



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

6th July 2022

Dear Parents

I would like to begin my end of term letter by offering a special thank you to my Trustees and Board of Governors, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Davis for all that they do in supporting the school.

Another thank you to our very successful PFOG team led by Mrs McCoy. Mrs McCoy, our PFOG Chair is standing down after four years in the role and other members are stepping aside too, Mrs Sathanathan as Treasurer, Mrs Carter as Secretary. I know that all three ladies will continue to be involved with the PFOG Committee, but I would like to take this opportunity of saying a special thank you to all of them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the children and the school. A special word for Mrs McCoy whose quiet and ultra-efficient leadership has been a major source of support for me as the Headmaster of the School in trying to keep everything as normal as possible on behalf of the parents, children and indeed the whole school community.

I would like now to say thank you to Mrs Pumphrey and Mrs Keith both of whom will be leaving us at the end of this term on 6th July. Mrs Pumphrey has worked with us as Assistant Games Teacher, Head of PSHE and Head of Games during the last twenty years. I am pleased that Mrs Pumphrey has stepped up to take up the reigns in the Sports Department in the last few weeks. The delivery of yet another excellent Sports Day is a tribute to her leadership and administrative skills. Mrs Keith has been with us for eighteen years, firstly, as a Nursery Assistant and latterly as a Teaching Assistant in the Early Years setting and in Year 1. Mrs Keith has been frequently recognised for her artistic talents particularly in producing the back-drops for School Nativity plays. A word of thanks too for Mr Jason Gardner who will be leaving us as a Peripatetic Instrumental Teacher for the last nineteen years.

A pleased to be able to inform you that we have appointed Miss Georgie Lomax as our Games Assistant. We have also appointed Mrs Sophie Farrington and Miss Sarah Lancaster in Teaching Assistant roles. The three ladies will take up their posts from September 2022. All three ladies will be known to you and of course the children that have been taught by Miss Lomax for Modern Dance, will, I am sure, be excited at the prospect of her working with them on the Games front as well.

I am pleased to say that the current Year 5 once again enjoyed a hugely successful Bushcraft Residential trip. Year 4 visited Bough Beech Reservoir. The Kindergarten and Year 1 pupils went to the Polka Theatre and watched a performance of Cinderella the awesome truth. Our instrumentalists enjoyed an Orchestral Day at Woldingham School and three of our Year 5 pupils, Saanya, Zachary and Emily represented the School in a Public Speaking Competition at Epsom College. There was a Year 6 outing to Woldingham School for a Science Experience Day. Akash, Elissa, Connie, Hartley, Clara and Surina from Year 4 and Oscar, Lilia, Elena, Kasra and Daisy from Year 5 represented the School at the Caterham School Round the World Geography Quiz. Years 2 & 3 visited Butser Ancient Farm. The Kindergarten class visited Pizza Express and provided themselves with some tasty memories. Year 3 spent a day and Year 4 did an overnighter at a PGL site near Guildford. The LKG class visited Godstone Farm and Year 6 had an absolute ball in Dorset at the PGL Residential site. This term our Year 5 pupils had a simply wonderful time on the Outdoor Learning Course at Caterham School. The high ropes experience was enjoyed by all of the students. Just recently Year 4 visited the British Wildlife Centre, Year 2 visited Tonbridge Castle and our Kindergarten and Year 1 pupils went to London Zoo for the day. I am sure that you will agree with me that it is such a privilege for our children to be able to experience trips and activities beyond the too familiar bubbles that we had to endure during the COVID period. A special word of thanks to my staff for arranging these opportunities for the students.

This year we have been able to run a full programme of clubs and activities. On the sporting front we have been hit with a large number of cancellations but at the same time we have at least managed to get some fixtures into the calendar and we have attended a number of tournaments.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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The U9 and U11 football teams had fixtures against Caterham, our U8s, U9s, U10, and U11s played football and netball against Banstead Prep. Our U11s played a first ever, for them, girls football match against Hawthorns. Our U9 and U11 played mixed hockey matches against St David's and Essendene Lodge and our U8 girls had a hockey fixture away at Banstead. The U11s and U9s girls' cricket teams played against Caterham Prep. It was unfortunate that the boys' cricket fixtures were both cancelled by the opposition.

Mrs Evans has been incredibly busy this year on the swimming front with a whole range of galas and competitions. Selected Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children represented the school against Royal Russell, Banstead Prep and Reigate St Mary's in four galas. The ISA London South Swimming Gala proved quite successful for our team and Joseph, Emily and Scarlett all competed at the Olympic Pool in the ISA National Finals. Scarlett won a magnificent silver medal for the 50 metre front crawl and then capped it off with a gold medal in the 50 metre breaststroke. Our Year 6 pupils swam in the It's A Fish Out Life Saving Competition, in Dorking and well done to Daisy, Claudia, Max Antoine, Alexandra, Ava, Ciara and Calvin who managed between them to finish 4th and 5th respectively. Our team, Daisy, Max, Joseph, Amala and Emily swam at the ESSA championships and performed incredibly well finishing third in two of the events and just missed out on a finals place in Sheffield.

We have a very full programme of peripatetic Ballet, Modern Dance and LAMDA teaching. Our ballet dancers and there were 33 of them all passed their age appropriate examinations, 7 with merit and 5 with high merit. An amazing 57 pupils enjoyed Modern Dance lessons and their parents enjoyed a simply magnificent dance assembly. In LAMDA we had some of the best results ever. All 30 children passed their examinations with distinction. A magnificent achievement.

It is good to be able to say that our usual calendar of Form Assemblies, Harvest Festival, Year 5 & 6 Remembrance Service, the Nativity Play, Carol Service and the Year 5 & 6 Easter Assembly all went ahead and all with parents able to attend. On the music front we have had a full programme of class concerts and I am happy to report that they were all brilliant. For the first time in my life I enjoyed listening to the recorder, thanks to Years 3 and 4. This year 60 pupils have taken peripatetic music lessons in violin, clarinet, flute, fife, cello, piano, guitar, saxophone, cornet, tenor horn and singing. We are awaiting the results from this week's ABRSM examinations and expect the usual high levels of success. The production of The Little Mermaid was an outstanding success. The Year 6 pupils gave wonderful performances and were ably backed up by the rest of the school. The atmosphere in the auditorium was electric.

A word now for 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 19 students have been awarded a total combination of 24 Scholarships, Awards and offers of Grammar School places. This Year 6 has enjoyed a wonderful year and they have given freely of their time and abilities. A special word of thanks to Mrs Harbott, their Class Teacher who along with all the Teachers in the school have contributed greatly to their success.

I trust that you will all enjoy a happy and safe family summer holiday and that your travel plans all work out well for you.

With sincere best wishes

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster