



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

1st April 2025

Dear Parents

Once again, we have had an incredibly busy and successful term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my staff for their enthusiastic support for both mainstream curriculum and extra-curricular work.

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 28th June 2025 at 10.00am.

This has been a very busy term for all of our pupils on the sporting front. There has been the usual large array of fixtures for hockey, netball, football, cross country and swimming. In a break with tradition I will not be going into specific detail to cover all of the participants and events allowing that our newly published Nutshell Newsletter helps cover the angles in this regard. What was lovely to see more recently was the parent, pupil shared PE lessons for our younger pupils that Mr Smith and Miss Lomax ran. Parents of older children need to go into training now because I believe that there will be sessions for them and their children next term. I have to say I was genuinely impressed by the level of participation and involvement in the recent sport sessions. To see parents and children working alongside each other, having fun and participating in sport under the excellent guidance of our PE department was heart-warming indeed. A special word of thanks to Mrs Evans and Mrs Cox for all that they have done to continue the growth and development of swimming across the school and at regional and national competitive levels. The inter-house swimming galas were incredibly well supported and the competition fierce.

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 February and the Spring Concert on 20th 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 Bird, Miss Bucknell, Mrs Budgen, Mr Holland and Miss Roberts. On 4th February our string instrumentalists went to Epsom College for a strings' day. The visit culminated in an evening performance, once again more detail in our Nutshell Newsletter.

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 last week and once again we are expecting great things by way of results. I take this opportunity to say a very special word of thanks to Mrs Alison Dawson who has been our LAMDA coach for many years and who is retiring this year. Mrs Rosie Flower will be taking up the reigns from September and I am sure that the tradition for producing excellent results will be continued.

As is always the case many of the classes have been making educational visits to various venues. How exciting it is to see the children as they are waiting to leave the school for an adventurous day out. The Kindergarten class went to make pizzas at Pizza express, Years 3 and 4 had overnight residential trips at the Runways End site near Aldershot. For many of these children it was their first residential away from home and parents. A sincere thank you to Mr Ryan, Miss Hopkins and Mrs Gorman for supervising the children overnight and during the days activities and to Mrs Farrington and Mr Buchala for providing the transport. Year 2 enjoyed in school activity days with a Great Explorers workshop and Forest School activities. Year 5 girls had a taster day at Croydon High School. Three pupils from Year 5 entered the Epsom College Public Speaking competition and performed incredibly well. Years 1 and KG went to the Polka Theatre to see The Pea and the Princess. Year 4 visited Caterham School to see the Wizard of Oz. Our Years 4 and 5 Teams went to Caterham School to enter the Junior Globetrotting Quiz. Our Year 5 team won the event in style.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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For the first time, thanks to Mrs Dance's considerable input and planning, we held our inaugural careers week. Wow, what a huge success this was. My sincere thanks to the many professional parents and guests who came to speak to the various classes throughout the week. The children were simply amazed and thrilled to listen to all of our guest speakers in respect of their professional experience in the world of work. This was clearly a brilliant start to what will be a regular calendar entry.

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 Dance for her leadership and organisational skills. A special mention to the LKG and KG classes and their Teachers and TAs, Mrs Dowling, Mrs Rocha, Miss Wright and Mrs Hobbs, for throwing themselves into the event and for providing the whole school with a memorable fashion show. The playground parade was sensational and the rest of the school were carried along with the excitement. Mr Smith's commentary added to the excitement of the event. The EYFS parents must have been very proud of their children at the special assembly that they attended.

Miss Hopkins arranged a special Pi Day to celebrate the joy of mathematical equations. Thank you Miss Hopkins and Year 4.

Another first for us this term was a two-day whole school Art Show. Mrs Flanders has clearly inspired all of the children to bring out their very best artwork and the display in the Cameron Hall was superb. The display was viewed by lots of parents and children and there was a genuine celebration of the artistic talent within the school. A special mention for Mr Liu, our Chef and Mrs Hill, Assistant Chef, for producing 400 specially designed cupcakes and other refreshments. A real team effort.

A special thank you to Mrs Smith and the PFOG team for providing the children with a brilliant and very popular activities day which took the form of steel drumming. I have to say that the musical end result for each particular class was sensational. I was blown away by the sheer quality of the music that every class produced. Once again, the movie night showing of Paddington in Peru, proved to be very popular. PFOG had a successful Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Party and the cakes and the tea were very well received. I understand that the personalised trinket boxes sold well. Thank you all for your support. 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.

Now that we are right at the end of the term I am in a position to make some important staffing announcements. I begin by confirming that we are delighted that Miss Wright will be staying with the EYFS team. I can confirm that we have now secured a replacement Year 3 Class Teacher for Mr Ryan. Miss Yasmine Allybacus will be joining us from a local school and she comes with a wealth of experience and talent to bring to the post.

Our Year 5 and 6 School Councillors were very involved in the appointment process for the new Head Teacher. The student voice is important and their input into the process was highly valued. The Board of Governors will be in a position to make a formal announcement very shortly. I have to say that I am very excited on behalf of the whole school community for the bright future that the new Head Teacher and the whole team will bring to Oakhyrst Grange School going forward.

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