



# Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

5<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Dear Parents

We are now a week away from half term and what an unusual half term it has been. The snow and awful weather really made the start of the term very difficult. I thank you all most sincerely for the helpful and supportive way in which everybody enabled us to get through a difficult couple of weeks. The communication links in respect of the telephone pyramids constructed through the Form Mums network, the updated website information and the advent of Dada mail have all helped us to get good clear and swift information out to the school community as soon as possible. I continue to work with the Governors, my staff and the parents to evaluate and where possible tighten up on our procedures and again I thank you for your support and participation.

The current Year 6 are nearing the end of the entry process for the next schools and we will be getting the outcome of their endeavours in its entirety by the beginning of March. The full results will be published at Prizegiving in July, which to inform you will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.00 am.

The current Year 5 parents joined us for a Which Schools Next Evening on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The vast majority of our previous Year 6 pupils joined us and provided very interesting talks about their new schools. Significantly, we were joined by Mr Julian Thomas, Headmaster, Caterham School, Mrs Lindsay Redding, Headmistress, Greenacre School and by Mrs Helen Rowe, Head of Marden House, Woldingham School. My three guests spoke about their school and were on hand for informal chats with our parents. Mr Thomas is visiting me today, to have a closer look at the school in action and Mrs Jayne Triffitt, Headmistress of Woldingham School will be my guest after half term. I would just remind parents of children in the current Year 5 to start thinking about making appointments with me to discuss next school straight after half term.

The Open Day held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January was a huge success. We were visited by 9 families and we believe that 12 families is the highest number of visitors on any previous Open Day. The Spring Open Day is usually quietest. Mrs Agathocli took Registration Forms and cheques for 7 prospective new pupils. Of these 1 is not yet born, 4 are joining waiting lists and 2 will be joining us from September 2012. For your information, if the current trend continues the school will be virtually full as we begin the Academic Year 2010/11. I am pleased to say that my Board of Governors is working very closely with me to plan appropriately for this growth.

For information the Open Day took a new turn and we worked throughout the school in vertical groupings on themed activities. William Blake's Tyger Tyger poem was the inspiration for a variety of musical, literary, scientific, artistic, geographic and IT related activities. Do please try and attend the end of term impromptu Spring Arts and Music Concert on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.00 pm in order to witness the fruits of our labour. I am sure that the vibrant and enthusiastic atmosphere that was evident throughout the school greatly contributed toward all of those signings. Thank you to my staff and pupils and to PFOG for their enthusiastic involvement.

I would like to welcome parents from Years 2 to 6 to a curriculum evening on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March in the Cameron Hall at 6.30 pm where my staff will be talking about handwriting and reading. We hope to have a selection of handwriting pens for inspection and purchase.

I hope that you all have a very enjoyable half term and lets keep our fingers crossed that the snow stays away for the rest of the winter.

With all best wishes

Mr Alex Gear  
Headmaster



*Mighty oaks from little acorns grow*

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