



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

7th July 2023

Dear Parents

I would like to begin by offering a special thank you to my Board of Governors, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Pauline Clark and our very successful PFOG team led by Mrs Vicky Smith for all that they do in supporting the school.

This year I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Kate Georgiades who will be leaving the PFOG team at the end of this year. Kate has been a staunch supporter of PFOG for many years and I would like to recognise the amazing work that she has done over many school productions on the children's make up.

As you are already aware Miss Amy Wright will be taking a maternity leave at some point during the Autumn Term. I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing her all the best. Please be assured that we have measures in place to cover this absence appropriately.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our very reliable and efficient team of volunteers that help us with the drop off arrangements in the morning, each and every day. The work that these volunteers do is greatly appreciated by everyone and it does mean that we have far less congestion in the Stanstead Road and that parents can drop and go in a more time efficient way. A very sincere thank you to all of our volunteers. I believe that we have sufficient volunteers for the start of the Autumn Term, but would welcome anyone who would like to volunteer as a potential team member for next year.

Our Year 5 class once again enjoyed a hugely successful Bushcraft Residential trip and thanks to Mr Burke and Mrs Gorman for taking them. Mrs Leyshon and Mrs Farrington accompanied Year 4 to their Bough Beech Reservoir visit. Our Chamber Choir attended the Woldingham Junior Choir Festival with Mrs Stevens and Mrs Leyshon and they came first. Myself and Mrs Harbott took our Year 6 pupils to attend a Junior Citizen Child Safety Event at Lingfield Race Course. Mrs Stevens and Mrs Budgen took our instrumentalists who enjoyed an Orchestral Playing Day at Woldingham School. The KG and Year 1 classes enjoyed their annual visit to the Polka Theatre to see Jack v Giant with Miss Cockbain, Miss Wright, Miss Lancaster, Mrs Hobbs and a group of volunteer parents. Mr Burke and Mrs Leyshon took Elissa, Clara, Millie, Jackson, Surina and Annabel from Year 5 and Ilana, Amaaya, Daniel, Heath, Jude, and Kate from Year 4 to Caterham School for their Junior Globetrotting Geography Quiz. They acquitted themselves extremely well. We also entered the Epsom College prep schools Public Speaking competition and were placed as "Most entertaining talk of the evening". This was a competition for Year 5 children Annabel, Akash and Surina represented the school very successfully. Lilia, Year 6 was entered into the ISA writing competition and Oscar, Elena and Saanya all in Year 6 competed in the ISA Shakespeare monologue event. Mrs Harbott took Millie, Surina, Jackson and Emilie from Year 5 to the Royal Russell School to compete in their Maths Challenge. Mrs Farrington took Leela, Bonnie, Alec and Roma to the Year 3 Authors Abroad event at St Francis School. A special thank you to Mrs Leyshon and Mrs Harbott, for all of their hard work with our Public Speakers, creative writers, Shakespeare performers and Mathematicians. Mrs Leyshon, Mr Burke, Mrs Gorman, Mrs Oates and Mrs Farrington took our Years 3 and 4 pupils to Holmbury St Mary's where they stayed overnight at the Youth Hostel Association campsite.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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A highlight for me was the visit organised by Mrs Dowling and Mrs Rocha for the Animal Petting Farm who came to meet with our LKG children. How lovely to see ponies, chickens and other animals up close and personal here at school. Mr Burke, Mrs McKiernan along with Mrs Gorman, Mrs Oates and Mrs Noble took the Years 2 and 3 children to visit the Fishbourne Roman Palace. Mr Burke and Mrs Gorman took a very enthusiastic Year 6 class on their annual residential PGL trip to Osmington Bay near Lyme Regis in Dorset. Mrs Leyshon and Mrs Farrington took our Year 4 children to visit the British Wildlife Centre near East Grinstead. I am pleased to say that I drove the new electric minibus to transport the children and Mr Marek drove the 17 seater minibus.

I take this opportunity to thank PFOG for their generous donations toward our new transportation. How good it is that we can transport a whole class and staff independently. Miss Cockbain, Miss Wright, Miss Lancaster and Mrs Hobbs and some volunteer parents took our KG and Year 1 classes to Drusillas Park near Eastbourne.

I have deliberately mentioned all of my staff this year with regard to all of these trips and events so that we can acknowledge their professional contributions.

This year we have been able to run a full programme of clubs and activities and once again, what a delight it is to be able to say that.

On the Sporting front Mr Steel and Miss Lomax managed the following events. Our U9s have had a fixture in football against Caterham Prep. The U9s have also had hockey fixtures for the girls against Aberdour, a combined boys and girls match against St David's. On the cricket front the U9s competed against Aberdour School with mixed boys and girls teams. They also competed in the usual Inter-House Cricket competition. A selected team of U9 children competed in the ISA London South regional cross country and athletic competitions. Ilana, Jude, Beau, Vivienne and Alec all qualified for the ISA National Cross Country finals in Nottingham. Congratulations to Vivienne on winning a bronze medal.

In the U11 category we had boys football fixtures and tournaments with Caterham Prep, Lingfield College and Banstead Prep and the girls had a football fixture with Hawthorns. Our U11 girls competed in a netball fixture against Banstead Prep. In hockey we had a girls fixture against Aberdour and a tournament in Cranleigh. The boys had a fixture against Elmhurst and they also competed in the ISA National Championships at the Lee Valley Stadium. The boys and the girls enjoyed a mixed hockey fixture against Essendene Lodge.

In cross country our U11s had a meeting with Hazelwood School. Our cross country U11 boys and girls teams competed in the ISA London South Regional tournament and Emily Shaw qualified for the National Finals. Both of our U9 and U11 cross country runners competed in our annual Inter-House cross country event as did all of the younger children.

Our U11 boys and girls cricketers had a mixed fixture against Aberdour. Our U11 cricketers all played in the annual inter-house tournament.

Our athletes competed in the ISA London South Regional Athletic championships at Walton on Thames. Unfortunately, none of our children qualified for the ISA Nationals this year.

Mrs Evans and Mrs Cox have been busy arranging a programme for our swimmers. Years 3 to 6 had swimming galas against Royal Russell, Reigate St Mary's and Caterham schools. All of the children competed in their individual class inter-house swimming competitions. Years 4 to 6 boys and girls teams competed in the ISA London South Swimming Gala at the Beckenham Spa. The following children qualified for the ISA National Finals at the Olympic Pool in London Joshua, Scarlett, Joseph, Daisy and Emily. Joshua came away with a silver medal in the Year 4 individual freestyle event and Scarlett won a bronze medal in her second individual event of the gala. Emily and Daisy both won a bronze medal in the Year 6 girls' freestyle relay.

Two teams made up of Amala, Daisy, Florence, Brodie, Emily, Elena, Jai and Oscar from Year 6 took part in the It's a Fish out lifesaving competition for primary schools in Dorking.

Scarlett, Year 5 and Daisy, Joseph and Emily, all from Year 6 competed in the ESSA Primary competition in Guildford and won silver medals.



We have a very full programme of peripatetic Ballet, Modern Dance and LAMDA teaching. Our ballet dancers and there were 46 have all taken their examinations and we are awaiting their results. A total of 47 pupils enjoyed Modern Dance lessons. In LAMDA we had some excellent results. All 30 children passed their examinations with 24 distinctions and 6 merits.

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 as usual and were very well received.

On the music front we have had a full programme of class concerts and I am happy to report that they were all lovely.

This year 63 pupils have taken peripatetic music lessons in violin, viola, flute, fife, cello, piano, guitar, cornet, tenor horn and singing. We are awaiting the next round of ABRSM examinations results.

A sincere congratulations, to everyone involved in the production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. A special thank you to Mrs Debbie Stevens for her musical and artistic direction throughout the production.

The Government and local authorities are looking to regulate school attendance far more strictly. Attendance levels for any individual pupil need to be in excess of 95%. Schools and parents are from this point on, going to be held more accountable for pupil attendance. For this reason, and starting in September, I will not be authorising any absence for family holidays or visits. The exceptions of course would be for family funerals or an occasional and unforeseen serious circumstance. Where there are periods of absence due to medical circumstances the usual rules apply about providing medical evidence for the absence. I would like to inform you of the process that we will be following. We calculate total attendance on a termly basis. We are proud that many of our pupils receive 100% attendance certificates at the end of each term. If a child's attendance is below the required 95% at the end of a given term, parents will receive a warning letter to illustrate the concern and the actual level of attendance achieved. In the event of a particular child falling below the required 95% level at the end of a next term the parents will receive a more formal letter reminding them that the next step will be to notify the Surrey Inclusion Services who monitor schools attendance on a County level. The necessary next step for a third term's below par attendance will be for the school to notify Surrey Inclusion Services and to pass the case to them officially. I believe that you will understand the necessity for me to tighten up on our attendance figures and thank you in anticipation for your support.

On a much happier note, I would like to congratulate each and every one of our Year 6 pupils on their success this year. They have all achieved suitable next school places and between them the 16 students have been awarded a total combination of 12 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 and latterly Mr Womersley who along with all the Teachers in the school have contributed greatly to their success. Year 6 we are all very proud of you.

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

With sincere best wishes

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster