network which helps parents to get to know each other, support the school and to have opportunities to socialise. However, they recognise that parents are busy and it is hard for some to find time to connect. The NSPA are keen to have a parent rep in each year group if possible. They hope this will provide an opportunity for parents to become more connected to the NSPA.

The NSPA holds an event each term. This term there is a family music quiz night, with a bingo theme: 'Music with Balls' on Friday 18 November. This promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening for parents, families and friends. Some members of staff will also be there joining in the fun.

Events for Christmas

December is busy as usual with a number of seasonal highlights: the infant Christmas performances are on Tuesday 6 December, Wednesday 7 December and Thursday 8 December, with a dress rehearsal on the Monday.

The junior pantomime trip is on Thursday 8 December for children from Reception up to Year 6.

The Christmas Carol service is on Tuesday 13 December at 2.00pm and the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on the Green in Chingford. Parents and relatives are warmly invited to join us for the Carol Service, to which pupils contribute in music, singing, readings and drama.

Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 14 December, with the junior Christmas party following.

Forthcoming Events

Thu 10 Nov	09:30 – 12:00	Y3 Visit Farm to Fork – Tesco Harvest Trail
Fri 11 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Y1 Visit to V&A Museum of Childhood
Fri 11 Nov	13:00 – 19:30	Y4 & 5 to Harry Potter Studios
Sun 13 Nov	16:30 – 18:30	Oak-Tree Fireworks Display at Oaklands School (tickets required)
Wed 16 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Y3-6 Talented trip to Tate Modern
Fri 18 Nov	19:00 – 22:00	NSPA Music with Balls
Mon 21 Nov	12:45 – 15:00	Y6, 9 & 10 (History students) Visit from Holocaust survivor
Tue 22 Nov	09:00 – 12:30	ISA London North Swimming Championships
Thu 24 Nov	14:00 – 16:00	Oaktree Netball & Football Tournament
Fri 25 Nov	08:30 – 09:00	Rec - Y6 Drop-in morning for parents
Sat 26 Nov	10:00 – 15:30	GCSE English Department Super Learning Day
Mon 28 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Senior Gifted & Invited trip to the Houses of Parliament
Tue 29 Nov	09:30 – 15:45	Y8 Visit to Museum of London Great Fire of London Exhibition
Fri 2 Dec	09:00 – 15:30	Y11 trip to GCSE Poetry Live at the Apollo Theatre
Mon 5 Dec	13:30 – 14:00	Infant Play Dress Rehearsal
Tue 6 Dec	14:30 – 15:30	Infant Play to Parents
Wed 7 Dec	09:15 – 10:15	Infant Play to Parents
Thu 8 Dec	09:00 – 10:30	Infant Christmas Play
	12:00 – 15:30	Junior school panto: Aladdin (time tbc)
Tue 13 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Whole School Carol Service – parents welcome (Parish Church)
Wed 14 Dec	12:00 – 13:00	Senior Christmas Lunch
	13:00 – 14:00	Junior Christmas Lunch followed by Christmas party
Thu 15 Dec	12:00	School ends at 12 noon: Break for Christmas
Thu 15 Dec	13:30 – 15:45	GCSE ICT Booster Session

I hope to see you at some of the events taking place over the next few weeks and I wish you and your children a happy and productive second half of term.

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise with the school, please contact your child's form teacher or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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