



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

29th March 2024

Dear Parents

Once again, we have had an incredibly busy and successful term.

We ended the sporting side of things this term with a Year 6 Sports Colours Award Assembly and our special guests were Ms Felicity Sewell, Director of Sport, Caterham School and Ms Michelle Pierre-Carr, former British 400 metre athlete and Commonwealth Games Silver Medallist. All of the children received their well-deserved colours awards for their commitment, talent and enthusiasm in a variety of sports. My thanks to Miss Lomax for all that she has done in arranging this event and the whole sporting programme for the term. My thanks also to Caterham School and their sports staff for providing additional coaching of the highest level for our Years 3 and 4 children on a Tuesday afternoon.

All of our Year 6's have now completed their next school process and all of them have been successful in attaining places at one or more of their chosen schools. Congratulations to everyone in Year 6. We will of course announce the destinations for each of them along with any awards that they may have been offered in addition to the places that they have secured at Prize Giving which is on Saturday 29th June 2024 at 10.00am.

During the term the children enjoyed large number of sporting fixtures and tournaments at local, regional and national levels. In hockey there were co-educational team fixtures for our U8, U9, U10 and U11 children. The boys had an U11 fixture and also took part in the ISA Championships at Lee Valley Stadium. The U11 girls played in a tournament at Old Cranleighans Hockey Club. Both of our senior teams, boys and girls, acquitted themselves very well indeed. There was an U11 girls football fixture away at Lingfield College Prep. Our cross country runners, 21 in total, had an amazing season and took part in the U9 and U11 ISA London South qualifiers at Radnor House. The finals were held in Sheffield and Alec W, Isabelle L, Bonnie B, Caiden H, Vivienne L, Scarlett K, Beau P and Jude M all represented the region at U9 and U11 age groups respectively. Vivienne L came 5th out of 60 in her U11 race and Alec W came 9th out of 65 in his U9 race. All of the runners performed magnificently and we are very proud of them.

Once again, I would like to thank Mrs Evans and Mrs Cox for the tremendous work that they do for school swimming in general and of course in the many galas and competitions that we engage in. Our Years 3 to 6 swimmers had two galas both away at Reigate Grammar School and Royal Russell. Our Year 6 swimmers were busy with the It's a Fish Out life saving competition in Dorking where our A team came 5th and our B team 17th out of a total of 24 teams. Well done to Connie H, Millie T, Magdalena M, Elissa L, Scarlett K, Katie R, Surina R and Vincent N. A huge congratulations to our ESSA team members Scarlett K, Amaaya P, Daniel H and Jude M who won bronze medals in both medley and freestyle relays. They are hoping to progress by qualification to the Primary Regionals in May 2024. There was the usual high excitement around all of the Inter-House swimming galas and a massive congratulations to everyone who took part in the events for Stanstead and Hillside. Well done to our swimmers in KG and Year 1, Years 2 and 3 and Years 4, 5 and 6, all of whom performed brilliantly in their respective galas. We will announce the overall results at Prize Giving. I am very proud to announce that our school swimming charity scavenger hunt in aid of Children with Cancer UK has already reached a grand donation total of £1,761.00 and rising. If there are any donations still to come in, it would be fantastic to nudge closer to the

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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

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



£2,000 mark. Many congratulations to all of the swimmers right across the school. A sincere thank you to all of the parents for their generosity in supporting this wonderful cause.

There was a whole variety of school assemblies this term, all of which acted as a superb showcase for the children's talent and confidence. My sincere thanks to all of the teachers and their respective classes for making each and every assembly entertaining, informative and enjoyable.

Our Year 4 pupils entertained us with a lovely Class Concert in January and the Spring Concert on 5th March was exceptional. I am very proud of the quality of music that our children produce as individual soloists, in ensemble work and choirs. A sincere thank you to Mrs Stevens for leading our music department so very well and to all of our peripatetic teachers, namely Mrs Baker, Miss Bucknell, Mrs Budgen, Mr Broadley and Miss Roberts. On 6th February 8 of our string instrumentalists went to Epsom College and they were Heath K, Theodore E, Ayush S, Eliza B, Surina R, Ania S, Amaaya P and Millie T. The visit culminated in an evening performance. The ABRSM music examinations went smoothly and we are awaiting the results next term with eager anticipation. In this connection the LAMDA examinations were completed this week and once again we are expecting great things by way of results.

The KG and Year 1 classes took their annual visit to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon to see 'Tidy'. The Year 3 and 4 children each enjoyed their own overnight residential trip to Runways End, Hampshire Outdoor Centre. I understand that the children enjoyed long days and even longer nights and a sincere thanks to all of the staff who were involved. A special mention to Mr Burke, Mrs Gorman and Mrs Leyshon for doing the night shifts. Our LKG class visited the Caterham on the Hill Library and swelled the membership by signing themselves up. Many congratulations to our Years 4 and 5 geographers who came third and second respectively at the Great Geography Quiz at Caterham School. Well done to Bonnie B, Roma P, Leela P, Alec W, Max F, Lizzie K from Year 4 and Amaaya P, Vivienne L, Ayush S, Jude M, Daniel H and Heath K from Year 5. Thank you to Mrs Leyshon and Mr Burke our team managers. As I write this end of term letter, our Year 6 pupils are watching the West End production of Frozen. As you appreciate this will be our summer production and everyone is very excited at the prospect.

World Book Day proved to be a wonderfully varied and exciting event for everyone across the school. Once again, a big thank you to all of the Teachers and staff who led the various sessions and a special thank you to Mrs Leyshon for her leadership. Mrs Leyshon once again managed to form the children into vertical groups so that they were mixed across the school from Year 2 and up. It's a real treat to see the children working with their younger and older peers so happily.

A special thank you to Mrs Smith and the PFOG team for providing the children with an unusual and very popular activities day which took the form of dragon dancing. This tied very nicely in with the theme of the Chinese New Year. PFOG had a successful Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Party and the cake and the tea were very well received. I understand that the personalised notebooks that were on sale sold like hot cakes. The pyjama party disco was anything other than a sleepy event and my thanks and admiration to all of the parents that helped to organise and supervise the evening. Tomorrow on our final day of term, the children will enjoy the grand Easter Egg hunt that is an ever popular major event of the term. The School Council in their very great wisdom made a request for the purchase of specifically chosen books for the school library. May I thank the PFOG team for their generosity in purchasing these books on behalf of the children and the School Council. The School Council is very active and is an important pupil voice for the school.

Now that we are right at the end of the term I am in a position to make some important staffing announcements. I wish to inform you that Miss Karen Cadogan, our Ballet Teacher will not be returning in April because Miss Eleanor Coley is returning after her maternity leave. A big thank you to Miss Cadogan for filling the role so successfully. Mrs Landauer, our Modern Foreign Languages Teacher will be retiring at the end of the Summer Term. Mrs Oates will be retiring at



the end of the Summer Term after many, many years of service. Mr Burke and Mrs Leyshon will also be leaving for fresh challenges, again at the end of the Summer Term. As all of these members of staff will be with us for the next term and the remainder of the school year, I will reserve my many words of thanks and praise for each and everyone of them until my end of term letter in July. In the meantime, I wish to stress how much they will all be missed and how very grateful I am personally to all of them for their dedication, professionalism and care for our children during their time at Oakhyst.

I am now in a position to share with you the news that from September 2024 we will have a new Year 3 Class Teacher, Mr Samuel Ryan. Mr Ryan will be taking up his first full time post and is graduating from Winchester University. He is a tremendously energetic, well qualified and talented individual. Miss Millie Hopkins will be joining us as our Year 4 Teacher and she will be coming to us having worked for a number of years at a local comprehensive school. Miss Hopkins is in fact a former pupil and she describes Oakhyst as her dream job. I am very excited at the prospect of welcoming these two new members of staff who will bring their own energy and ideas to the school. I am sure that you will join me in welcoming them when they arrive. Please remember that Mr David Smith will also be joining us from September as our Head of Sport. Miss Lomax continues to do a magnificent job in managing the Sports Department showing talent and ability way beyond her years.

I am going to end by thanking you the parents for your continued support for the school, the staff and of course your children. The team of volunteers that supervise the drop-off arrangements in the mornings epitomise the sense of community that we have. It is very special.

I conclude by wishing you all a safe, happy and family orientated Easter break.

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster