



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

30th March 2022

Dear Parents

As I write this end of term letter I am very pleased to be able to report that despite various significant hurdles we have negotiated the term in as near a normal way as possible. My sincere congratulations to all of the children for getting on with things, despite in many cases, having to take time off school because of COVID and other illnesses. The staff have been magnificent and we too have had to cope with a large number of illnesses and periods of isolation. You as parents have once again been wonderful in the support that you have shown in so many positive ways. Thank you.

This term we were able to run a full programme of extra-curricular events. Mr Steel has been able to complete a number of sporting fixtures and our teams have competed in regional events through the ISA competitions. I would like to say really well done to all of our hockey, netball, soccer and cross country players and competitors. Mrs Evans has more than done her bit in providing opportunities for competitive swimming fixtures against other schools. In addition we have competed in the English Small Schools' Championships and in the It's a Fish Out event. We also enjoyed having parental support for all of the combined class Inter-House Galas. My sincere thanks and congratulations to Mrs Evans, Mrs Ashdown-Parkes and all of our swimmers.

One of the frequent remarks made by prospective parents visiting the school is how well behaved and confident our children are. A clear way of helping to develop confidence is through the public performance of individual class assemblies. Each class throughout the school has had an opportunity to perform a prepared assembly for their parents and for the rest of the school. Each and every one of these assemblies has been very special and unique. In addition this term Year 4 performed their Class Concert. These Class Concerts are also an important element in building confidence and teamwork. We enjoyed, for the first time in a long time, a major Spring Concert delivered by our musicians and there was also an Orchestral Playing Day enjoyed by many of our pupils at Woldingham School. The children excel under the lights and under the pressure of a live performance. I am very proud of each and every one of them. A big thank you to all of the Class Teachers for the assemblies and to Mrs Stevens and her Peripatetic team for the music.

This term Kindergarten and Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the Polka Theatre Company to see 'Cinderella the Awesome Truth'. Years 2 and 3 visited Butser Farm and Year 6 went to Woldingham School for a Science Experience. A team of Years 4 and 5 competed at Caterham School in a Globetrotting Quiz and performed very well. Three of our Year 5 pupils visited Epsom College and competed in their Public Speaking Competition and received individual and team recognition.

My thanks to Mrs Leyshon for organising a wonderful variety of activities based around people's favourite books in celebration of World Book Day. The Teachers really did come up trumps in finding new and different ways of getting excited about the joys of books and literature. Mrs Leyshon herself became a wonderful version of Mary Poppins. In this regard following the theme of literature I would like to thank the Librarians for their initiative in creating a second hand book sale of children's literature in aid of the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. May I thank all of the parents who supported not only the book appeal but the Ukraine Donation Appeal coordinated by Mrs Wegorek. Mrs Evans has been additionally busy in organising a series of sponsored swims for each class by

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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way of raising funds for the Children's Trust. May I please ask that any sponsorship money that has been raised is sent in by the beginning of next term. Can you please send the funds by cash or cheque payable to The Children's Trust.

Mrs Landauer organised a French Curriculum Week which proved to be a huge success. Perhaps a part of the success was down to some of the initiatives around food. The week was very well received by the children and staff alike. I personally enjoyed helping with the Games lesson for Years 5 and 6 where we played Boules.

Mrs Dawson, has once again prepared large numbers of our pupils for the very important LAMDA examinations and we await the results with interest. We have also completed a round of ABRSM music examinations and all of our students were successful. As I write this letter all of our ballet students are involved in taking their RAD exams and I know that we can look forward to some good results there too. For the first time because of the large numbers of students examinations will be running throughout the day.

I have already sent a clarion message about the departure of Mrs Debby Staples, our Chef and Mrs Lucy Ashdown-Parkes, our Assistant Swimming Coach. Both ladies will be greatly missed and I am sure that you will all join me in wishing them every happiness and success for the future. Mr Steve Liu, who is currently assisting Mrs Staples is stepping up to take the role of our new Chef. Mr Liu is very experienced and I am certain that he will maintain the highest standards already established by Mrs Staples. We are currently advertising for an Assistant Swimming Coach and I hope to have more news about this when we move into the new term. I am confident that once again we will be able to fill the post and I do assure you that there will be no disruption to curricular swimming.

Yet again Mrs McCoy and her wonderful PFOG team have done so very much to make things exciting by way of the events that they have arranged on behalf of the children. There was a PFOG disco, an Animal Encounter day, a Mother's Day Tea Party and now we are looking forward to a PFOG movie afternoon and the greatly longed for Easter Egg Hunt. A special word of thanks to our Volunteer Parking Marshals' who have yet again made the morning drop-offs so much smoother.

Can I remind you that when we return to school on Tuesday 26th April 2022, the children should be wearing Summer Uniform. The Summer Term production this year is The Little Mermaid and tickets will be available around half term. We will apply our usual protocol of inviting Year 6 parents to book first. I would like to congratulate all of our Year 6 pupils for all of their hard work and achievements this term. Prize Giving is scheduled for Saturday 25th June 2022 subject to confirmation at the beginning of next term.

With sincere best wishes and continue to stay safe. My hope is that we can once again simply carry on in as normal a way as possible. How nice it has been to welcome parents and family members back into the school as spectators and participants in the life of the school.

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster