



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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6 November 2017

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 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, 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.

Boots are not a part of school uniform in any part of the school, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes through the winter. When it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

Senior Trip to Spain

I am most grateful to the staff team who led the excellent trip to Spain during the holiday. Forty pupils from Normanhurst and Braeside went to Spain on the trip led by Mrs Kimpton with four other teachers from school. 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 southern Spain as well as learning how to make paella and to dance the flamenco. 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.

Holiday Work on Site

The main school entrance up to the new classrooms has been carpeted and painted over the holidays. In addition, the additional new learning support room has been decorated so that it can be furnished and fully utilised this term and general maintenance of the site and equipment has taken place.

Christmas Card Competition

Mr Beint launches the Christmas card design competition on Monday 6 November. The final date for entries is Friday 17 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 shoebox, it is possible to buy a ready-prepared one provided by the charity from the school office for £1.50, which can then be filled in the normal way. The deadline for boxes to be given to Mrs Prior is Friday 17 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.

Oak-Tree Firework Display Sunday 12 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 12 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.

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

Miss Hannah Butler, the senior ICT and Computing teacher, is leaving Normanhurst at the end of this term to start a new job nearer her home. I am delighted that Mr Ravi Ram will be joining us in January as the new Computing teacher. He is currently teaching at Beale School and comes with excellent experience teaching computing up to A level.

ISA Autumn Conference

Mr Beint and I shall be out of school on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 November at the Independent Schools Association Autumn Conference, which this year addresses some important current educational issues including understanding brain development, creating emotionally intelligent schools and Character Education.

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. The NSPA aims to help 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, and a Sunday winter forest walk with refreshments. They promise to be thoroughly enjoyable events for parents, families and friends. Some members of staff will also be there joining in the fun.

Station Road

A member of the public came into school last term to ask politely if parents and pupils can make sure they do not obstruct the footpath at the end of the school day and that there is space for passers-by to walk along the pavement.

Events for Christmas

December is busy as usual with a number of seasonal highlights: the infant Christmas performances are on Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6 December and Thursday 7 December, with a dress rehearsal on the Monday.

The junior pantomime trip is on Thursday 7 December for children from Reception up to Year 6.

The Christmas Carol service is on Tuesday 12 December at 2.00pm at 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 Monday 11 December, with the junior Christmas party following.

Coffee Mornings for Parents

Matthew Hagger and I are holding our annual parent coffee mornings after Christmas on Monday mornings from 8.45 – 9.45am. You are warmly invited to join us on the relevant day:

Monday 15 January	Kindergarten parents
Monday 22 January	Reception parents
Monday 29 January	Y1 – Y2 parents
Monday 5 February	Y3 – Y6 parents
Monday 19 February	Y7 – Y11 parents

Dates for the Diary this Term

Tue 7 Nov	09:00 – 15:45	Y3-7 Bletchley Park trip
Wed 8 Nov	19:15 – 20:45	NSPA meeting
Fri 10 Nov	09:30 – 15:30	Y1 V&A Museum of Childhood trip
Wed 15 Nov	09:15 – 12:00	Y5 Tesco trip
Fri 17 Nov	19:00 – 22:00	NSPA Family event: Rock n Roll Bingo
Tue 21 Nov	09:30 – 16:30	Y10&11 G&T trip to Wellcome Collection
Thu 24 Nov	14:00 – 16:00	Oak-tree Netball & Football tournament
Fri 24 Nov	08:30 – 09:00	Rec - Y6 Drop In for parents
Fri 1 Dec	13:30 – 15:30	EYFS Festive Fun Day
Mon 4 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Infant Play Dress Rehearsal
Tue 5 Dec	09:00 – 11:30	KG trip to Chicken Shed
	14:30 – 15:30	Infant Christmas Play to Parents
Wed 6 Dec	09:15 – 10:15	Infant Christmas Play to Parents
Thu 7 Dec	09:15 – 10:15	Infant Christmas Play to Parents
	12:00 – 17:00	Junior school panto: Jack and the Beanstalk
Sun 10 Dec	10:30 – 14:00	NSPA Winter Walk & Mulled Wine family event
Tue 12 Dec	14:00 – 15:00	Christmas Carol Service
Wed 13 Dec	12:00	Last day of term – Christmas break

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 my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Mrs 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

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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