



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

12th December 2016

Dear Parents

As I write this we are nearing the end of another very busy yet successful term. Christmas is now upon us and I am in a position to look back with pride on a successful term.

Can I at this point please, give a polite reminder to parents not to park within the school grounds and not to use the drive as a turning circle.

Way back in September our Year 5s went on their annual journey to the Bushcraft camp. They had a simply wonderful time and we are all still listening to their tales of daring do. Our Year 4 made their regular trip to the Bough Beech Reservoir and then taught us all about water conservation. Mrs Leyshon made sure that the Class Assembly was filled with information about the water cycle.

Years 2 and 3 also treated us to some wonderful Form Assemblies while Years 5 and 6 led us in our Remembrance Day Service. The Harvest Festival was celebrated for the second time at St Mary's Church. On the day Reverend Frany was suddenly unavailable due to the arrival of a new family member. I am delighted to report that our children and the staff produced an excellent service. The Chamber Choir sang carols at the Whitgift Centre and the younger children provided us with a magnificent Nativity Play performance. We really have got some talented young children. The Carol Service was beautifully delivered and my thanks to Mrs Byers, Mrs Stevens and Miss Dance for the quality of the singing and the readings. Our thanks to the generosity of the parents, friends and family members who donated £307.00 for our Bamba Bees Kenyan School Project Charity. The school nativity play retiring collection in aid of the Ronald Macdonald House Charity raised £225.00.

We have enjoyed tremendous success with our swimmers this term. Well done to Mrs Evans and Mrs Ashdown-Parkes for coaching our teams to a level where both our boys and girls won their events at the ISA Regional Championships. 11 of our pupils including two of our boys' relay teams will be representing the London South Region at the Olympic pool in January. It is exciting also to note that we beat Caterham School in a recent gala.

The MUGA is now fully in action and we have had the benefit of being able to have lessons and coaching sessions extended because of the floodlight facility. Peter Friend, a high level Hockey Coach, based at Caterham School came to deliver hockey masterclass sessions to pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. We have also introduced a new hockey club after school run by Miss Dance and Mr Burke.

We are eagerly awaiting the results from the recent LAMDA examinations undertaken by many of our younger pupils. Many of our students have also taken their ABRSM music exams. Our judo players also went through a grading session.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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My thanks to PFOG for yet another wonderful terms' support. I know that the arrangements for the children's party and all events surrounding Christmas will take on a very festive feel this year. The children are very lucky to have such a very creative and enthusiastic group of parents that support the school so actively.

We had a good response to the Stripey Stork appeal. My thanks to Mrs Carter and Mrs Bassett for organising things.

I know that Year 6 will enjoy their Christmas holidays along with everyone else but I do urge them to keep an eye on next term's entrance examinations and to work hard during the holiday.

I pray that you will all have a very happy and safe family Christmas.

With season's best wishes and greetings

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster