



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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2 October 2017

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope your children have enjoyed the first few weeks of term, particularly if you joined us for the first time in September. The pupils have settled very well and I have been delighted to see them rising to the challenge of the new school year.

The newsletter published last week gave a sense of how much is going on in school. We have had the Early Years 'getting to know you' parent event and Harvest Festival. Last week I read the settling-in reports for new pupils and this week we are welcoming the Year 7 pupils and parents for a 'meet the teacher' evening, so that pupils can introduce their parents to their subject teachers. The first junior parents' drop-in morning has been held, Year 10 pupils and parents have had an introduction to GCSE meeting and Year 11 pupils and parents met to consider life after Normanhurst, including where to study for A Levels and further education.

Show My Homework is now up and running for Year 6-11 and I hope parents are finding the app useful. Thank you to those parents who have given us feedback about the system. I am pleased to hear that many of you are finding it helpful to see the work your children have been set. Pupils seem to be coping well with the new system. If you experience any difficulties, or have any questions about it please do contact your child's form tutor, or a member of the leadership team.

Open Evening Thursday 5 October and EYFS Open Morning Friday 6 October

Open Evening is a highlight in the school year, as I am sure you will agree if you have attended one. We are using a large number of pupils on the evening chosen from Year 6 up to Year 11. Some will be touring prospective families; others will be volunteering in classrooms. Whatever job each pupil is doing, I am sure they will be wonderful ambassadors for the school: their enthusiasm for school life, the articulate way in which they talk about school, their friendliness and good manners are among the best expressions for what Normanhurst School is all about.

As parents, you too are welcome to visit on Open Evening and to look around the school. In particular, if your child will be moving from Reception to Year 1, Year 2 to Year 3, or from juniors into seniors in the next year or so, this can provide an opportunity to see and hear more about the different parts of the school. It is also an opportunity to come to see the building work which was completed over the summer in the main building.

Oak-Tree Schools Annual Fireworks Display

Parents have already received a letter about this lovely event. The display will take place on Sunday 12 November 2017 from 4.30pm to 6.30pm and will be held in the grounds of Oaklands School in Loughton. It is an excellent evening for all the family. All profits from the evening will go back to the Parents' Associations, with the teams from Oaklands, Normanhurst, Coopersale Hall and Braeside joining together to help run the event. If you would like to come, please remember to contact the office about tickets before the deadline.

House Music Competition 2017

I hope that your children have been talking to you about House Music. Each House is preparing their three items for the competition which takes place at 8.50am on Monday 16 October. As last year, we are inviting parents to come and watch the event, which will be judged by a panel of 'experts'. Please contact the office to request your tickets. There are 60 seats available. Look out for pictures in the next newsletter!

Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Every year we support the work of Operation Christmas Child by filling shoeboxes with gifts to send to children overseas in need of support. It is a lovely charity, which brings a smile to many children and young people in significant need. This year we are having a Shoe Box House Challenge to see which House can donate the most boxes in the junior and seniors. Mrs Prior will be telling the pupils all about how to contribute shortly. We aim to send at least 100 boxes and your help will be much appreciated. Please look out for the information leaflet when they come home. Half-term is a good time to collect items for a shoebox, ready to bring into school after the holiday.

Car Safety in Station Road

A number of parents have raised concerns about the fact that a few parents are stopping in traffic in Station Road and letting their children out of the car without parking or pulling over. Please do stop safely and park before your children get out of the car.

Spanish Trip in Half Term

Pupils from Year 7 to 11 are going on a wonderful languages trip to Spain in the half-term break. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the trip meeting last week. We will be posting photos throughout the trip and giving parents a daily update via GroupCall. Look out for articles on the website and in the next newsletter.

Uniform Reminders

Please can I remind parents and pupils that hair should be neatly cut for school, or tied back if long. It isn't suitable to have long hair over the eyes in school. All long hair must be secured in a hair band throughout the day in school.

Please remember that ALL school bags in the juniors are the regulation design from the uniform suppliers and in the seniors all bags must be plain navy or black. Juniors all should wear the regulation school coat from Forest Casualwear and in the seniors all coats must be plain navy or black.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

Tue 3 Oct	17:00 – 18:00	Y7 Informal Parent/Teacher Evening
Wed 4 Oct	09:00 – 13:00	Y5 Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge trip
Thu 5 Oct	18:00 – 20:30	Open Evening
Fri 6 Oct	09:00 – 11:00	EYFS Open Morning
Mon 9 Oct	09:00 – 15:30	KG&Rec Southend Sea Life Centre trip
Tue 10 Oct	17:00 – 18:00	Y7 'How to support your child at home'
	18:30 – 19:30	NSPA AGM
Thu 12 Oct	13:45 – 15:45	Y8 Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge trip
Fri 13 – Sun 15 Oct		PGL PE Residential trip
	17:30 – 20:00	GCSE Presentation Evening
Mon 16 Oct	09:00 – 10:00	House Music Competition
	10:30 – 15:30	Y3-6 Classical Concert at Barbican trip

Tue 17 Oct	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Sat 21 – Tue 24 Oct		KS3/4 Spanish Trip
Mon 23 Oct – Fri 3 Nov		HALF TERM
Tue 7 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Y3-6 Bletchley Park trip
Wed 8 Nov	19:15 – 20:45	NSPA meeting
Thu 9 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Y1-6 Remembrance day workshop
Fri 10 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Y1 V&A Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green
Sun 12 Nov	16:30 – 18:30	Oak-tree Fireworks
Wed 15 Nov	09:15 – 12:00	Y5 Tesco Waltham Abbey trip
Fri 17 Nov	19:00 – 22:00	NSPA Family Event: Rock and Roll Bingo and Supper
Tue 21 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Y10&11 G&T trip to Welcome Foundation
Fri 24 Nov	08:30 – 09:00	Rec-Y6 Parents' Drop In Session
Fri 1 Dec	13:30 – 15:30	EYFS Festive Fun Day
Sat 2 Dec	09:00 – 15:30	Y11 English Super Learning Day
Tue 5 Dec	09:00 – 11:30	KG trip to Chicken Shed, Southgate
Sun 10 Dec	10:30 – 14:00	NSPA Winter Walk and Mulled Wine family event
Tue 12 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Christmas Carol Service
Wed 13 Dec	12:00	Last day of term

As always, if you have any concerns or questions you would like to discuss, please contact your child's form teacher or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment. We would be very happy to see you.

With very 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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