



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

As I write my final Headmistress's letter for 2016 in the first icy blast of winter, I can honestly say that this term and year have flown by.

We welcomed many new children into the school in September and I am happy to see how well they have done in their first term. Having read through the latest set of school reports, there is much to celebrate in pupils' achievements in class, and lots to praise in their achievements beyond the classroom. We have had many trips and visits, in which your children have learned much, had fun, but also been excellent ambassadors for the school; we have competed in numerous sports events or competitions and our pupils have shown good sportsmanship and dedication in their victories and in their defeats.

We have had a number of school competitions and projects, the latest being the Christmas card design competition and perhaps the most notable being our national success in the ISA Art competition.

I do commend the school website and App to you: news about school life is posted and updated daily. When you scroll down the news, you will instantly see how busy life is here and how much the pupils enjoy what they do.

With just a fortnight of term remaining, this letter focuses on school events and has some important uniform and kit reminders for you.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you for your generous contributions to the shoebox appeal. This year we collected over eighty boxes which have been taken to the distribution centre by Mrs Prior.

Infant Christmas Performances

The Nativity performances take place next week and I know the children are looking forward to sharing their songs and readings with parents, family and friends. You are most welcome to join us on either Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday or Thursday morning. Please contact the Office for more details and to reserve your ticket. I am very grateful to the Early Years and Infant staff and Mr Henderson-Jones for all their work with the children to prepare for the Nativity performances.

Christmas Crafts Workshop LK to Y6

A Ceramic Art Workshop is taking place on Wednesday 7 December and every pupil will design, decorate and take home their very own ceramic Christmas Bauble. The children will learn about different materials and techniques and develop their imagination, which builds confidence and allows creative thinking. Each will produce a unique piece of colourful art. The children will also be learning about the history of this festive ornament.

Junior Pantomime Trip to the Millfield Theatre

The panto trip for Reception to Year 6 takes place on Thursday 8 December. Details have already been sent to parents and I know the children are excited about their visit. The Kindergarten had a very special Christmas theatre trip on Wednesday too.

Carol Service Tuesday 13 December 2.00pm

Parents, family members and friends are warmly invited to join us for the Carol Service at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on Tuesday at 2.00pm. The whole school community will be taking part. The school day ends at

normal time and After School Club will run as usual. Parents may collect their children from the church at the end of the service, or from school at the usual time. Seniors will walk back to school to collect their belongings before going home. They will leave school slightly early at about 3.15pm.

Christmas Lunch Google Expedition Day Wednesday 14 December

We are having Christmas lunch and the junior Christmas party on Wednesday 14 December. As well as that, we have a very exciting Google Expedition Day. All of the pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a Google expedition in one of their lessons, using the special headsets provided by Google. If you would like to find out more about it, details are on this website:

<https://www.google.co.uk/edu/expeditions/#about>

The juniors may wear Christmas party clothes to school on the day as they have their Christmas party after lunch. The seniors are in uniform as usual.

Donate a Toy for the Hestia Refuge Centre

Malachi in Year 6 has asked if we can help to support the work of the Hestia Refuge Centre in Tower Hamlets once again this year by donating a toy, which will be given to the children this Christmas. The centre supports children who have experienced domestic abuse. If your son or daughter would like to take part by bringing in a second-hand toy (still in good condition) please can they take it to Miss Amini in the Year 6 classroom before the end of term.

Senior Sports Events

There are two Borough sports events for seniors before the end of term: the U13 girls' handball and the U16 girls and boys badminton. Good luck to all our competitors.

Coffee Mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn

After the Christmas holidays, Mr Hagger and I would like to invite parents for coffee to provide an opportunity to hear your views and to discuss school life. The coffee mornings take place in the library from 8.45-9.45am on Wednesdays, beginning with Kindergarten parents on Wednesday 11 January. Dates for the each year group are at the end of this letter.

School Uniform and Rule Reminders

There are several uniform matters I would like to draw your attention to so that these can be resolved before the start of term in January:

- Pupils may not wear earrings to school. This applies to all classes.
- Girls should have their hair tied back securely all day.
- Boys should not have heavily styled hair with quiffs, visible wax or styling product, or cut in designs.
- All school bags in the seniors are to be **plain** navy or black. They should not have logos or designs on them.
- Boys may not wear black trainers to school.
- Chewing gum is forbidden in school.

Sports Bags and PE Kits

There have been several occasions recently when pupils have taken the wrong sports bag home, or picked up items of someone else's PE kit. If your son or daughter brings home the wrong items, please return them to the school office the next day so they can be given back to the correct owner. To facilitate this, please ensure all items of uniform and kit are labelled.

Safety on Station Road

As many of you are aware following the accident in November when a car mounted the kerb outside the school, we are currently in discussions with Waltham Forest Council to secure safety defences to the front of the school. Since we have no further news we are pursuing this but I wanted to assure you that we are continuing to pressure the borough to make some changes.

Educational Trips and Visits

As previously advised in September by Mr Hagger the cost for educational school trips, workshops and any other activities involving a charge have now been added to your Spring fees invoice.

Forthcoming Events

Fri 2 Dec	09:00 – 15:30	Y11 trip to GCSE Poetry Live at the Apollo Theatre
	09:00 – 12:00	Y3 Stone Age Workshop at Braeside
Mon 5 Dec	13:30 – 14:00	Infant Play Dress Rehearsal
Tue 6 Dec	13:30 – 16:30	U13 Girls' Handball at Lamas School
	14:30 – 15:30	Infant Play to Parents
Wed 7 Dec	09:00 – 15:00	LK-Y6 Christmas Bauble Workshop
	09:15 – 10:15	Infant Play to Parents
Thu 8 Dec	09:15 – 10:15	Infant Play to Parents
	12:00 – 17:00	Junior trip to the pantomime: Aladdin
	18:00 – 20:35	Y9 trip to Theatre (old Granada Cinema)
Fri 9 Dec		KG-Y10 End of Term short reports published
	09:00 – 16:00	U16 Girls and Boys Badminton at Peter May
	11:00 – 12:00	Concert at The Spinney
Tue 13 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Whole School Carol Service – parents welcome (Parish Church)
Wed 14 Dec	09:00 – 15:00	KG-Y11 Google Expedition workshops
	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
	13:30 – 15:45	GCSE ICT Booster Session
Tue 10 Jan		Start of Spring Term: school begins at normal time 8.40am
		Y11 GCSE Mock Examinations begin
	17:00 – 18:00	Ski Trip Meeting
Wed 11 Jan	08:45 – 10:00	KG Parents' Coffee Morning
	19:15 – 21:15	NSPA Meeting Library
Fri 13 Jan		Y8 HV vaccination 1 st dose
Tue 17 Jan	09:00 – 09:45	WE Day Workshop
	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents Evening
Wed 18 Jan	08:45 – 10:00	Reception Parents' Coffee Morning
Fri 20 Jan		Oak-Tree Schools Art Exhibition at Loughton Arts Centre begins
	17:30 – 20:00	Y4-6 NSPA Movie and Pizza Night
Wed 25 Jan	08:45 – 10:00	Y1&2 Parents' Coffee Morning
	09:15 – 17:30	Y10&11 Drama & English Lit students to An Inspector Calls
Tue 31 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y8 Parents' Evening
Wed 1 Feb	08:45 – 10:00	Y3-6 Parents' Coffee Morning
Fri 3 Feb	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Parents' 'Drop In' Morning
	18:00 – 19:30	KG-Y3 NSPA Disco
Tue 7 Feb		Y5&6 Young Voices Concert
	16:00 – 18:30	Y11 Parents' Evening
Wed 8 Feb	08:45 – 10:00	Y7-11 Parents' Coffee Morning

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn
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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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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