



# Coopersale Hall School

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## HEAD

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

4 November 2024

### Re: November 2024 Head's Letter

As I write this letter, I am coming to the end of my first half term at Coopersale Hall School and reflecting on what an exciting and busy time it has been, full of celebration as a community. Pupils have enjoyed our Summer Fest, taken part in a wonderful Harvest Festival, supported our first 'Hello Yellow' day, enjoyed celebrating Black History Month together, and danced together at our Halloween discos. Events like these draw our school community closer and I look forward to celebrating Christmas at Coopersale Hall with everyone after half term too.

#### Hello Yellow

Thank you for supporting us with our first 'Hello Yellow Day', organised by Mrs Stanley, as Mental Health Lead. The event was to support the Young Minds charity who dedicate themselves to raising awareness of mental health so that no young person feels alone. Pupils and staff joined in the fun, wearing bright yellow clothes and having their pictures taken in selfie frames, and Mrs Stanley led an assembly to highlight the importance of looking after our mental health.

#### Black History Month

During October, we have celebrated the contribution that Black people have made to our culture and our history, as part of Black History Month. We have explored the stories that are sometimes left out of our national story and have introduced pupils to significant Black cultural figures, past and present. In class pupils have: looked at the influence of artists Lubaina Himid and Tam Joseph, learned about abolition pioneers such as Harriet Tubman and Olaudah Equiano; discovered the political impact of Floella Benjamin and Diane Abbott, explored the Windrush story; in Spanish, pupils have discussed Columbian Jazz culture and its roots in Creole culture; in History pupils have looked at the lives of Black Tudors, and even our Kindergarten children have been working on hand eye coordination by practicing javelin throwing, learning from the great Olympian, Tessa Sanderson. During assembly, I explored the reasons why Black stories have not always been given the prominence they deserve, comparing Florence Nightingale to Mary Seacole. It is important that all of our students are able to 'see' themselves at school, and that our curriculum reflects the rich diversity of our pupils' identities, all year round.

#### Parents' Evenings

It was good to meet so many of you at our parents' evenings last month. I decided to move the Key Stage 2 and 3 meetings into the main hall, to provide an opportunity for myself and the senior team to chat with parents, gain an overview of the achievements of pupils, and address any concerns that might arise. There was a great atmosphere in the hall and it was pleasing to hear so many positive stories about how well the children have settled in at the beginning of the year. After some heartening feedback from parents and staff, we will continue with this arrangement for future parents' evenings.

#### 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 upward, pupils are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop; please do not wear alternative coats. In the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf, available from the uniform suppliers, should be worn. Pupils should not wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves.

Please make sure that pupils have sturdy, plain black leather school shoes through the winter. If 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.

May I also encourage parents to support our school in recycling any nearly new uniform that children might have outgrown and also suggest buying from FOCHS. Nationally, preloved clothing is growing in popularity as people's awareness of the environmental benefits increase. At Coopersale Hall School, we embrace ways to reduce our carbon footprint and preloved uniform is also a very cost effective way to dress your children for school.

### **PE Kit**

Over the next half term, all pupils will be learning hockey in their PE lessons. Years 1 and 2 will be playing with plastic sticks on the AstroTurf. All children should bring Astro trainers to school on their PE days, as regular trainers don't have enough grip for the children to enjoy their PE lessons in a safe way.

Years 3 to 6 are also having hockey lessons but with wooden sticks so will need also Astro trainers, plus a moulded gum shield and shin pads. Without these, pupils will not be able to play competitively in lessons. In addition, Year 6 should bring studded boots after half term, as their second sport will be cross country.

### **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.

### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

As the mornings get darker and the evenings draw in, may I request that parents take additional care when driving up the approach to the school; we do have some children and families who walk up the lane or use other means of transport, so please be mindful of this.

In addition, please may I take this opportunity to ask that parents do not go into their children's classrooms before or after school. Our staff are very busy preparing at the start and end of the school day, as well as managing the pupils in their classrooms. Having additional adults in the room may interrupt the smooth and orderly beginning and end of the day for pupils. You are always welcome to chat to your child's class teacher at the end of the day, outside of the classroom, or to make an appointment to see them.

### **Poppy Appeal**

Remembrance poppies will be on sale at school in the lead up to Remembrance Day. 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, when we will mark the day with a minute's silence and a service at 11am.

Some of our senior school pupils will be laying a wreath at Menin Gate in Berlin this November, to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Great War. I would like to thank Mr John Duffell, from the Royal Legion for providing us with some very interesting historical biographies about the soldiers from Epping who did not return from the war. We will be exploring some of these stories during our Remembrance service at school.

### **FOCHS**

FOCHS have been busy this term and my thanks to all their members for their enthusiasm and hard work. They have arranged an impressive number of Christmas activities for our pupils, including visits to the pantomime, a Christmas Gift shop: 'Elfridges', as well as some special visitors! Please refer to the 'Christmas Events' letter sent before half term for more information.

After a long and successful term in office, Mrs Tetherton has decided to step down as Chair of the Friends of Coopersale Hall School. I would like to thank her, on behalf of the school, for her wonderful drive, commitment and support in this important role. With the help of the team, she has organised many exciting events for the pupils and parents that have brought us together as a community and raised a significant amount of money. Kindly, Mrs Richards and Mrs Concadoro will be taking on the mantle and I look forward to working with them in the future.

## Dates For The Diary

<b>Sunday 3 November</b>	4.30-6.30pm	Oak-Tree Fireworks Display @ Oaklands School	<b>All Welcome</b>
<b>Tuesday 5 November</b>	AM/PM	Trip to Mountfitchet Castle @ Stansted Mountfitchet	<b>Year 7</b>
<b>Wednesday 6 November</b>	AM 3.30-4.30pm	Flu Immunisations Netball Match (Friendly) v Braeside	<b>Reception to Year 8 Years 3 to 8 By Invitation</b>
<b>Thursday 7 November</b>	8.30-9.45am	Coffee Morning with Mr Hagger - Mr Wilson – Mrs Osborn - Studio	<b>Parents of years 3 to 8</b>
<b>Thursday 7 Nov - Saturday 9 Nov</b>		Trip to WW1 Battlefields – Belgium	<b>Year 8</b>
<b>Monday 11 November</b>	AM	Swimming Gala @ Chigwell School  Football Match Epping & Ongar League @ Shooters North Weald	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation</b>
<b>Monday 18 November</b>	2.15-3.30pm  3.30-6.30pm	Football Match (Friendly) v Oaklands  FOCHS Movie Night	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 Boys &amp; Girls By Invitation Years 5 to 8</b>
<b>Thursday 21 November</b>	8.30-9.45am	Coffee Morning with Mr Hagger – Mr Wilson – Mrs Osborn – Hall	<b>Parents of children in Years 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>Monday 25 November</b>	3.45-4.15pm	Football Match Epping & Ongar League @ Shooters North Weald	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation</b>
<b>Tuesday 26 November</b>	1.30-3.30pm	Oak-Tree Athletics Competition @ Peter May Centre Walthamstow	<b>Years 4 -6 By Invitation</b>
<b>Thursday 28 November</b>	8.30-9.45am	Coffee Morning with Mr Hagger - Mr Wilson – Mrs Osborn – Studio	<b>Parents of Lower &amp; Upper Kindergarten &amp; Reception</b>
<b>Friday 29 November</b>	8.15-8.45am 11am-3pm	Book Fair Tag Rugby Match @ Davenant School	<b>All Welcome Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation</b>
<b>Monday 2 December</b>	8.15-8.45am	Book Fair	<b>All Welcome</b>
<b>Tuesday 3 December</b>	8.15-8.45am	Book Fair	<b>All Welcome</b>
<b>Wednesday 4 December</b>	8.15-8.45am 1.30-3.30pm	Book Fair Oak-Tree Sports Hall Athletics @ Peter May Centre Walthamstow	<b>All Welcome By Invitation</b>
<b>Monday 9 December</b>	3.45-4.15pm	Football Match Epping & Ongar League @ Shooters North Weald	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 By Invitation</b>

**Friday 13 December**

**Finishing Times:**

**Early Years            11.30am**

**Years 1 & 2            11.45am**

**Years 3 to 8            12 Noon**

**Please refer to our Christmas Events 2024 document (sent out 17.10.24) which contains all the information and dates for the Christmas period.**

**End of term**

Please remember that the Autumn Term finishes at lunchtime on Friday 13 December. There are no afternoon sessions. The Spring Term will commence on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

In the meantime, if you have any questions this term, please do not hesitate to contact the office to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Paul Wilson  
Head



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**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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