

Friday, 28th November 2025

## NOTES FROM MRS MITCHELL

#### Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful and energetic few weeks at Oakhyrst Grange. We were delighted to welcome Heidi Armstrong, former Head of the Senior School at Putney High School and current Governor at Oakhyrst, who visited for a series of lesson observations and was thoroughly impressed by the teaching and learning she saw in action.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have greatly enjoyed continuing to connect with senior leaders across the sector, including meeting Annabel Davies, Head at Croydon High, welcoming Patrick Doyle to Oakhyrst, and visiting Worth School to meet Mr McPherson, Ms Marisa Bosa, and Mr Gordon Pearce. We were also pleased to host Matthew Woods from Caterham School, and it has been a pleasure catching up with Shaun Fenton, Reigate Grammar and Richard Bool, Lingfield College and Toby Seth, newly appointed at Whitgift School.

We have welcomed a number of prospective parents over the past few weeks, and it has been heartening to hear their overwhelmingly positive reflections. Time and time again, families comment on the warmth of our community, the confidence and courtesy of our pupils, and the tangible sense of care that is palpable throughout the school. Many remark that Oakhyrst feels "happy the moment you walk through the door"—a testament to the children, staff, and wider community who make our school such a special place.

Congratulations to the Sports Department for a superb Inter-House Cross Country competition, and a huge well done to our children (and brave parents!) who faced the arctic conditions with such spirit. The pupils were outstanding, with a special mention to George (Year 3) who appeared to fly around the course! Our Year 1 and 2 matches have also been a tremendous success—well done to Tienna (Year 1) for a fabulous performance.

Last Friday, I was thrilled to host a group of pre-school children along with their grandparents, parents, and carers for a storytelling session and craft activity. Miss Lomax followed with a wonderful music and movement session, all based on the story *The Brave Penguin*.

This week we were treated to a thoughtful assembly by Reverend Frany, who reminded us of the importance of patience and waiting during Advent. She explained the meaning of the Advent candle, and the children were intrigued to hear about her own favourite Christmas calendar.

Some of our Year 6 pupils completed their ISEB examinations this week—well done to them, and thank you to Mrs Dance for her careful invigilation. Congratulations also to Year 5, who amazed us with an afternoon of performances including poetry, public speaking, joke-telling, and a plethora of musical pieces on the flute, piano, violin, clarinet, and voice. Thank you to Mrs Price and our peripatetic music staff for making this showcase so special. Well done to all our boys and girls who took part in the LAMDA Assembly on Monday and who completed their examinations this week. Lucy, the adjudicator, was glowing in her praise of the children and their performances—an excellent reflection of their dedication and talent.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils who took part in the Upper Junior Primary Maths Challenge. Special congratulations to Sulayman and Jaimin, our Maths Prefects, who achieved outstanding Gold Awards. The Primary Maths Challenge recognises the top problem-solvers across Years 5 and 6 nationally, with Gold awarded only to the top 8–9% of entrants—an exceptional achievement that places them among the highest performers in the country. This week, we were also delighted to hear that three of our pupils—Alice (Year 5), Nikita (Year 5), and Amelie (Year 4) —were selected as winners in The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP's Christmas Card Competition. The overall winner has yet to be announced, but what a fantastic accomplishment already. In addition, a huge congratulations to our ISA (Independent Schools Association) winners for their entry to the ISA Christmas Banner Competition. Artwork from Pre-Reception to Year 6 will now be submitted to ISA—a wonderful whole-school effort. As I write, we wish the very best of luck to Lizzie (Year 6), who is competing in the National ISA Swimming Finals today, and to our U11 boys taking part in the Surrey Cup football match.

I would like to share with you that Oakhyrst Grange has now been recognised as an Online Safety Certified School, accredited by the National College of Schools—an important acknowledgement of our continued commitment to safeguarding and digital awareness. My thanks especially to Mrs Gorman, our Online Safety Officer and Mrs Dowling, our Designated Safeguard Lead.

At the end of this term, we will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Caroline Cox, who, after three fantastic years, is excited to take a step outside of the swimming pool and embark on a new chapter. She has been a wonderful asset to the Oakhyrst Grange community, and we wish her every success in her new adventure. I am delighted to share that Mrs Dorota Harris will be joining us from January. An outstanding swimming specialist and qualified PE teacher, Dottie brings a wealth of experience, including teaching in local senior schools, establishing her own swimming school, and completing a Master's in Sports Studies. I am also delighted that Mrs Danielle Myers has joined the school as our new Head of Marketing and Admissions Support. Danielle brings great energy, knowledge, and experience to the role, and we are very much looking forward to the fresh ideas and expertise she will contribute to Oakhyrst.

Finally, a thank you to the PFOG parents who are working hard this weekend to decorate the school. I cannot wait to see what is in store! Thank you for making it so special for the children and staff, and for so generously giving your time.

Wishing you all a warm and festive start to the Christmas period.

Mrs Mitchell

Page | **2** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025













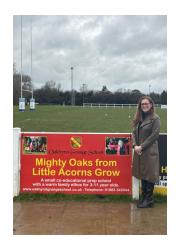








P a g e | **3** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

























P a g e | **4** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025



















# NOTES FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL OAKHYRST STAFF

## **Pre-Reception**

Over the last fortnight, we have been looking at the works of Julia Donaldson. We made rockets, our own tiddlers and even made Gruffalo crumble. We practise our early writing skills but naming some of the things that appear I the story Stickman and spoke about the different scenery in the books. We have also been very fortunate and had lots of parents come in and read their favourite Julia Donaldson book to us. To top off all of that, we even had our first dusting of snow.

Page | 5 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025







## Reception

In Forest School, Mr Burke helped the children create amazing leaf kebabs, using the colours and textures of fallen leaves to spark conversations about nature. They were so proud of their creations! During our cookery session with Pre-Reception, the children joined Mrs Hobbs to bake a delicious autumn Gruffalo crumble, filling the classroom with warm, delicious smells and plenty of excitement.

We have also been diving into some favourite autumnal stories, including *Leaf Man* and *Room on the Broom*. These stories have inspired wonderful discussions, and in literacy the children have enjoyed writing all about their favourite autumn characters, showing great imagination and growing confidence in their writing skills.



Page | **6** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### Year 1

This week has been full of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, the children have been exploring nouns and adjectives, enjoying the challenge of spotting nouns in sentences and thinking of imaginative adjectives to make their writing more descriptive. In Maths, they have worked hard on their 2, 5 and 10 times tables, showing wonderful determination and growing confidence in recognising patterns and recalling number facts. Our Phonics lessons have focused on the long "igh" and long "o" sounds, with the class doing a fantastic job identifying these sounds in words and practising their spellings. In Science, we continued our exploration of different types of trees, looking closely at their features and what makes each one unique, as well as beginning to think about different kinds of plants—prompting lots of curiosity and excellent questions. It has also been a very creative week, with the children decorating their own tree decorations and adding plenty of colour and sparkle to the classroom, as well as proudly adding their "Onsters" to the display in the new Onster Room. The creativity and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see.



Page | 7 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### Year 2

This week in Year 2, we set out to explore an exciting question: What happens to our heart rate when we exercise?

Before we began, we looked at a range of different exercises and made our predictions. We guessed that our heart rate would rise quickly during exercise and then gradually return to normal once we stopped. We thought the more energy that the activity required, the faster our hearts would beat.

To test our ideas, we had a go at finding our resting heart rates, then did a short burst of exercise — from star jumps to jogging on the spot — and then attempted to measure again straight after, and a few minutes later.

**What we found:** Our predictions were spot on! Everyone's heart rate increased during the exercise. After stopping, our heart rates slowly dropped back down, showing how our bodies recover.

It was fascinating to see our hearts in action and to understand how exercise makes them work harder and stronger!



Year 3

This week, Year 3 embarked on an exciting geography adventure! We learnt what topographical maps are and the importance of legends to interpret the information. The children explored the fascinating shapes of the UK and how to locate well-known mountains. Working in pairs, they compared elevations and discovered how the contours on a map tell a story about the land. They explored digital maps using iPads, zooming in and out to identify specific locations and discover well-known mountains such as the Brecon Beacons and Snowdon, enhancing their geographical knowledge through interactive investigation. Our country's diverse terrain was brought to life in a fun and interactive way!





Page | **8** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025





Year 4

In Maths, the children have been getting hands-on with quick and fluent times tables competitions, challenging themselves to improve on both accuracy and speed, whilst having to work in a team.

We've also been thinking strategically with some very intense games of Kerplunk (yes – Miss H is still undefeated!). It's been brilliant to see patience, planning and problem-solving in action, all through a simple but exciting game!

In English, we have continued our journey through *The Iron Man*, and there is great excitement as we approach the final chapter. The children have reflected thoughtfully on the blossoming friendship between the Iron Man and Hogarth, and what it truly means to give people a chance, no matter what.



Page | **9** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025





#### Year 5

Over the past two weeks, Year 5 have been busy developing their creative writing skills within our English lessons and the results have been fantastic. Our key focus has been on using stylistic effects including similes, metaphors, alliteration, onomatopoeia and personification to bring our writing to life. The class have embraced these techniques with enthusiasm; crafting pieces of writing filled with imagination, flair, and expressive language. We have written about colossal cities, wonderous woods, spacious supermarkets and breath-taking beaches. Here are a few examples of our writing:

'New York City is the place to be! Metal skyscrapers like giants stand proudly overlooking the city. Beep! Yellow taxis zoom through the busy roads whilst a cold autumn breeze fills the polluted air as a river of people rush around.'

'Splash! Splash! Children ran joyfully into the warm, sparkling sea whilst seagulls squawked wildly above the beach filling the sky with unbearable noise! The sea was a busy beehive, full of cheerful families swimming and laughing with vibrant little boats floating gently past.'

'Donkeys plodding in the sweltering sun as children laugh like meerkats. A jovial mood spread all around. Slimy seaweed clutches at your legs while swimming in the tepid water.'

Another highlight of the week was our super class concert. Year 5 performed on Wednesday evening with outstanding confidence, enthusiasm, and—most importantly—a real love for music! A very proud teacher moment! Their energy was infectious, and the joy they brought to the stage made it a memorable event for everyone watching particularly with the Tudor themed dance at the end.

We are now eagerly looking forward to next week's Year 5 Classroom Museum, where pupils will have the chance to share their learning with their parents. We cannot wait to show our parents our creativity, hard work, and growing independence that is on display. It promises to be a fantastic celebration of all that they have achieved in their first term in year five.

### Year 6

This week has been a busy and exciting one in Year 6, full of rich learning across all subjects.

In Maths, the children have shown strong recall of key number facts, such as instantly recognising that ¼ is equivalent to 0.25. We then explored how these equivalences are created, with pupils learning that they can convert a fraction to a decimal by dividing the numerator (the dividend) by the denominator (the divisor). They enjoyed experimenting with this method to uncover a wide range of new fraction - decimal pairs. We also focused on developing mathematical vocabulary including recurring and non-terminating, helping the children deepen their understanding of number patterns.

Page | **10** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

In English, Year 6 have been working hard to strengthen their inference skills during reading comprehension. Using the acronym MAPS, pupils learned to identify the Mood of a text by examining its Adjectives, Adverbs, Phrases and Symbols/Structure. They became "reading detectives", looking closely for clues, such as figurative language and descriptive detail, that reveal how a writer wants the reader to feel. For example, they discussed how "the icy wind clawed at the windows" creates a tense atmosphere, while "sunlight spilled warmly across the path" evokes calm and positivity.

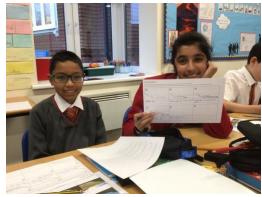
The class also learned about hyphens and how they help prevent ambiguity, finding great amusement in examples like the difference between a "man-eating shark" and a "man eating shark"! On Fridays, pupils continue to apply their growing grammar knowledge in their extended writing, working on accuracy, expression and effective sentence construction.

In Geography, the children have been exploring global patterns of volcanic activity. They learned to identify where the majority of volcanoes are found and discovered that many are located along the dramatic horseshoe-shaped region known as the Ring of Fire. This has sparked thoughtful discussions about tectonic plates and why some areas experience far more volcanic events than others.

In Science, Year 6 have completed the write-up of their recent investigations and have now begun learning about fossilisation. The class have been captivated by how fossils form over millions of years and how scientists study them to learn about extinct animals and the ancient environments they inhabited. They particularly enjoyed taking on the role of young palaeontologists, piecing together the clues left behind by the Earth's prehistoric past.







Page | 11 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### **Sport**

### U10 & U11 Football v Chinthurst – Wednesday 12th November 2025

Our Year 5&6 boys competed in a series of football fixtures against Chinthurst on Wednesday 12th November, showing determination, teamwork and continuous improvement across all matches. After a strong first half, one team battled hard in a challenging game that ended 5–1, while others faced tough opposition. Despite mixed results, all the boys gained valuable experience and should be proud of their efforts.

## Netball v Cumnor House – 18th & 26th November 2025

Over the last week, all Year 3–6 girls have taken part in several netball matches against Cumnor House Girls school. They all showcased great teamwork, effort and enthusiasm throughout. Year 3 secured a thrilling 5–4 victory, while Year 4 battled hard despite a narrow loss. The Year 5 and 6 teams enjoyed strong, competitive games, with some outstanding individual performances on show. Overall, it was two fun afternoons of Netball, with all the girls representing the school brilliantly.

Player of the matches (Year 3 &4) – Emilia W & Scarlett F, Paige M, Georgia R-B & Eliza B.

## KS2 Swimming Gala v Caterham – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Pupils from Years 3 to 6 recently took part in a friendly swimming gala against Caterham School, a particularly special occasion for our Year 3 boys experiencing their first gala. Every swimmer rose to the challenge producing close, competitive races and demonstrating strong technique and resilience. Although Caterham won 308–211, our swimmers showed outstanding commitment, progress and behaviour, supporting one another throughout and representing the school with pride. A huge well done to all who took part, and thank you to the families who came to cheer them on.

## Whole School Cross Country – Wednesday 19th November 2025

This year's whole school cross-country event was a great success despite the bitter cold, with every child showing determination, enthusiasm and resilience as they completed their race, encouraged by supportive parents. A new feature allowed Year 2–6 children to choose their number of laps, giving them ownership over their challenge, and joint races for Years 3&4 and 5&6 proved motivating and effective. Achievements were celebrated with medals and stickers, and it was wonderful to see so many pupils proud of their progress. Year 6 also excelling in their leadership roles. Thanks to Year 6, staff, parents and our chef for helping the afternoon run smoothly and keeping spirits high.

Year group	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Reception	Lucas	Alfie	Jude
	Lillian	Isabella	Ella
Year 1	Owen	Archie	Zachary
	Amelie	Beatrice	Sadie
Year 2	Louis	Raif	Teddy
	Georgina	Emma	Georgie
Year 3	George	Ethan	Evan
	Edie	Willow	Ava
Year 4	Harrison	Cara	Amaan
	Isabelle	Max	Scarlett
Year 5	Freddie	Theo	Nurel
	Isabelle	Ophelia	Georgia
Year 6	Caiden	Jaimin	Charlie
	Sofia	Sienna	Hetty

Page | **12** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Year 1 Football competition – Thursday 20th November 2025

The Year 1 football competition was a fantastic introduction to competitive play, with children divided into four teams taking part in a series of round-robin matches. It was a fun-filled event, featuring plenty of goals, enthusiastic effort from all the children—many experiencing their first matches—and great support from parents throughout. Everyone had a brilliant time showing teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Well done Year 1!

#### Still to come this term:

- Year 2 Football competition (27/11)
- U11 Surrey Cup Football v Boxgrove School (28/11)
- ISA National Swimming Finals (28/11)



Whole School Cross Country Reception Boys Winners



U10 & U11 Footballers



U8 & U9 Netballers



U10 & U11 Netballers

Page | **13** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### Art

# CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



Thank you to everyone who entered our competition to design a Christmas card for Claire Coutinho MP. We had 33 entries from 32 pupils. We've bundled them off and sent them off. Good luck everyone! Here are some examples of the wide range of artwork we received. Ophelia W (Y5), Theo B (Y5), Alice S (Y5), Honor K (Y3), Anassa D (R), Ophelia S-W (Y2), Teddy M-R (Y2), Jack W (Y2).

Page | **14** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **OTHER NEWS**









Page | **15** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of Oakhyrst Grange School** if they sign up by Saturday 24th January 2026. Parents should quote OKHU240126 when they book their free session by going to <u>perform.org.uk/try</u> or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at <u>perform.org.uk/try</u>. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from <u>here</u>.

The nearest classes to Oakhyrst Grange School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Caterham (Drama for 4-7s)

(0.9 miles) Tuesdays at 4pm Caterham Urc Harestone Hill, CR3 6SX

Perform Caterham (Drama for 7-12s)

(0.9 miles)

Tuesdays at 5.05pm

Caterham Urc Harestone Hill, CR3 6SX

Perform Purley (Drama for 4-7s)

(4.7 miles)

Fridays at 4pm

Purley United Reformed Church

906 Brighton Road,

CR8 2LN

Perform Purley (Drama for 7-12s)

(4.7 miles)

Fridays at 5.05pm

Purley United Reformed Church

906 Brighton Road,

CR8 2LN

Perform Purley (Drama for 4-7s)

(4.8 miles)

Mondays at 4pm and 5.05pm

Christ Church Purley 861-863 Brighton Road,

CR8 2BN

There are others too. Click to find all the nearest here or view a list of all areas.

Page | **16** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025



## **Exclusive Christmas wreath making masterclass for Oakhyrst parents**

Parents from year two have organised an exclusive OGS Christmas wreath making masterclass in partnership with GRACE, a charity which exists to support local women who are diagnosed with gynae cancers.

Taking place in the evening (7:30pm to 10pm) on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at Robert Denholm House, near Bletchingley, the event will be hosted by GRACE and led by an experienced and qualified florist.

**Tickets cost £65** and include everything you need to make and take home your own stunning wreath, as well as a glass of prosecco (or soft alternative) on arrival and festive nibbles and treats throughout the evening. There will also be plenty of Christmas cheer to kick off the festive period.

Places are limited so don't miss out. You can book your place via a dedicated OGS link on the charity 's online shop: <u>Exclusive Oakhyrst Parents' Christmas Wreath making masterclass - Monday 1 December 2025 - GRACE Charity -</u>

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Morgan-Robinson

Page | 17 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### A Helping Hand

After very successful donations over the years, we are hoping that we can continue to support this appeal. Mrs Judy Baker our Flute Teacher has once again asked us to her support the Salvation Army New Gift Christmas Appeal 2025

They are looking for new unwrapped gifts for children aged from birth up to older children/teenagers too.

The NEW gifts get distributed to local families with the Caterham area 0-5 years: (Baby and Pre School age): large dolls / dinosaurs, soft toys, mobiles, bath toys, nursery rhyme and story books, large and wood block puzzles, large cars / lorries, crayons, building blocks / Duplo, musical toys, dressing up outfits; wooden train sets 5-11: (Primary school age): family and trivia games, toys, stationery (colouring sets, felt-tip pens, paints), books, puzzles, construction kits / Lego, art & craft activities, Barbie / action dolls, foot or hoops balls, hair accessories, gloves/hats/warm socks, race track sets 11-14: (High School age): £10 "Amazon" or £10 "All store" gift cards, Toiletry Sets or Make Up

If you would like to make a donation, please send your gift(s) into the school office and we will arrange to pass your donation onto Mrs Baker. The last day for donations will be 28th November 2025. Thank you for your continued support.



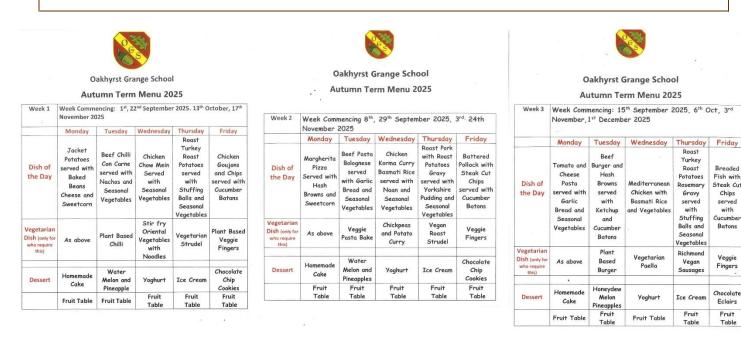


Page | **18** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025





#### **ROTATIONAL WEEKLY MENUS**



#### **OFFICE REMINDERS**

- Lost Property lots of un named boys shorts and boys school jumpers please contact the office to check
- Thursday Forest Schools please ensure your child has their jogging bottoms with them each Thursday

Page | **19** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### **KEY FORTNIGHTLY DATES**

- Saturday 29.11.25 PFOG Team in school to put up Christmas Decorations am
- Monday 1.12.25 Ballet watching sessions for parents during the normal ballet lessons for Years 6, 5, 3 and 1
- Tuesday 2.12.25 ABRSM exams all day
- Wednesday 3.12.25 Modern Dance Assembly 8.45am parents welcome
- Wednesday 3.12.25 Year 5 outing to Fairfield Halls Music Concert leave OGS 9am
- Thursday 4.12.25 Nativity Play Pre Reception, Reception and Year 1 10.30am performance please remember to book your seats through Wisepay
- Thursday 4.12.25 Ballet watching sessions for parents during the normal lessons for Years 4, 2 and Reception
- Friday 5.12.25 Last day of Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities for the term After School Care is still available please book through Wisepay
- Friday 5.12.25 Nativity Play Pre Reception, Reception and Year 1 2.00pm performance please remember to book your seats through Wisepay
- Monday 8.12.25 PFOG Pantomime for children 2.00pm
- Tuesday 9.12.25 Pre Reception Christmas Party 11.00am children to come to school in MUFTI clothes in exchange for £1,00 to go to PFOG
- Tuesday 9.12.25 Year 2 Playswim during normal lesson
- Tuesday 9.12.25 Reception to Year 6 Christmas Parties 2.00pm children to come to school in MUFTI clothes in exchange for £1,00 to go to PFOG
- Wednesday 10.12.25 PFOG Christmas Jumper Day children to wear favourite Christmas jumper instead of normal school grey cardigan or jumper over full uniform
- Wednesday 10.12.25 Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 11.12.25 Carol Service Rehearsal at St Mary's Church 8.30am to 11.00am Years 2 to 6 children to be dropped off at the Church from 8.15am
- Thursday 11.12.25 Pre Reception and Year 6 Playswims during normal lessons
- Thursday 11.12.25 Carol Service at St Mary's Church for pupils in Years 2 to 6 6.30pm
- Friday 12.12.25 Last day of Autumn Term staggered collections from 11.45am PR and R, 11.50am Years 1 and 2,
  11.55am Years 3 and 4 and 12.00pm Years 5 and 6

Page | **20** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025