

# FOCUS ON OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

*Oaklands is a privately-owned independent school for boys and girls from 2½ to 11 in Albion Hill, Loughton.*

**W**e talk to Headmistress Cheryl Macnair about the school's unique strengths including the education of the Nursery, Infant and Junior pupils.

**Q: Tell us about Oaklands School.**  
We are a relatively small school in Loughton for around 240 pupils. We have small class sizes with a high teacher to pupil ratio and offer a more personalised education. This allows us to know every pupil well and each is treated as an individual. Children enjoy their time with us and develop into confident young people with a wide range of interests.

**Q: Your Early Years department has been acknowledged by inspectors in recent years to be "Outstanding or "Good" in all categories. How do you maintain such high standards?**

It is our goal to continually improve on excellence and we are always finding new ways to enhance our pupils' experiences. We give our youngest children the best possible start to their education in order to set them up with the tools they need to continue their learning journeys throughout life.

**Q: What were your school highlights during the Autumn Term?**

It was lovely to see the new pupils settling in and making friends so quickly. Every year I look forward to the Christmas Carol Service. The children sang so beautifully to a packed audience of parents and friends of the school St Mary's Church in Loughton at Christmas. It was an incredibly proud moment for me.

**Q: How do you communicate with your parents?**

From the informal chats at the schools gate to our 'open door policy', and from the regular coffee mornings to our



drop-in mornings we both talk and listen to parents regularly. Parents like our electronic communication too and frequently use our website to access information and news. We have a fantastic App, we email newsletters regularly and our 'textback' service has enabled parents to digitally 'sign' for trips, meetings and documents.

**Q: What wrap-around care do you provide?**

There are breakfast and teatime clubs available from 7.30am to 6pm and an extensive range of extra-curricular clubs and activities as well as weekend and holiday clubs.

**Q: Where do your pupils go at 11+?**

Nearly all pupils from Oaklands obtain places at their first choice of senior school at the end of Year 6, and most have several to choose from. This is largely due to our tailor-made curriculum and intensive preparation for 11+. More and more families are looking to transfer from Oaklands to one of our other Oak-Tree Schools - Braeside or Normanhurst - to continue their education within the same Group.

**Q: How do parents find out more?**

Our next open morning is Thursday 10 March, and we have a number of slots each week for parents to have individual school tours. I like to talk to parents personally about how Oaklands can best suit their child as it gives me the opportunity to get to know each prospective family. ■



## THE DETAILS

For more information about how your child is able to join one of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools in 2016 Read more at: [www.oaktreeschools.co.uk](http://www.oaktreeschools.co.uk)