



# Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

STANSTEAD ROAD • CATERHAM • SURREY CR3 6AF • TEL: 01883 343344 • FAX: 01883 342021

HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents

As we have now reached the final stages of the term can I thank you for your help and understanding with regard to the recent wintery conditions and the arrangements that we had to put in place. As you will realise I have to put the safety of the children, the parents and my staff as a first consideration. This of course is reflected in the arrangements for arriving at school and at going home time. Several schools in the immediate area did close and I am pleased to observe that we were able to keep open and to run as near as normal during this difficult period. Please be aware that we must be prepared for adverse weather conditions after Christmas when we arrive back on the first day **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. I will of course keep you updated through the clarion system as normal, should it be necessary.

During the term I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Charmaine Noble has joined us an additional Lunchtime and Playground Supervisor. Mrs Noble has fitted in well and is thoroughly enjoying her time with us. The end of term, sadly, sometimes brings us news of members of staff who are leaving. This term Mr Andrew Agathocli will be leaving us because he is taking up a more senior role as the School Caretaker at Laleham Lea School in Purley. Andrew has become an integral part of the Oakhyrst team having worked alongside Mr Marek Buchala, our Site Manager and Mrs Debbie Staples, our Chef. In addition he has become a familiar friendly face on early morning gate duty. Andrew has also helped out, in his capacity as a qualified football coach, with teaching Year 2 and latterly Years 5 and 6 on the soccer field. I am sure that you will all join me in thanking Andrew for the great service that he has provided to the school and in wishing him every success in his future career.

During the term we have had our usual quota of trips and visits. Year 5 went on their Bushcraft adventure, Year 4 visited Bough Beech Reservoir and tomorrow Year 1 and KG classes are going to the Harlequin Theatre to the pantomime. This afternoon after our Christmas lunch we are going to enjoy the visiting pantomime that is being performed for the school thanks to the generous support of PFOG.

The Harvest Festival was celebrated at St Mary's Church and I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Reverend Frany for hosting us. The Remembrance Service assembly was conducted with appropriate reverence by our Years 5 and 6 classes. The school observed the minutes silence as they assembled on the playground. Tom P played the trumpet solo from the top balcony above the office in the usual way and our thanks to him and Mr Gardner for helping to make it very special occasion. We have enjoyed the usual fine performances in Class Assemblies for Years 2, 3 and 4. Year 5 parents enjoyed a splendid class concert and I would like to thank Year 5 for allowing me to play the triangle in the percussion section. The Chamber Choir sang carols at the Sycamore Court Retirement Home in Oxted and my thanks to Mrs Stevens and Miss Dance for making it possible. Guests from the retirement home came and watched the dress rehearsal of the Nativity Play and had a simply wonderful time.

*Mighty oaks from little acorns grow*

EMAIL: OFFICE@OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK • SECRETARY@OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK

WEB: WWW.OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK • CHARITY NO: 325043



The Carol Service went off beautifully as always. It has become a new tradition for us to form a walking train back from the church after the morning rehearsal and to the church prior to the service. My thanks to Mr Burke for the logistical arrangements for this. The children are simply brilliant. Their behaviour and enthusiasm is inspirational. The retiring collection from the service raised £366.66 for the Bamba Bees Kenya Schools project. May I thank you for your generosity. The Nativity Play continues to be a major focal point in our term. My thanks and congratulations to Miss Cockbain, Mrs Brown and Mrs Dowling and all of the EYFS and Year 1 staff for making it a simply wonderful event. My thanks also must go to Mrs Sanchez for yet again providing us with a splendid backdrop. The children are truly professional and they love every minute of the rehearsal programme and the performance. The retiring collection raised over £100 for the RNLI and again I thank you for your generous support.

Our International charity this year is the United World Schools Education Programme. As the Chairman of the ISA this year I have been promoting a school in Cambodia that is to be funded by the Independent Schools Association. Mrs Pumphrey has organised a very successful series of sponsored fun runs over the last couple of weeks. The children's cross country has taken on a new dimension as they have raced around the course in their Christmas fancy dress. It really has been a site to behold and never has cross country been seen to be so much fun. I know that your generous sponsorship should raise significant amounts of money and this will all be finally collected during the first week of term after the Christmas break. Thank you in anticipation for your generosity. All of the money raised will go to the ISA School in Cambodia. For more information go to [www.unitedworldschools.org](http://www.unitedworldschools.org).

We have engaged in a host of sporting fixtures during the term and enjoyed considerable success in netball, football, cross country, swimming and table tennis. Full details can be found on the latest news section of the school website.

Once again my sincere thanks to Mrs Gayral and everyone on the PFOG team. Earlier in the term we had the regular Spooky Disco, Christmas Market and we are about to enjoy the children's Christmas party.

Some of our Year 6 class have already enjoyed success with regard to next school examinations and I know that they will all be busy working during the holiday for the entrance examinations that lay ahead. I am sure that we all wish them every success.

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