



Coopersale Hall School

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INTERIM HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Anna Doherty B.A. (HONS), PGCE

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6 November 2023

Dear Parents

Re: **November 2023 Headmistress's Letter**

After such a busy half-term, I hope you and your families have enjoyed the half-term holiday and a well-deserved break. We are very much looking forward to the rest of the term, which includes a number of special events. Please make a note of the dates at the end of this letter, and the Christmas Events letter which was sent out on the 19 October.

Miss Barnard

I know you will have seen Mr Hagger's letter about Miss Barnard at the start of the half term break. Thank you for your messages of support both for Miss Barnard and for me as I continue in the role of Interim Headmistress. I was really pleased with how smoothly the first half of term ran and I am looking forward to working with you, your children and the staff in this capacity over the course of this year. I know that Mr Hagger plans to update you as the recruitment process continues.

11+ Exams

We would like to wish our Year 6 children the best of luck with their external 11+ exams. The children, teachers and I am sure our families too, have been working extremely hard to ensure our children are ready and well prepared for their exams over the next term. Good luck children. We are extremely proud of you.

Our own 11+ exams will take place on Tuesday 16 January 2024 in the hall. We will be welcoming all our current students and prospective students.

School Uniform

From November, when the children return from half-term, all pupils should be in their winter uniform. Please check the website or Parent Handbook for details. (<https://www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk/school-uniform/>)

From Kindergarten classes upward, pupils are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop; please do not wear alternative coats. Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves.

Please make sure that pupils have sturdy, plain black leather school shoes (no boots please) 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.

Please ensure that all items of uniform are named, including your child's PE kit. We have a number of items that go into lost property but are never claimed and cannot be returned as they have not been named. It is also important when children use facilities, such as Tea Time Club, so that we can ensure that children take the correct uniform items.

May I please encourage all our families to support our school in recycling nearly new uniform by buying from FOCHS. This is an excellent way to recycle uniform but also a very cost effective way to have additional uniform for your children.

PE Kit

Mr Barham is in the process of updating the PE curriculum across the school. This is an exciting time for our children to have a broad new PE curriculum. Over the next term Key Stage 1 will be playing hockey on the AstroTurf. All children should please come to school with Astro boots on their PE days. Normal trainers don't have enough grip for the children to enjoy their PE in a safe way.

Key Stage 2 will need Astro and studded boots. Mr Barham wants to fully use our excellent facilities, even when the weather isn't sunny and dry. Key Stage 2 will be learning to play rugby, cross country, hockey and general fitness. One of their PE lessons will be on the AstroTurf and the other on the field. Please send your child to school in their Astro boots with their studded boots in a boot bag to keep the rest of their belongings clean.

All children taking part in any competitions, would need the correct footwear.

Celebrating Individual Achievements

We are very aware of the amazing things our children do outside of school; performing well for their sports teams, charity involvement and performing arts, please remember to share your children's achievements with us by emailing your child's class teacher and myself. We want all of our children to feel valued and celebrated in school and I love hearing about the children's activities and achievements and celebrating these in our weekly Celebration assembly on a Monday morning.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Formal Parent Consultation Evenings for Kindergarten to Year 6 are being held on Tuesday 14 November and Wednesday 15 November. Parents are asked to book their appointments via the portal and not through the office or with teachers directly. 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, Computer, Music, PE, Science they will be in the main hall on Tuesday only – appointments are not necessary.

Year 7 Parent Consultations will take place on Tuesday 21 November and you will be able to book appointments with any of the Senior teachers via the portal. Senior pupils are expected to attend the appointments with their parents and teachers.

During the parent consultation evenings, you will receive a summary of the discussion you had with the class teacher and your child's most recent levels, this is not a formal report. We will publish our formal written reports at the end of the Autumn Term.

Tea time club will be available until 6pm, as usual, on these dates. Please do book this in advance so that we are aware of numbers.

Access to Portals

As requested at the start of term, please do access your Parent Portal for all ongoing information and to update any details that may have changed. This includes contact details (we need at least two current emergency contacts) and medical information. We upload key information to the Portal so that it can be accessed at your convenience. Please contact the school office if you have misplaced your login details.

Safety on Site

Please ensure that you continue to drive slowly and safely up the lane and in the car park. The days are getting shorter and it is often dark in the mornings and the afternoons now. We do have some children and families who walk up the lane or use other means of transport, so please be mindful of this.

We do ask that parents do not go into their children's classrooms before or after school, unless they have a planned meeting with the class teacher. Our staff are very busy preparing at the start and end of the school day and may not always be in their classrooms. You are always welcome to chat to your child's class teacher at the end of the day or to make an appointment to see them.

New Senior Building

We are finally able to report some good news. As you will know from Mr Hagger's previous communication, we have been waiting for the new building work to be signed off by Essex Fire Department. The half term's delay came down to the ability of a fire engine to reverse onto the senior building driveway if called to extinguish a fire. Following a lengthy meeting on site with all of the relevant decision makers at the start of the break, a positive solution has been found and there is now a link road from the main car park to the senior building driveway.

All sides are happy and we are only waiting for the final paperwork to be sent. We are assured that this is imminent. Thank you for bearing with us while we have been working with the authorities to find a resolution.

Nut-Free School

Can we please remind you that we are a nut free school and we do have children within our school community with a nut allergy. Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

Please be mindful of this if you are dropping off any treats for birthdays or other celebrations. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept anything that states on the label that it may contain traces of nuts.

Poppy Appeal

Remembrance Poppies will be on sale at school this week. Our Year 6 prefect team will be selling poppies at the main gate in the morning. We hope to see all our pupils wearing a poppy on Friday 11 November. We will mark the day with a minute's silence at 11am.

FOCHS

FOCHS have been busy this term and my thanks to all their members for all their enthusiasm and hard work. They have arranged an impressive number of Christmas activities including visits to the pantomime for the pupils and a Christmas Gift shop, as well as some special visitors! Do check the 'Christmas Events' list for more information.

ISA Autumn Conference

I will be out of school on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 November at the Independent Schools Association Autumn Study Conference, which is a good opportunity to meet with fellow Heads and discuss current educational issues. The rest of the Senior Leadership Team will all be in school and available to assist if you need anything.

School Council

Our School Council meet regularly to discuss ideas and think about how we can improve our school and help the wider community. Our School Councillors for this year are:

- Year 1C - Edith Y/ Year 1V – Louis Miles
- Year 2H – Max T / Year 2N – Blake B
- Year 3B – Ava M / Year 3G – Oliver O
- Year 4B – Jessica J / Year 4G – Carter C
- Year 5H - Oliver B
- Year 6Z - Elena W / Year 6B – Emre R (Heads of the School Council)

Mrs Bull enjoys spending time with our School Council to hear more about their ideas to improve their school.

Eco Council

We are delighted to welcome Skye Cohen in Year 6 as our new Head of Eco Council. Skye will be working closely with Miss Gowland this year to look at ways that we can help the environment and be more eco-friendly. You will have seen on Seesaw, a half-term competition, inviting children to apply for the role of Eco Councillor for their class. Myself and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team are looking forward to seeing the children's responses and ideas and choosing the class Eco Councillors for this year.

Christmas at Coopersale Hall School

Christmas is a very busy time in school. Please remind yourself of all the dates and events from the Christmas Events schedule that was sent out before half term.

DATES LIST

Friday 10 Nov	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	Year 4
Tuesday 14 Nov	3.15-6.30pm	Parents' Evening	LK to Year 6
Wednesday 15 Nov	3.15-6.30pm AM/PM	Parents' Evening Trip to Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge Chingford	LK to Year 6 Year 5
	4.00-5pm	Oak-Tree Maths Challenge	Children in Years 3-6 By invitation
Thursday 16 Nov	8.30-9.45am AM/PM	Coffee Morning ISA Cross Country @ Hemel Hempstead	Parents of Year 7 Years 3 to 7 By Invitation
Friday 17 Nov	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	Year 4
Tuesday 21 Nov	4.00-6.30pm	Parents' Evening	Year 7
Thursday 23 Nov	8.45-9.45am	Coffee Morning	Parents of Years 3,4 & 5 Children
Friday 24 Nov	AM/PM	Tag Rugby Competition @ Davenant	Years 5 & 6 By Invitation
	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	Year 4
Tuesday 28 Nov	PM	Oak-Tree Athletics Competition @ Peter May Centre Walthamstow	Year 6 By Invitation
Thursday 30 Nov	8.45-9.45am	Coffee Morning	Parents of Years 1 & 2 Children
Friday 1 Dec	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	Year 5
	8.25-8.45am	Book Fair - Studio	All Welcome
Monday 4 Dec	8.25-8.45am	Book Fair - Studio	All Welcome
Tuesday 5 Dec	8.25-8.45am	Book Fair - Studio	All Welcome
Wednesday 6 Dec	8.25-8.45am	Book Fair - Studio	All Welcome
Thursday 7 Dec	8.25-8.45am	Book Fair - Studio	All Welcome
Friday 8 Dec	PM	Swimming @ Waltham Abbey Pool	Year 5
ALL CLUBS WILL FINISH ON WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER			
Thursday 14 Dec	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM 202		
	11.30am	Collection time	LK to Reception
	11.45am	Collection time	Years 1 & 2
	12 Noon	Collection time	Years 3 to 7

AN INFORMATION SHEET WITH ALL OF OUR CHRISTMAS EVENTS WAS SENT OUT ON 20 OCTOBER SEPARATELY. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE RELEVANT DATES THAT APPLY TO YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN.

Reflections on Events this Term

It has been lovely to see so many of our current parents and prospective parents this term at events such as Drop-In mornings, Open Day, Coffee Mornings and Parent Information Workshops. We are incredibly proud of our pupils as they continue to be fantastic ambassadors for the school. We hope you have also enjoyed attending school events this term; it has been wonderful to create some lovely memories.

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 Anna Doherty
Interim 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.

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