



Coopersale Hall School

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HEADMISTRESS

Miss Moreen Barnard B.SC. (HONS), B.ED.

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1 November 2021

Dear Parents

Re: November 2021 Headmistress's Letter

I hope your children enjoyed the first half term back in school. It was a busy half term with all of the children going on a trip or exploring the local community. I hope you enjoyed seeing and reading about them on our social media accounts, which enable you to share in your child's experiences. Do follow us, if you have not started to do that already.

Car Parks

Please reduce your speed when approaching the school on our driveway and drive carefully in our car parks. We have noticed that some cars drive far too fast. We all need to remember that there are young children and adults walking nearby, and need take due care on the school site. Our maintenance team helps with parking - please take note of their directions. If you are using the "Drop Off" lane, do so as swiftly as possible to avoid causing congestion and finally, never let your children wander around the car parks unsupervised.

Parents' Association

The Friends of Coopersale Hall School (FoCHS) are holding their AGM on Monday 8 November at 8.45am in the Studio. Please feel free to join them as they would very much value your support. The Committee works extremely hard to organise events and to enhance the children's experiences in school. If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to join the team, please contact the Chair via the office. We would be grateful for as much support as possible. We appreciate all that FoCHS contributes to school life.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Formal Parent Consultation Evenings for Lower Kindergarten to Year 6 are being held on Tuesday 16 November and Wednesday 17 November. For Lower & Upper Kindergarten and Reception parents timings are 3.30pm to 6.30pm on both days. For Years 1 to 6 the appointments are from 3.45pm until 6.30pm on both days. Parents are asked to book their appointments via the portal and not through the office or with teachers directly. You will receive a message once the system is live and you are able to book.

If you experience any difficulties with the system, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. If you wish to see any specialist subject teachers for the following subjects: French, Computing, Music, PE, and Science, they will be in the main hall. Appointments are not necessary to see these specialist teachers.

Everyone's Invited and Keeping Children Safe in Education – New Government Guidance for Schools

Following the publication of the testimonies of the survivors of sexual abuse in schools, the Government asked Ofsted to undertake an immediate review of safeguarding in both state and independent schools. As a result of recommendations arising from the review, the Government issued new statutory guidance to all schools and colleges to be implemented from September 2021, which is found in the document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education': https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021914/KCSIE_2021_September_guidance.pdf.

This guidance requires schools to look again at a number of aspects of what we teach about how to keep safe, maintaining healthy relationships, recognising peer-on-peer abuse and addressing concerns about sexual harassment or sexual violence.

All schools have needed to review their Relationships and Sex Education curriculum and consider how they create a culture in which pupils feel able to raise concerns and know that they will be listened to when they do so. Schools are required to take all concerns seriously and to have a 'zero tolerance' approach to unacceptable behaviour.

The review found that pupils find it very difficult to raise concerns in school and that they can feel very vulnerable in so doing, so we have been looking at how we can make a safe space for this to happen more easily for the Oak-Tree pupils, particularly those in the Seniors. We have decided to have a dedicated email address, which can be anonymous, at both Braeside and Normanhurst. Pupils and parents will receive information about this over the course of the next term.

In addition, we will be looking at our PSHE programme in all of the schools to ensure that lessons explore thoroughly the idea of consent and the safe use of the internet, including aspects like the sending of 'nudes' and 'semi-nudes', at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way.

National Online Safety Advice about Netflix's Squid Game

Netflix's Squid Game is set to become the service's most successful show of all time, with huge numbers of viewers taking to social media to discuss each new episode. The South Korean thriller features some scenes of fairly brutal violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC. It follows a group of adults who compete to win innocent-looking playground games, but who are killed if they do not succeed at the tasks.

Squid Game's popularity is beginning to spread across various online platforms. Associated content has been created – ranging from memes to apps – that convey the violence of the show, so it is helpful for parents to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it: https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know?fbclid=IwAR0gR4_0HjAYvPINA6UK0aszIKc10-8yC4K5CrOI2Es-dGzj9MjxeYQkBTQ

Squid Game's 15 rating has not prevented clips and images from the show being uploaded onto social media sites such as TikTok, with the #SquidGame hashtag being viewed more than 22.8 billion times. There have been reports of children who have accounts on these platforms inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme, and parents should be mindful of the prevalence of these uploads.

The popularity of the programme has also led to online challenges based on various scenes, which see people taking part in seemingly innocent children's games. On the show, however, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

ISA Autumn Conference

I shall be out of school on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 November at the annual Independent Schools Association Autumn Study Conference, which is a good opportunity to meet with fellow Heads and discuss current educational issues. The programme includes some excellent key note speakers presenting on topics including school inspections, our ongoing response to the pandemic, future technologies, and diversity and inclusion in independent schools.

Hot Drinks on Site

Whilst I can appreciate that as winter approaches it can be tempting to bring a hot drink into school with you if you are attending an event, I hope parents will understand if I ask you not to do this. There are some safety concerns about hot drinks being brought into the hall by guests attending assemblies or other performances and activities.

Forthcoming Events

Monday 1 November

Back to school after half term holidays

Wednesday 3 November

Mixed Football Tournament **Years 3 & 4 By Invitation** @Shooters North Weald

11.30am-3.30pm

Thursday 4 November

Coffee Morning for Year 6 Parents with Mr Hagger/Mrs Osborn/Miss Barnard	8.45am-10am
Trip to Epping Forest District Museum Year 5	9.30am-3pm
Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Trip Year 6	10.15am-3.30pm

Friday 5 November

Football & Netball Tournament Years 5 & 6 By Invitation @Goals Centre Chigwell	9.15am-12.30pm
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Monday 8 November

ISA London North Swimming Gala Years 5 & 6 By Invitation @Enfield	8am-1.30pm
FOCHS AGM All Parents Welcome – in the Studio	8.45am-9.45am
Football league match Years 5 & 6 By Invitation @Shooters North Weald	3.15pm-5.15pm

Thursday 11 November

Harlow Outdoor Pursuits Trip Year 5	10.15am-3.30pm
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Friday 12 November

Girls Football Tournament Year 6 By Invitation @ Barnet	9am-3.45pm
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Tuesday 16 November

Parents Evening – Lower & Upper Kindergarten & Reception Parents	3.30pm-6.30pm
Parents Evening – Years 1 to Year 6 Parents	3.45pm-6.30pm

Wednesday 17 November

Parents Evening – Lower & Upper Kindergarten & Reception Parents	3.30pm-6.30pm
Parents Evening – Years 1 to Year 6 Parents	3.45pm-6.30pm

Thursday 18 November

Coffee Morning for Year 5 Parents with Mr Hagger/Mrs Osborn/Miss Barnard	8.45am-10am
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Friday 19 November

Swimming starts for Year 3	1.30pm-3.30pm
Trip to Sun Trap Lower Kindergarten	9am-2pm

Monday 22 November

Indoor Athletics Competition Years 3 & 4 By Invitation @ Walthamstow	1.30pm-3pm
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Wednesday 24 November

Flu Jabs for Reception to Year 6	8.30am-12noon
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Thursday 25 November

Coffee Morning for Year 4 Parents with Mr Hagger/Mrs Osborn/Miss Barnard	8.45am-10am
ISA Indoor Athletics Competition Years 5 & 6 By Invitation @ Redbridge	11.45am-4.15pm

Friday 26 November

Mixed Tag Rugby Competition Year 6 By Invitation @ Davenant School	11am-15.30pm
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Future Dates

Thursday 2 December **Coffee Morning for Year 3 parents**
Thursday 9 December **Coffee Morning for Year 2 parents**
Thursday 13 January **Coffee Morning for Year 1 parents**
Thursday 20 January **Coffee Morning for Reception parents**
Thursday 27 January **Coffee Morning for Upper Kindergarten parents**
Thursday 3 February **Coffee Morning for Lower Kindergarten parents**

I am looking forward to meeting with parents at our Coffee Mornings over the forthcoming term.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions you wish to discuss, please contact your child's class teacher or telephone/email the school office to arrange an appointment with me or a member of the leadership team.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Moreen Barnard
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 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

Coopersale Hall School is the trading name of Coopersale Hall School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 3524644

