



# 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

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents

As you all know we have now gone through our ISI inspection and are awaiting the report. I would like to thank all of the parents and children for their support in filling in the questionnaires. The children and the staff made a very strong and positive impression on the Inspectors. As you will understand I am not in a position to make further comment at this time.

Year 6 continue to work incredibly hard toward their next school placements. My congratulations to them on the quality of their work and indeed the superb way in which they are leading the school as our senior pupils. Well done Year 6 on an excellent term's work.

Year 6 enjoyed a Junior Citizenship afternoon at Lingfield Race Course. I am pleased to report that the Year 5 Bushcraft trip was enjoyed by everyone. The children had a fantastic time and my thanks to Mr Burke and Mrs Gorman for making it possible. Year 5 also enjoyed a Music Expressive Arts concert at the Fairfield Halls. Year 4 children were able to go on the annual Bough Beech reservoir trip and they too learned a lot and had a good time. Thank you Mrs Leyshon for arranging it. Mrs Dowling and Mrs Rocha took a very excited LKG class into Caterham Valley on an experience morning. I do believe that they visited Waitrose as well.

Our annual visit to St Mary's Church for our Harvest Festival Service was marked by a wonderful collection of food supplies that were ultimately donated to the Caterham Food Bank. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity. Mrs Carter, one of the PFOG team, was instrumental in enabling this all to happen. I instigated a round of applause with Reverend Frany's permission for the beautiful singing that our children delivered for us. There was a lovely atmosphere in the church, full of joy and celebration. It was a pleasure to be able to invite parents in to watch assemblies that were delivered by Years 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Years 5 and 6 performed a Remembrance Day assembly in front of parents. On the Remembrance Day itself Connie H, Year 6 and Mr Womersley performed the Last Post and the Reveille beautifully. All of the children observed a perfect two minute silence. The school Nativity play was, as always, a major calendar event. All of the Early Years children and the Year 1 Class performed magnificently. Well done to Miss Cockbain, Miss Lomax and everyone involved in the production. A word of thanks too for Mrs Flanders for her first major art exhibition by way of the backdrop. I understand that Elissa L, Annabel H and Emilie S, our Art Monitors helped organise and support the work. Our Carol Service was once again a very special event and a sincere congratulations to everyone involved and especially to Mrs Stevens.

I am pleased to say that on the sporting front our children have been involved in representative fixtures for football 3 fixtures for U9 and U11, netball 2 fixtures for U9 and 1 fixture for U11. Our internal inter-house Cross Country competition went off magnificently. A special thanks to all of the parents who turned up and supported all of the children with huge enthusiasm. In ISA competitions our U11 girls' competed at the National Hockey Championships at the Lea Valley Stadium. The girls came back proudly carrying bronze medals and autographs from England International, Holly Hunt. I would like to say a very special thank you to Miss Lomax for all the work that she has done with the regard to the Teaching and fixtures on the sporting front. Thanks too to the Sports Department from Caterham School who have supported our curriculum delivery especially on Tuesdays.

Three of our swimmers represented the London South region at the Olympic Pool in London. Scarlett K, won 2 individual gold medals and Alec W one individual gold medal, one individual silver medal and one silver team medal. Sienna O performed wonderfully on her leg of the team relay but unfortunately they came just outside of the medals. Both Alec and Sienna were facing the huge challenge of swimming in a 50m pool. Scarlett on the other hand came away from the Olympic Pool for the third year running retaining her gold for her breaststroke. There were also two swimming gals at Caterham and Royal Russell and children from Years 3 to 6 performed really well. Congratulations also to Mrs Evans, our lead Swimming Coach and Mrs Cox, Assistant Swimming Coach.

*Mighty oaks from little acorns grow*

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

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



Mr Burke led our anti-bullying week assembly and everyone enjoyed Odd Sock Day. Mrs Dawson arranged for a special assembly for our LAMDA candidates and in excess of 25 children performed in front of their parents and the school. The children went on to take part in the LAMDA examination process and we are awaiting the results after Christmas.

The School Council under the leadership of President Tabitha S and guided by Mr B have been very busy this term. I would like to thank the Vice Presidents Emilie S and Millie T, and Councillors from Year 5 Ania S and Vivienne L, Year 4 George G and Harriet J, Year 3 Rhian P and Georgia R-b, Year 2 Harrison G and Eloise J and Year 1 Honor K and Ava S. You may notice that our Year 6 girls now have the option to wear black tights as a part of their winter uniform. The Year 6 boys may choose to wear shorts in the summer and all of this because of the School Council. The pupil voice matters. A further School Council initiative and a very seasonal one was the instigation of the Reindeer Run. At the point of writing my letter the children, parents and staff have raised £1,185 for St Catherine's Hospice on the Just Giving page. The pupil, parent and staff voice really matters.

We were pleased to be able to arrange special performances for parents that were put on by our ballet dancers. Thank you to Miss Grace and Miss Sophie. Miss Lomax also staged a wonderful Modern Dance performance to a packed hall full of parents. Well done to all of our dancers.

The Christmas lunch was as always a festive treat. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Liu our Chef and his team for providing a continual menu of outstanding food for everyone at the school. His attention to detail especially around dietary requirements, is exceptional.

As you will be aware there is lots of talk in the media about possible changes to private education as a result of possible political developments. The Board recognises that there is a possibility that VAT may be levied on private schools by a future Government. I have been asked by the Board to reassure you that Oakhyrst Grange School will continue to maintain a level of fees that is as low as we can make it whilst continuing to be able to provide the current high quality of education.

A special word of thanks to every member of staff at Oakhyrst Grange School for their professionalism and care. A word also for the ladies who so wonderfully turn up each and every day to assist with the drop-off arrangements. They are simply invaluable.

I close by offering a sincere thank you to you, as parents, for all your continued support and understanding. A huge thank you to Mrs Smith and her PFOG team who not only help to brighten up our Christmas but provide fun and excitement for both parents and pupils alike. The children have enjoyed a Spooky Disco, Pantomime and Christmas Parties this term. It is most pleasing to report that the PFOG Winter Ball was an outstanding success. I know that £2,600 was raised and perhaps even more importantly large numbers of parents enjoyed a wonderful and very merry evening.

With season's best wishes and greetings.

Mr Alex Gear  
Headmaster