

Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESSMRS CLAIRE OSBORN MSc., B.A. (HONS), PGCE

6 January 2020

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

May I wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you have had an enjoyable holiday and that you are looking forward to the new term. Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts I received at the end of term. I really appreciate your kindness and generosity.

This is a busy term with parents' evenings, Year 11 mock feedback and individual interviews, the Oak-Tree Art Exhibition, 11+ and 13+ entrance exams, and Year 9 options selections. We have parent coffee mornings, junior class assemblies and the school production at the Redbridge Drama Centre in March.

The Oak-Tree Art Exhibition

The biennial Oak-Tree Art Exhibition takes place from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 January at Loughton Art Gallery and Lopping Hall in Loughton.

Art and Design work from all year groups in the four Oak-Tree schools will be on display and all families are invited to come and see it.

An invitation letter and flyer will be sent out this week, but the key information to remember is that the viewing for parents is on Saturday 18 January from 12 noon until 2pm.

Our pupils produce wonderful creative work and this is a lovely opportunity to celebrate their talents and achievements. I'm hugely grateful for the commitment and creativity of our art and design department, which fosters a real love for the arts in school.

Coffee Mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn

All parents are invited to a coffee morning over the course of this term. They provide a chance for parents to come and meet me and Mr Hagger to discuss school life. Please do come to talk over a cup of coffee, share your views or ask questions. The coffee mornings take place in the library from 8.45-9.45am. Dates for each year group are as follows:

YEAR	DATE
Lower/Upper Kindergarten	Monday 13 January
Reception	Monday 20 January
Year 1	Monday 27 January
Year 2	Friday 7 February *Please note this change to previously published date
Year 3	Monday 10 February
Year 4	Monday 24 February
Year 5	Monday 2 March
Year 6	Monday 9 March
Years 7, 8, 9	Monday 16 March
Years 10, 11	Monday 23 March

11+ Exam and Admission into the Seniors

The 11+ exam takes place on Tuesday 21 January this year. We have a large number of external candidates sitting the exam and we are looking forward to meeting them all.

Our current Year 6 pupils will also be involved, which gives them an opportunity to experience the same entrance papers as the external candidates. Year 6 parents have already received information about the 11+ morning, with more details to follow before the day itself.

Staff Welcomes

Mr Anthony Kenney joins the maintenance team as Assistant Caretaker.

Miss Lizbeth Godfrey joins the Learning Support Team.

Miss Tinisha Smith returns to teach in the juniors after February half-term.

Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim is always to stay open even in snowy weather, unless there is a health and safety concern in doing so. The maintenance team arrive on site early to clear paths and to make the site safe, and an update will be posted on the website by 7.15am so that parents are informed about arrangements for the day.

During the winter months, please ensure your sons and daughters wear the appropriate plain hats, scarves and gloves, according to the uniform list. If boots are worn to school in snowy weather, shoes should be brought to change into on arrival.

The Oak-Tree Challenge Award

As you know, we introduced the Oak-Tree challenge last year and a good number of pupils have decided to take part. There is still time to become involved and to take up the challenge.

Any pupils from Year 4 up to Year 9 have the chance to complete the awards, which require a commitment over time to four different aspects of personal development, participation and contribution.

Mrs Allen is the Oak-Tree Challenge Coordinator and she will happily answer any question you or your children have about the award.

The Senior Leadership team, which comprises me, Mr Clair, Miss Barnard, Mrs Coates and Miss Stone will look at the award booklets and evidence at May half-term and the awards will be presented in the final assemblies. Any Gold Awards for Year 6 or Year 9 will be awarded at Speech Day.

Speech Day and Prize Giving 2020

An advance date for your diaries: the annual Speech Day and Prize Giving will take place on Thursday 2 July at Chingford Assembly Hall at 6pm. As last year, Speech Day and Prize Giving is for pupils from Year 1 to Year 11. Please do add this special date to your diaries, as all pupils must attend and all parents are welcome to join us.

Early Years Celebration

The Kindergarten and Reception children will have their Celebration of the Year on Monday 29 June at 2pm at the URC Hall in Buxton Road.

Parents' Evenings this term

I look forward to seeing you at the parents' evenings this term, when you will be able to discuss your son or daughter's progress and achievements so far this year with their teachers. We use the online booking system for the meeting slots and parents will receive a notification form the school office when these are available to book.

Please ensure you arrive in time for your first appointment as there is no scope to change appointment times on the evening.

In the seniors it is very important that your children attend with you and are part of the feedback meetings. The meetings are conversations about learning and progress. Teachers will want to celebrate what is going well, and will want to identify areas for your children to focus on as they move forward in their learning this year.

Pupil Information

Please remember to update the school office, and the school portal, whenever there are any changes to your family circumstances or your children's details.

Addresses and parent phone numbers must be up-to-date. We must have at least two emergency phone contact numbers for your child, and these must be in current use.

We need to be informed if your child is taking any regular medication and have information about any medical conditions.

Please check your portal details, and contact the school office if changes need to be made.

Forthcoming Events for the term

For theorning Events for	the term	
Tue 7 Jan		Start of Spring Term: school begins at normal time 8.40am
Mon 13 – Fri 17 Jan	09:15 - 15:00	Y6 Bikeability Course
Mon 13 Jan	08:45 - 09:45	LKG & UKG Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
	13:45 – 15:45	Y10 Learning Performance Workshop at Braeside
	19:15 – 20:45	NSPA Meeting (hall)
Tue 14 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents' Evening
Sat 18 Jan	12:00 - 14:00	Oak-Tree Art Exhibition, Lopping Hall Loughton
Mon 20 Jan	08:45 - 09:45	Reception Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Tue 21 Jan	09:00 - 11:00	Y2 Pizza Express Loughton trip
	09:30 - 13:00	11+ Entrance Exam
	16:00 – 18:30	Y11 Parents' Evening
Wed 22 Jan	08:45 - 09:00	Y1 Class Assembly to Parents
Thu 23 Jan	13:30 – 16:30	Y10 Forest School Careers Fair
Fri 24 Jan	10:30 - 16:00	Y5 Science Museum trip
Mon 27 Jan	08:45 - 09:45	Y1 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Tue 28 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y8 Parents' Evening
Wed 29 Jan	08:45 - 09:00	Y2G Class Assembly to Parents
Tue 4 Feb	08:30 - 09:00	KG-Y6 Parents' Drop In
	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Parents' Evening
Wed 5 Feb	08:45 - 09:00	Y2A Class Assembly to Parents
Thu 6 Feb		Y9 DTP Meningitis vaccinations
Fri 7 Feb	08:45 - 09:45	Y2 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
	18:30 - 20:00	NSPA Y3-6 Disco tbc
Mon 10 Feb	08:45 - 09:45	Y3 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Tue 11 Feb	09:30 - 15:45	Y9-11 GCSE Music students to Royal Festival Hall tbc
Wed 12 Feb	08:45 - 09:00	Y5 Class Assembly to Parents
Thu 13 Feb	14:30 - 19:30	Y10&11 GCSE Drama students to Richmond Theatre
Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb		Half Term
Mon 24 Feb	08:45 - 09:45	Y4 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Sat 29 Feb	09:00 - 12:30	School Production Rehearsal (hall)
Mon 2 Mar	08:45 – 09:45	Y5 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Wed 4 Mar	08:45 - 09:00	Reception Class Assembly to Parents
Thu 5 Mar	18:00 – 20:30	School Production (Redbridge Drama Centre)

Fri 6 Mar	09:00 - 11:00	Open Morning
Sun 8 Mar	09:00 - 16:00	Duke of Edinburgh Training Day at Braeside School
Mon 9 – Fri 13 Mar		Junior Science Week
Mon 9 Mar	08:45 - 09:45	Y6 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Wed 11 Mar	08:45 - 09:00	KG Assembly to Parents
	09:30 - 13:00	13+ & additional 11+ exams
Fri 13 Mar	09:00 – 15:30	EYFS trip to Sea Life Centre, Southend
	09:00 - 15:30	Y1-6 Sea Life Centre, London
Sun 15 Mar	11:00 - 13:00	NSPA Easter Walk
Mon 16 – Mon 23 Mar		Y11 Mock Exams
Mon 16 Mar	08:45 - 09:45	Y7-9 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Tue 17 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening (specialist staff in the hall)
Wed 18 Mar	08:45 - 09:00	Y3C Class Assembly to Parents
	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Thu 19 – Wed 25 Mar		Scholastic Book Fair
Mon 23 Mar	08:45 - 09:45	Y10&11 Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Wed 25 Mar	08:45 - 09:00	Y3P Class Assembly to Parents
Thu 26 Mar		Last Day of Term

With my very best wishes for the New Year and the new term

Yours sincerely

Mrs Claire Osborn Headmistress

