



# Coopersale Hall School

Flux's Lane, Epping, Essex CM16 7PE

Tel: 01992 577133

## HEADMISTRESS

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

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2 October 2023

Dear Parents

### Re: October 2023 Headmistress's Letter

I hope your children have enjoyed the first few weeks of term, particularly if you joined us for the first time in September. It has been lovely to see how well the children have settled into their new classes.

We have already had a busy few weeks with lots of exciting lessons, learning outside of the classroom and several school trips and visits including Reception's visit to Willow's Farm, Year 5's trip to Harlow Outdoor Pursuits. We have also enjoyed our first residential trip of the year: Year 3 camp at Oaklands School. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to be working together and with the other Year 3 children across the Oak-Tree Group.

## GENERAL

### Change of Contact Details

Please inform the office if any of your contact details have changed so that we can contact you as necessary.

### Car Parks

Please reduce your speed when approaching the school on our driveway and drive carefully in our car parks. We have seen some cars driving very quickly with young children walking nearby. Our maintenance team helps with parking - please take note of their directions, and be considerate of other cars and do not block them in. If you are using the "Drop Off" lane, please do so as swiftly as possible to avoid causing congestion.

We will be encouraging all of the children from Year 2 upwards to use the "Drop Off" lane after October Half Term. Not only does this encourage independence but it also means less traffic in the morning. You would have seen a member of SLT on duty at the gates every morning to make sure your children feel comfortable in making their way to their classes. It is wonderful to see older siblings walking their younger siblings to their classes in the morning.

### Lost Property

We have quite a lot of lost property building up in the area beside the hall in the courtyard. Could I please ask you to come and have a check if you have lost anything, in case it is there. Anything not claimed will be sorted out and moved by Thursday 5 October.

### Jewellery

Please note that earrings are not permitted at school, with the exception of Year 6 and Year 7 pupils, who are permitted to wear a small plain silver or gold stud on non-PE days. We would advise that ears should be pierced at the beginning of the summer holiday so that the ear studs/rings can be removed easily when school begins in September. No earrings are permitted for any sporting activities or clubs.

### Staffing Update

As many of you may know, Miss Smith has been on maternity leave since January 2023. She has now made the difficult decision not to return to Coopersale Hall, as she would like to spend more time with her son. I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Haq, who is currently teaching Reception Smith, will continue as the children's class teacher for the remainder of this academic year. Mrs Haq has settled in very well at Coopersale Hall and has already formed excellent relationships with our children, parents and staff. We are fortunate to have secured such an experienced teacher and I am pleased that there will be no interruption to the children's learning in Reception.

### **Oak-Tree Challenge**

Mrs Bull has introduced the ever-popular Oak-Tree Challenge Scheme to our pupils from Years 4-6 in an assembly last week. This is a successful initiative that provides our children with an incentive to participate in the huge variety of opportunities both inside and outside of school. The scheme runs throughout the year and children receive awards for their participation at the end of the summer term.

The Oak-Tree Scheme is voluntary and pupil-initiated. Some challenges are achievable in school time, others are designed to be undertaken out of school with parental support. Throughout the nine challenges, there is a mixture of skills and activities being assessed, including voluntary work and independent study.

For each stage there is a requirement for self-reflection that is intended to become more detailed as the children get older. Evidence of the successful completion of challenges will be recorded in a logbook that must be kept up-to-date and completed by the pupils themselves. The supervising teacher, parent or other adult should countersign the relevant journal entry to verify the contents.

Bronze and Silver Award certificates will be presented in the final assemblies at the end of each academic year, and Gold Award certificates will be presented at each Speech Day and Prize Giving. All pupils who gain an award will also receive a pin badge to wear on their lapel. The Awards will be entered onto the pupils' permanent records and may be referred to in future references.

We hope that all children will choose to participate and enjoy the challenges and personal success that they will bring to them.

### **Open Morning**

Our Open Morning for prospective and current parents is on Tuesday, 10 October from 9.15am. Please let the office know if you would like to come along and see the school at work and refresh your memories of areas of the school with which you may be less familiar. This will also be an opportunity to tour our new Senior School and we would particularly encourage our Year 5 and 6 parents to come along. Children from Years 6 & 7 will act as the official guides and are very excited to showcase our school to you.

### **Parents' Association**

The Friends of Coopersale Hall School (FoCHS) are holding their AGM on Friday 13 October at 8.45am in the Studio. We are fortunate to have an extremely active Parents' Association, with a team of volunteers who work extremely hard to organise events and to enhance the children's experiences in school. If you would like to join the team, then please contact the Chair, via the office. We are grateful for any help or time that you commit, no matter how big or small.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Years 5 & 6 have been invited to attend the annual Remembrance Parade in Epping and lay a wreath on behalf of Coopersale Hall School on Sunday 12 November. Timings were on the letter sent out, please reply to the text back if you have not done so already.

### **Oak-Tree Fireworks**

We are delighted to be holding the annual Oak-Tree Fireworks event again this year, on Sunday 5 November from 4.30pm to 6.45pm, in the grounds of Oaklands School. Tickets for this popular event in the Oak-Tree Group's calendar are available to families from all four schools. All profits from the evening will go back to the Parents' Associations, with the teams from the four schools joining together to help run the event.

Due to the enormous demand, tickets will only be available to purchase before the event. Ticket sales will be limited to around 1000. Tickets will cost £7 per child or £14 per adult with a discounted price of £38 for a family of two children and two adults. This includes a hot dog (meat or vegetarian), with additional treats for children. There will be opportunities to purchase mulled wine, beer, hot drinks and various children glow goodies during the evening. The pre-fireworks live music will be provided by pupils from across the four schools, and there will be entertainment for the children.

### Parents' Evenings – Whole School

Formal Parents' Evenings will be held after half term on Tuesday 14 November and Wednesday 15 November. You will be able to book your appointment on your child's portal on Monday 16 October. We will send out a text when this goes live. Our specialist subject teachers will also be available to speak with parents for the following subjects: Music, Science, PE, Computer, French on Tuesday 14 November in the hall. No appointment necessary, please turn up to see those specialist teachers.

### Mild Illness and School Attendance

The Government has published some guidance for parents about school attendance if their children are slightly unwell, which is based on advice from Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer, as well as other eminent medical professionals.

Parents can view the letter here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The guidance says that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

The guidance also offers advice for parents whose children who may feel anxious about coming to school: guidance on mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance.

### Coffee Mornings

Matthew Hagger, Claire Osborn and I will be holding our annual coffee mornings starting on Monday 16 October in the studio at 8.45am. These are a good opportunity to chat informally about life at the school and to raise any questions you have directly with us.

Monday 16 October	Year 6
Thursday 16 November	Year 7
Thursday 23 November	Years 3 to 5
Thursday 30 November	Years 1 & 2
Thursday 11 January 2024	Reception
Thursday 18 January 2024	Kindergarten

### DATES LIST

<b>Monday 2 Oct</b>	AM	Bentley Photographs – Individual & Siblings	<b>Whole School</b>
<b>Tuesday 3 Oct</b>	8.45-9.15am	Read, Write, Inc Workshop - Hall	<b>Parents of Reception Children</b>
<b>Thursday 5 Oct</b>	AM/PM	Flu Immunisations	<b>Reception to Year 7</b>
<b>Friday 6 Oct</b>	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool Netball Tournament in East Sussex	<b>Year 4 Year 7 Girls By Invitation</b>
<b>Saturday 7 Oct</b>	AM/PM	Netball PGL in East Sussex	<b>Year 7 Girls By Invitation</b>
<b>Sunday 8 Oct</b>	AM	Return from East Sussex	<b>Year 7 Girls By Invitation</b>
<b>Tuesday 10 Oct</b>	9.15-11.30am	Open Morning	<b>All Parents Welcome</b>

<b>Wednesday 11 Oct</b>	AM/PM	Residential Trip @ The Hive Waltham Abbey	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Thursday 12 Oct</b>	AM/PM	Residential Trip @ the Hive Waltham Abbey	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Friday 13 Oct</b>	8.45-9.30am AM/PM PM	FOCHS AGM – Studio Return from Residential Trip Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool <b>Please note Year 5 Swimming this week As Year 4 away</b>	<b>All Parents Welcome Year 4 Year 5</b>
<b>Monday 16 Oct</b>	8.45-9.45am 3.15-3.45pm	Coffee Morning – Studio Neal Zetter – Author/Poet-Book Sale/Sign	<b>Parents of Year 6 All Parents Welcome</b>
<b>Tuesday 17 Oct</b>	PM	Oak-Tree Football & Netball Matches @ Peter May Centre Walthamstow	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation</b>
<b>Thursday 19 Oct</b>	AM/PM	Trip to Celtic Harmony Centre Hertford	<b>Upper Kindergarten</b>
<b>Friday 20 Oct</b>	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS MONDAY 23 OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER</b>			
<b>Sunday 5 Nov</b>	4.30-6.45pm	Oak-Tree Fireworks Display - @ Oaklands School	<b>All Welcome</b>
<b>Thur 30 Nov – Thur 7 Dec</b>		Book Fair – Details to Follow	
<b>Friday 10 Nov</b>	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Sunday 12 Nov</b>	1.55pm	Remembrance Sunday Parade	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b>
<b>Tuesday 14 Nov</b>	3.30-6.30pm 3.30-6.30pm	Parents’ Evening Specialist Teachers available	<b>Lower Kindergarten to Year 6</b>
<b>Wednesday 15 Nov</b>	3.30-6.30pm	Parents’ Evening	<b>Lower Kindergarten to Year 6</b>
	AM/PM	Trip to Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge Chingford	<b>Year 5</b>
<b>Thursday 16 Nov</b>	8.45-9.45am AM/PM	Coffee Morning – Studio ISA Cross Country @ Hemel Hempstead	<b>Parents of Year 7 Years 3 to 7 By Invitation</b>
<b>Friday 17 Nov</b>	AM/PM PM	Children in Need – Charity Day Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Thursday 23 Nov</b>	8.45-9.45am	Coffee Morning – Studio	<b>Parents of Years 3 to 5</b>
<b>Friday 24 Nov</b>	AM/PM  PM	Tag Rugby Competition @ Davenant  Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation Year 4</b>

Tuesday 28 Nov PM Oak-Tree Athletics Competition

Year 6  
By Invitation

Thursday 30 Nov 8.45-9.45am Coffee Morning – Studio

Parents of Years 1 & 2

**AN INFORMATION SHEET WITH ALL OF OUR CHRISTMAS EVENTS WILL BE SENT OUT BEFORE HALF 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



Mrs A. Doherty  
Interim Head of School



**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.

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