



Oakhurst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

30th March 2023

Dear Parents

I am pleased to report that we have had a very busy and successful term. We are now going into the Easter break ready to refresh ourselves for the Summer Term ahead.

This term we have had a very busy programme of events and extra-curricular activities. Mr Steel has successfully arranged 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, soccer and cross country players and competitors. A special word of praise for Isla G, Beau P and Alec W all from Year 4, who qualified and competed at the National Cross Country Championships in Nottingham. Major congratulations to Vivienne L, Year 4 who came away with a bronze medal. I am proud to think that our pupils have competed at local, regional and even at National ISA levels in all of these areas. Well done and thanks also to Miss Lomax for her strong support in all areas of our sporting endeavours.

Mrs Evans has excelled in providing even more competitive swimming opportunities against other schools. In addition we have competed in the It's a Fish Out event and English Small Schools' Championships (ESSA). Many congratulations to Scarlett K, Year 5 and Daisy H, Emily S and Joseph L all Year 6 who will be swimming in the next round of the ESSA championships. We also enjoyed having parental support for all of the combined class Inter-House Galas. My sincere thanks and congratulations to Mrs Evans, Mrs Cox and all of our swimmers.

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 as did Year 5. These Class Concerts are also an important element in building confidence and teamwork. The major Spring Concert delivered by our musicians was of a very high standard. Congratulations to all of our musicians. A small number of pupils on higher music grades attended an Orchestral Playing Day 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 'Jack v Giant'. 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, Annabel H, Surina R and Akash S visited Epsom College and competed in their Public Speaking Competition and received a prize for the most entertaining speech. Thank you to Mrs Leyshon for organising and preparing the team. Mr Burke, Mrs Leyshon, Mrs Gorman and Mrs Oates all accompanied Years 3 and 4 on an overnight residential at the Youth Hostel Association site in Holmbury St Mary's. This was the first time Year 3 have stayed away and by all accounts everyone had a wonderful time despite some very wet weather.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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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. I have to mention the amazing costumes that our Early Years children paraded on the day. Some of the characters were simply astonishing. Their Teachers costumes were pretty amazing too.

Mrs Dawson, has once again prepared large numbers of our pupils for the very important LAMDA examinations and we await the results with interest. There was a special LAMDA assembly which was very well attended and the children all performed in style. We have also completed a round of ABRSM music examinations on 6th February and everyone passed.

Mrs Smith 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 Neon disco, Circus Skills 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 please take this opportunity to ask for more volunteers in this capacity. We will certainly need more volunteers to assist with the drop-off from September but if anyone has availability before then do please let me know.**

Can I remind you that when we return to school on Tuesday 25th April 2023, the children should be wearing Summer Uniform. The Summer Term production this year is Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and tickets will be available around half term. The performance dates are Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th June 2023. 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 1st July 2023 at 10.00am.** I do expect pupils from Years 2 to 6 to be in attendance.

With sincere best wishes for a safe, happy and family orientated Easter break.

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster