



Coopersale Hall School

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HEAD

Mr Paul Wilson B.A. (HONS), PGCE

1 October 2024

Re: October 2024 Head's Letter

It has been an adventurous start to the Autumn term, with pupils getting out of the classroom and engaging with nature. The Year 3 pupils loved the residential camp at Oaklands, competing in challenges and eating toasted marshmallows, and Year 5 have enjoyed the challenges of kayaking and wall climbing at Harlow Outdoor Pursuits. Not to be outdone, Upper Kindergarten children have been exploring our beautiful grounds, finding and sorting shapes. It is wonderful to see the children making the most of these warm autumnal days before winter.

Speaking of winter, it might be a good time to check if the school green winter coat still fits, or the plain black or navy coat for the seniors. They grow so fast over the summer it can be hard to keep up!

Lost Property

Speaking of clothes, we have sorted through the lost property this week, and labelled clothing was reunited with its carefree owners. In order to support our efforts, please ensure that all clothing brought into school is clearly labelled.

Jewellery

The beginning of term is also a good time to politely remind everyone that pupils should not wear jewellery of any sort to school with the exception of a watch and/or a discreet religious symbol. Earrings are not permitted, except from pupils in Year 6, 7 and 8 who may wear a single stud earring in each ear on non-PE days. No earrings are permitted for any sporting activities or clubs. Make up and nail varnish are also not allowed.

Oak-Tree Challenge

I would like to encourage pupils in Years 4 to 6 to take on the Oak-Tree Challenge. This is a popular initiative that encourages our pupils to try new skills, to think about how they can serve their community, and to develop teamwork and leadership skills. The Oak-Tree Scheme is voluntary and pupil-initiated. Some challenges can be completed in school time, while others are designed to be undertaken out of school with parental support. Throughout the nine challenges, there are a mixture of skills and activities being assessed, including voluntary work and independent study. For each stage there is a requirement for self-reflection, which 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.

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 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 into the pupils' permanent records and may be referred to in future references. Mrs Bull launched the Oak-Tree Challenge in assembly last week. We hope that all children will choose to participate, enjoy the challenges and feel the satisfaction of achieving goals independently.

Open Morning

Our Open Morning for prospective and current parents is on Thursday 10 October from 9.15am. Please inform the office if you would like to attend and see the school in action. This will also be a great opportunity to tour the Senior School and, if you have not yet had the opportunity, we would particularly encourage our parents to come and see the new classrooms.

Remembrance Sunday

Years 5 to 8 will be invited to attend the annual Remembrance Parade in Epping and lay a wreath on behalf of Coopersale Hall School on Sunday 10 November. Further details have already been sent in a separate letter.

Oak-Tree Fireworks

We are delighted to be holding the annual Oak-Tree Fireworks event again this year, on Sunday 3 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. For further details please refer to the letter you received on the 18 September.

Parents' Evenings

Formal Parents' Evenings will be held on Tuesday, 8 October, for Seniors and Tuesday, 15 October, and Wednesday, 16 October, for the rest of the school. You will be able to book your appointment on your child's portal from Tuesday 1 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, 15 October, in the hall. No appointment necessary, please turn up to see those specialist teachers.

Coffee Mornings

Matthew Hagger, Claire Osborn and I will be holding our annual coffee mornings. These are a good opportunity to chat informally about life at the school and to raise any questions you have directly with us. All the coffee mornings start at 8:45 and take place in the Studio.

Years 3 to 8	Thursday 7 November
Years 1 and 2	Thursday 21 November
Kindergarten and Reception	Thursday 28 November

Nut Allergy Advice

Last week, the Food Standards Agency advised that people with nut allergies should avoid consuming foods that contain mustard, mustard powder, or mustard flour because they may have been contaminated with peanuts. As a school, we have reviewed our menus in the light of this announcement and have temporarily withdrawn some products. Please may I take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are a nut free site, to make our community safe for all.

Sharing is Caring!

As we go through the school year, please keep us informed if there are any changes for your child, such as:

- **Collecting your child**
It is important that we know who will be collecting your child each day. If anyone other than those listed on your child's home/school link record will be collecting your child, please call in advance and inform us.
- **Medical information**
If your child has had a change to their medication, or a new diagnosis, please inform the office so we can keep our records up to date.
- **Contact details**
Please make sure your contact details are up to date, including addresses, phone numbers and two emergency contacts.

A New Achievement Award

This half term, I will be introducing a prestigious new achievement award for our pupils. The award will be presented to one deserving pupil from each key stage, per half term. Teachers will nominate pupils for the award and all nominated will receive ten merits! The nominations will be based upon academic attainment; academic progress; social development or contribution to the school and the wider community.

I look forward to receiving the nominations and celebrating the success of our pupils.

Food Bank Donations

As we prepare for our Harvest Festival celebrations, I would like to thank you for supporting our donations to Epping Forest Food Bank. This year we are looking for the following items:

Tinned meat, tinned fish, long life juice, instant coffee, sponge pudding, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, jam, tinned rice pudding/custard, tea bags, instant mash potato, biscuits, snack bars, size 5 nappies, sanitary pads, UHT milk.

Donations can be brought into school from Monday 30 September to Friday 4 October. Please bring your donations to the collection point at the main school gate (to the left of the main school building) at drop off, in the mornings. All donations will be taken to the food bank on Monday 7 October.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 1 October	5.30-6.30pm	WW1 Battlefields Trip Meeting @ Normanhurst School	For Parents of Year 8 going on trip
Wednesday 2 October	2.30-4.30pm	Mixed Tag Rugby Match @ Howe Green School	Years 5 & 6 by Invitation
Thursday 3 October	AM/PM	Trip to Celtic Harmony Camp @ Brickendon Herts	Year 4
Friday 4 October	11.30-3pm	Girls Football Match @ The Grange Chigwell	Years 5 & 6 Girls By Invitation
Monday 7 October	8.45-9.30am	Harvest Festival Assembly	Whole School No Parents
	3.30pm-5pm	FOCHS Halloween Disco – Hall	Years 2,3 & 4
Tuesday 8 October	4pm-6.30pm	Parents' Evening	Parents of Years 7 & 8
Wednesday 9 October	7.45-14.15pm	ISA Mixed Cross Country Competition @ Coopersale Hall	Years 5 to 8 by Invitation
Thursday 10 October	9.15-11.30am	Open Morning – Coopersale Hall	All Parents Welcome
	4.15-5.15pm	Swimming Gala – @ Chigwell School	Years 7 & 8 by Invitation
Monday 14 October	3.00-4.30pm	FOCHS Halloween Disco – Hall	Lower & Upper Kindergarten Reception & Year 1
Tuesday 15 October	3.45-6.30pm	Parents' Evening Specialist staff in the Hall	Parents of Early Years to Year 6
	1pm-3.30pm	Oak-Tree Boys Football Match @ Peter May Centre Walthamstow	U11 By Invitation

Wednesday 16 October	3.45-6.30pm	Parents' Evening	Parents of Early Years to Year 6
Thursday 17 October	8.45-9.30am	Parent Read, Write Inc Workshop	Parents of Reception Children
HALF TERM HOLIDAYS MONDAY 21 OCTOBER - FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER INCLUSIVE			
Sunday 3 November	4.30-6.30pm	Oak-Tree Fireworks Display @ Oaklands School	All Welcome
Tuesday 5 November	AM/PM	Trip to Mountfitchet Castle Trip @ Stansted	Year 7
Wednesday 6 November	AM	Flu Immunisations Details to follow	Reception to Year 8
	3.30-4.30pm	Netball Match (Friendly) v Braeside	Years 3 to 8 By Invitation
Thursday 7 November	8.30-9.45am	Coffee Morning with Mr Hagger - Mr Wilson – Mrs Osborn - Studio	Parents of years 3 to 8
Thursday 7 Nov – Saturday 9 Nov		Trip to WW1 Battlefields – Belgium	Year 8
Monday 11 November	AM	Swimming Gala @ Chigwell School	Years 5 & 6 By Invitation
Monday 18 November	2.15-3.30pm	Football Match (Friendly) v Oaklands	Years 5 & 6 Boys & Girls By Invitation
Thursday 21 November	8.30-9.45am	Coffee Morning with Mr Hagger – Mr Wilson – Mrs Osborn – Hall	Parents of children in Years 1 & 2
Tuesday 26 November	1.30-3.30pm	Oak-Tree Athletics Competition @ Peter May Centre Walthamstow	Years 4 -6 By Invitation
Thursday 28 November	8.30-9.45am	Coffee Morning with Mr Hagger - Mr Wilson – Mrs Osborn – Studio	Parents of Lower & Upper Kindergarten & Reception
Friday 29 November	11am-3pm	Tag Rugby Match @ Davenant School	Years 5 & 6 By Invitation

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours sincerely



Paul Wilson
Head



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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