



# 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

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents

I am going to begin by saying a huge thank you to the whole school community for remaining loyal and supportive during one of the most difficult school years that I can remember. The Governors, staff, parents and pupils have all held together firmly in order to make sure that we have kept the school open and with a business as usual sign clearly pinned on the front door. I am very proud of everyone. Thank you.

At this point, I would like to thank Mrs Murphy and her team of parents who so very kindly gave of their time to run the drop-off drive through scheme that was in place this year. In all winds and weathers, the ladies have opened car doors and helped to escort our children safely onto the playground. This scheme has greatly improved the whole process of drop-off and I know that everyone has benefitted greatly. Thank you very much indeed Mrs Murphy and everyone involved. Thank you also to those of you who have volunteered to get things in place for September so that we can continue with the arrangements.

A word now about our Head of Early Years, Mrs Kate Brown, who is leaving us. I know that we will all wish her a very fond farewell. Kate Brown, will be leaving us after 17 years association with the school, 12 years as a Teacher and more recently as our Head of Early Years. Kate has become a key figure for so many children in so many very positive ways. She will be greatly missed by pupils, parents, staff and Governors alike. Mrs Brown, thank you. Mr Michael McInnerney, as you know, will be leaving us at Christmas. I will of course have more to say about Michael nearer the time. Mr McInnerney's replacement will be Mr Stephen Womersley who will be joining us as our Year 2 Class Teacher in January. Mrs Roxann Dowling has been appointed as our new Head of Early Years. Miss Amy Wright has been appointed as the new Kindergarten Class Teacher. Mrs Paula Pumphrey will remain on the staff in a continued part-time capacity, but Mr James Steel will be taking over in September as our new Head of Sport. I take this opportunity to say a specific thank you to all of the teaching staff for the magnificent work that they have done both during lock-down and what we may regard as normal schooling.

I am delighted to say that this year, Year 5 managed a version of the annual Bushcraft residential trip, albeit hastily rearranged because of COVID. Year 6 had an absolute ball in Dorset at the PGL residential site. Years 3 and 4 have visited Herstmonceux Science Observatory, Year 4 also visited the British Wildlife Centre, Year 2 went to Tonbridge Castle and Kindergarten and Year 1 visited Duisillas. Our LKG children had a special visit arranged for them to Godstone Farm. On top of the various trips, we were able to run a Sports Day and the Year 6 parents who were able to attend cheered everyone on with equal enthusiasm. It was a wonderful day. A full programme of Clubs and Activities has been in place whenever we have come out of total lock-down.

Those of you that were lucky enough to be able to come and see our production of Doctor Dolittle, will, I am sure, agree that it was sensational. A special word of thanks to Mrs Stevens who managed to bring the whole show together by rehearsing the school in bubbles on the playground and in the woods. To have been able to arrive at four audience-attended performances in the school hall was a feat of super human determination. Well done to Mrs Stevens, the whole cast and all those staff members who worked tirelessly to bring it to fruition.

*Mighty oaks from little acorns grow*

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

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



Now I turn to our current Year 6 pupils. I congratulate them each and every one on their success this year. They have all achieved suitable next school places and between them, the 18 students have been awarded a total combination of 18 scholarships and awards. This Year 6 has enjoyed a wonderful year and they have given freely of their time and abilities.

It goes without saying, that we all hope and pray for things to be as back to normal as possible by the time we return to school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September for Years 1 to 6 and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for Kindergarten and Lower Kindergarten. We will all be watching for announcements that will be made in July. I will of course contact you by clarion if anything needs to be announced.

I trust that you will all enjoy a happy and safe family summer holiday.

With sincere best wishes

Mr Alex Gear  
Headmaster