

# High Oaks Newsletter

## Dates for the Diary

25th September 9.45 am—Parent Event Therapy Provision 'Wave Model'

20th October—Diwali celebrations—Students invited to wear colourful clothes

23rd and 24th October INSET days—school closed to students

Monday 27th—Friday 31st Half term

Monday 3rd November—Students return **School photographs**

## Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year. I am sure that parents and children, like the staff, appreciate getting back into the routine of school. I am pleased to see the students are all adjusting to their new routines, getting to know the staff in their class and working hard towards their new targets.

I have attached the term dates for this academic year. Please make a note of these and remember that there are Government rules relating to term time leave from school. These rules are summarised on the next page of this Newsletter and it is important that you read and understand these as failure to follow the rules may result in a penalty fine. We welcome all our new



families to the Oaklands community and I look forward to working with you all over the coming years to ensure your child achieves to the very best of their ability. If you have any questions or concerns please do speak to your child's class teacher. Alternatively you can always call the office on 020 560 3569 and they will arrange an appointment for you.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Mairead Standring

Headteacher

# Attendance

Term Time Leave – The rules regarding term time leave have been updated by The Department of Education. As you are aware, term time leave is not allowed and is an unauthorised absence.

However, in very exceptional circumstances, and at the Head teacher's discretion, some leave can be authorised. The new rule, effective from 28th August 2024, is that parents MUST request leave in writing before leave is taken. This applies not only to planned holidays but also to emergency travel, which can sometimes constitute exceptional circumstances. Please note that no leave, whether planned or emergency, will be authorised if a leave request has not been completed first. A copy of the exceptional leave form can be found on the school website. If you require a hard copy, please notify the school office and this can be arranged for you. Please ensure you have a copy of your travel tickets and submit these with the leave request.

If your child is ill, please ensure that you notify the school reception on the day of absence, either by phone or email. If we cannot reach you on the second day of the absence as per our school attendance policy, a home visit will be carried out by one of our safeguarding teams. This absence will be unauthorised. It is essential that your child attends school regularly so they have access to the full curriculum and have the opportunity to continue to build on their skills. If you are experiencing difficulty with getting your child to attend school, please do speak to your child's head of department who will be able to support you.

Thank you as always for your support



## Safeguarding Leads High Oaks...here to listen



DSL Mairead Standing –Head Teacher



We strive to provide a safe and welcoming environment at Oaklands where everyone is respected and valued. The student's best interests are considered at all times. We are committed to dealing with concerns quickly and putting into place early help where necessary. All staff are trained and alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow procedures to ensure that children receive effective support and protection. If a child is in danger or at risk of harm, action will be taken immediately to protect that child.

Safeguarding is not just about protecting children from deliberate harm. It also relates to aspects of school life including:

- Students health and safety
- The use of reasonable force (restraint)
- Meeting the needs of children with medical conditions
- Providing first aid
- Educational visits
- Intimate care
- Online safety
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure school security

### At Oaklands

- All our staff are trained in Safeguarding children's welfare and update their training yearly.
- All our staff are DBS checked (formerly known as CRB checks)
- We are vigilant about our pupils' safety.
- We have an internal reporting system where all concerns are logged and brought to the attention of the Safeguarding leads.
- We will ring you to discuss anything we notice that concerns us.

**If you have a concern, please do come and speak to a member of the safeguarding team as soon as possible, we want to work with you in an open and transparent way.**

# School Council News

For the first time this year Oaklands will be welcoming four special members of the community to the school council.

In our Sixth Form we will choose four students each term to act as the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies. They will join school council and help create the agenda and share the opinions of their peers, as well as acting as a role model to younger students.

Congratulations to our first set of students:-

Head Boy—Gabriel

Deputy Head Boy—Luke

Head Girl—Mannat

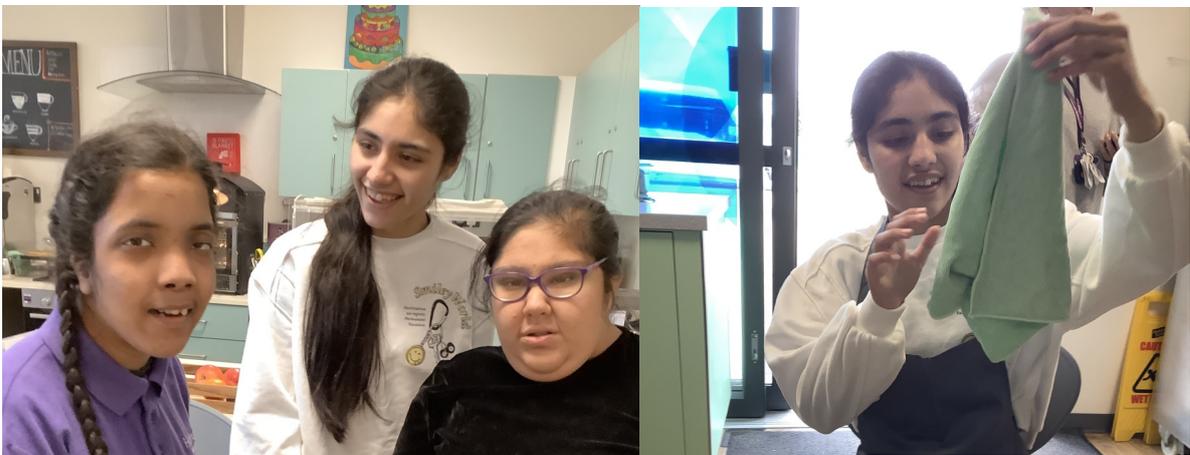
Deputy Head Girl—Suhir



# Crane 1

Crane 1 have been very busy since the start of term getting ready for practical lessons. We have been using the Life Skills room to take care of our homes and some of use have started our work experience.

Welcome back to school everyone!



## Term Dates: 2025 - 2026

### Autumn Term

**Inset Days: Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September - *No students***

Students Return: Wednesday 3rd September

**Inset Days: Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October - *No students***

**Half-term: Monday 27th - Friday 31st October**

Students Return: Monday 3rd November

End of Term: Friday 19th December (1:45pm finish)

**December Holidays: Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January**

### Spring Term

**Inset Day: Monday 5th January - *No students***

Students Return: Tuesday 6th January

**Half-term: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February**

Students Return: Monday 23rd February

End of Term: Friday 27th March (1:45pm finish)

**Easter Holidays: Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April**

### Summer Term

Students Return: Monday 13th April

**Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May**

**Half-term: Monday 25th - Friday 29th May**

End of Term: Friday 17th July (1:45pm finish)

**Summer Holidays: Monday 20th July onwards**