



Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2025

## NOTES FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents,

What a magical fortnight it has been at Oakhyrst Grange. The school has been full of energy, creativity and festive excitement as we have moved towards the end of term. Our thanks go to the PFOG team, who came in to decorate the school so beautifully. Their hard work brought instant delight to the children and created the perfect start to our festive celebrations.

It has also been a busy time for our dancers and musicians. Parents were invited to watch the ballet lessons across the year groups, and it was a pleasure to see the children perform with such confidence and poise. We then enjoyed a vibrant Modern Dance assembly, with the hall full of proud families celebrating the children's achievements. My thanks to Miss Eleanor, Miss Sophie and Miss Lomax for producing such uplifting moments for our community.

Our Early Years and Year 1 combined Nativity production was a true highlight. The children performed magnificently, bringing charm, warmth and enthusiasm to the stage. This is always one of the most treasured events of the year, and I would like to thank all staff involved for creating such a magical experience for families. We were delighted that Rev Frany and residents and carers from Buxton came to watch the show as well – they loved it! Thank you to Miss Wright for organising this.

Our musicians have also been busy, with pupils taking their ABRSM examinations this fortnight. We are eagerly awaiting their results in the New Year. In addition, our LAMDA candidates performed beautifully in a special assembly before sitting their exams; every one of them has since achieved a Distinction — an astonishing accomplishment. My thanks to Mrs Flower for all her hard work. The music ensemble this week was exceptional, featuring performances from the flute group, clarinet, brass, violin and orchestra, as well as a memorable staff performance of a 'kitchen carol'. A huge thank you to all our peripatetic teachers, and a special mention to Mrs Budgen and Mrs Price for their work with the orchestra and for organising such an enjoyable event.

In the wider school, it has been lovely to see our School Council continue to represent pupil voice so thoughtfully. Under the leadership of Jaimin, Leela, Eliza, Charlie and Lizzie, they have been full of creative suggestions and are looking forward to launching some exciting initiatives next term, including 'Wear a Silly Hat Day' on 15th January.

The children were thrilled to receive a letter from Mrs Pauline Clark, our Chair of Governors, congratulating them and wishing them every success with the parade.

Congratulations to Caiden for his Christmas Cracker puzzle challenge, which raised money for our school charity, Stripey Stork. Thank you, too, to all families for your generous donations of presents to both Stripey Stork and The Salvation Army. Good luck to Georgia, Paige and Edith who will be performing at Woldingham Pantomime in the coming weeks in 'Snow White and the Magnificent Seven.'

The children have greatly enjoyed the festive events organised by PFOG, including the pantomime, class Christmas parties and Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to our Chair of PFOG, Mrs Smith and Vice/Secretary, Mrs Bourns and Treasurer Mrs Loynes and to all of the parent volunteers who give their time so freely to enable our boys and girls to have lasting happy memories of school life at Oakhyrst Grange. The Christmas parties were particularly memorable this year: terrific games were played, with Mr Smith showcasing some impressive moves — especially his now-famous routine of "an elf searching for chocolate"! The boys and girls decorated gingerbread men, visited Santa in his grotto, and took part in fabulous activities organised by staff and parent volunteers.

We also had a superb Christmas lunch, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr Liu and his catering team for the exceptional quality of the meals they provide daily.

Yesterday, we gathered at St Mary's Church for a spectacular Carol Service. The children sang with clarity and expression, filling the church with a sense of peace and togetherness. Traditional readings were shared with great confidence, offering a thoughtful reminder of the message at the heart of the Christmas season. We are grateful to Rev Frany and the team at St Mary's for their warm welcome and for supporting such a meaningful service. Thank you to our Peri teachers, Mrs Baker, Miss Bucknall and Mrs Budgen for accompanying last night and Mrs Price who organised such a magical evening.

### **Staffing Updates**

After five wonderful years as a Teaching Assistant, Mrs Sophie Farrington has decided that, now her children are grown up, she is no longer tied to school holidays. Sophie has been a fantastic member of our team, and we are deeply thankful for her care, energy and commitment. We wish her every happiness for the future.

Mr Keith Burke will also be leaving us as he embarks on his very own gap year with his wife — an adventure we cannot wait to hear all about. We hope to receive postcards along the way and very much hope he will return to share his stories with us. Mr Burke has been an exceptional member of OGS in so many roles: teacher, Acting Deputy Head, and Forest School teacher. We are extremely appreciative of all that he has contributed to the school. I am delighted to share that Clare Steedman, a Forest School Level 3 trained practitioner and Nature Connection and Wellbeing Instructor, will be joining us in February. Clare is highly skilled in her field and is an approved outdoor leader with the Therapeutic Forest CIC.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Caroline Cox, who has been an exemplary Assistant Swimming Coach. Her dedication, encouragement and warmth have supported so many children in developing their confidence in the water. She will be greatly missed. I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Dotty Harris will be taking up the reins as our new Assistant Swimming Coach in January, and we look forward to welcoming her into the team. A qualified PE teacher to Masters level, Dotty brings with her a wealth of experience and passion.

We must also offer huge congratulations and our very best wishes to Miss Hopkins, who is getting married over the Christmas holidays. We hope her celebration is filled with happiness as she begins this new chapter. Miss Hopkins will be returning as Mrs Akerman.

With great sadness, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Angela Agathocli, who has decided that she needs to spend more time at home. Angela has been the absolute rock for OGS for over 20 years, and the school will not feel the same without her. She will be leaving us in the February Half Term — though we have no doubt she will be back to visit! We are profoundly grateful for her kindness, unwavering commitment, and her willingness to go above and beyond for our children, staff and families. She is a true gem, and she will be deeply missed.

My sincere thanks go to every member of staff for their continued dedication and professionalism. A special mention to Mrs Dance and Mrs Dowling, whose outstanding support and leadership as part of the SLT have been invaluable throughout the term.

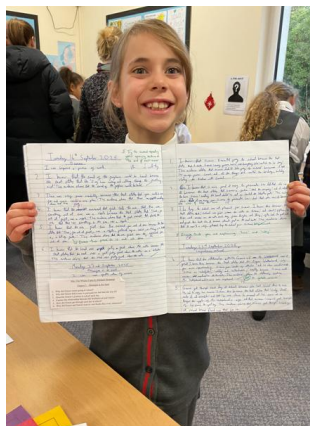
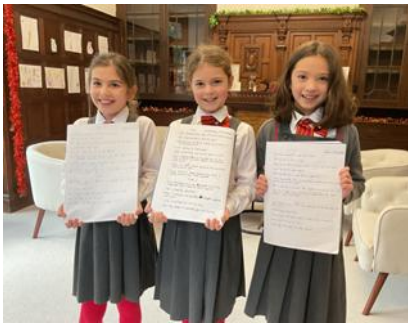
Finally, thank you to all parents for your ongoing encouragement and partnership. The warmth and strength of our school are especially evident at this time of year, and it is a genuine pleasure to work alongside you. We have an exciting Spring 2026 programme ahead, filled with enriching events, and I look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing the fantastic work taking place at Oakhyrst Grange.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

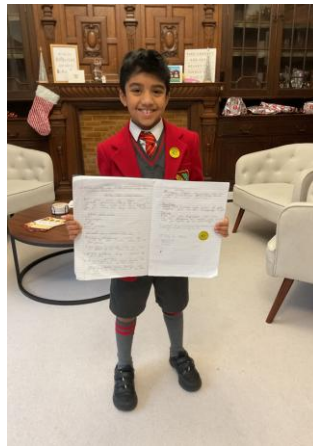
Best wishes,  
Mrs Mitchell















# NOTES FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL OAKHYRST STAFF

## Pre Reception

We have had the most wonderfully festive time in Pre Reception over this past fortnight. We have been crafting away, making lovely things for our mummies and daddies. We hope you like them! We have been sharing our Christmas tree photographs from home with our class, sorting all the bows into different sizes for Father Christmas' elves and roasting marshmallows in woodlands. We had a visit from Father Christmas' elf during our class party and each got a present. We had lots of fun opening those together.



## Reception

Our highlight was performing a fantastic Nativity alongside Pre-Reception and Year 1 — the children sang, acted, and sparkled so brilliantly that we're expecting our Oscar nominations to arrive any day now! In class, we've been exploring how Christmas is celebrated around the world, comparing different traditions and sharing our own family customs. We also rolled up our sleeves for some festive baking with Pre-Reception, creating delicious Christmas cookies that made us feel like true Bake-Off contestants.





## Year 1

What an incredible fortnight we've had in Year 1! It has been bursting with excitement, joy, and festive cheer, and we couldn't be prouder of how wonderfully the children have embraced every moment.



## Year 2

We asked Year 2 what were their highlights of the term and they came up with the following responses:

- Our 4 elves- Elf, Elfie, Elfster and Elf Dave who got up to numerous mischievous antics!
- Christmas jumper and lunch day
- Forest school
- Football match
- Learning about toys in history
- Our assembly- especially the dancing
- Learning about animals and humans
- The panto and party
- Swimming



- Cross country
- “marvellous maths”
- Sending postcards

Well done Year 2! A fantastic term of learning

### Year 3

Year 3 have been busier than Santa’s elves in December! In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the key features to include when writing a set of instructions as part of non-fiction writing. Our chosen title? **How to Trap Santa!** Can you believe Year 3 would want to do this?

The children had great fun planning and writing their instructions using subheadings and bullet points to provide clear steps. Since the steps needed to be followed in chronological order, learning about time connectives was important. We also added adverbs to the imperative verbs to make their steps clear.

We look forward to sharing more about this learning at our next year 3 assembly which we hope you can attend on Friday 30th January.

### Year 4

As we wrap up the final bits of the term, the students have been working with great energy and excitement — all to the soundtrack of Christmas music, of course! Year 4 have especially enjoyed learning some old-school Christmas classics with Mrs Price, and it’s been delightful to hear them singing along whenever those familiar tunes play in class.

In English, we celebrated finishing *The Iron Man*. The children have been dissecting the author’s use of language and exploring how these techniques can help develop their own writing further. In Maths, we have been learning about nets of 3D shapes and exploring how flat shapes can be folded into solid forms. The children did brilliantly applying this knowledge to create their own Christmas-themed 3D models from nets — a fantastic blend of maths and festive creativity!



## Year 5

Last week, Year 5 transformed their classroom into an exciting museum, and what a brilliant afternoon it was! The museum was a wonderful opportunity for the children to showcase their learning from across the term, bringing together history, geography and science in a fun, interactive way.

Each child became both a teacher and a guide, proudly presenting the work they have completed throughout the term. Parents were invited to explore the work, ask questions and take part in the hands-on activities that had been prepared. From model displays and research posters to NVR puzzles, maths competitions and scrambled word activities. The room was bursting with creativity, fun and knowledge!

The Year 5 children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their expertise, and as their teacher it was great to see them confidently explaining their learning and engaging their families in the topics we have explored this term.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us last Thursday afternoon. Our Classroom Museum was a huge success, and we are already looking forward to building on this enthusiasm in the Spring term.

## Year 6

Max, our Head of Library Prefect has been busy creating the 'Oakhyrst Grange Christmas Reading Challenge.' Please do invite your child to get involved and ask them to return their form to him by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January! Prizes to be won! Well done, Max on this great initiative! Please see the challenge below but a copy has also been given to your child.

<b>Oakhurst's Christmas Reading Challenge</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete all the activities on the page throughout the Christmas holidays</li><li>• Return your form to Max, Head of Library by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January</li><li>• All entries will be put into the draw to win a prize!</li></ul>			
Design a front cover for a story of your choice	Read a book whilst listening to Christmas music	Draw your favourite scene from your book	Make a snowflake with words that describe your book
Tell a family member or friend about your favourite book	Decorate a bookmark	Draw your favourite character from a book of your choice	Write a short Christmas story, poem or newspaper article
Swap your favourite book with a friend	Create a comic strip of the first page of your book.	Invent an elf based on a fictional character from a book	Begin reading a new book
Read a Christmas joke to a friend	Write an acrostic poem for your favourite Christmas story	Draw a snowman based on a character from your book	Perform part of your story to an audience
Name: _____			
Year Group: _____			

In English, we have been diving into persuasive writing using *The Day the Crayons Quit* as our inspiration. The children enjoyed matching persuasive features around the classroom to the correct definitions before searching for them in the different crayon letters. Their own letters - written in role as a colour crayon - were full of clever puns and impressive persuasive techniques.

Over in Reading, the children have been exploring a range of passages, looking closely at verbs, adjectives and figurative language to understand how authors create atmosphere. Meanwhile, in Grammar, we've been developing our use of relative clauses and learning how brackets and dashes can be used to add parenthesis.



Moving on to Maths, the class stepped into the world of shape. Using string, they worked together to create polygons and quadrilaterals and used new vocabulary such as *congruent* and *adjacent* to describe them. We also examined angles in triangles and quadrilaterals, applying our knowledge of shape properties to calculate missing angles across a variety of problems.

In Geography, the children were captivated by the story of Mount Vesuvius. They created a clear and thoughtful timeline of the eruption and discussed the impact it had on the people of Pompeii. In Science, the children used iPads to research extinct animals - choosing from the woolly mammoth, elasmosaurus and supersaurus. They also discovered whether each one has any modern day relatives.

## Sport

It has been a busy ending to the Autumn term in terms of sport here at Oakhyrst Grange School. We have had our final few fixtures as well as some Christmas fun during PE & Games lessons. Below is a brief summary:

### U11 Surrey Cup Football v Boxgrove

The boys faced tough opposition in their recent fixture, coming up against a strongly organised Boxgrove School side. Although the result didn't go our way, the team showed determination throughout and continued to work hard until the final whistle. Hopefully it will prove to be an important learning curve as the boys grow in confidence and continue to develop their game.

### ISA National Swimming Finals

Lizzie Kelly was our lone representative at the ISA Swimming Nationals on Friday the 28th November. It was held at the impressive Olympic pool in London which made it even more of a momentous day. Lizzie gave an outstanding performance in her race, winning a gold medal in the 50m backstroke in the para race. What a great achievement on an unforgettable day! Well done Lizzie and thank you to Mrs Evans and Mrs Cox for making this all possible.

### PE & Games lessons

As we approach the festive season, PE and Games lessons have been filled with Christmas fun. From holiday-themed warm-ups to friendly seasonal challenges and team games, children across the school have enjoyed an energetic and joyful end to the term. Highlights included festive 'Elf v Santa' challenges, reindeer relay races, and plenty of laughter as children wrapped up their final sessions of 2025. Well done to everyone for their enthusiasm and effort—here's to more sporting success in the new year!

ISA National Para Swimming  
Lizzie Kelly – Gold medallist



## Art



A wintry forest by Alice and Ava Y3, Christmas bells by Isla Y4, A dachshund in the snow by Lucas Y1, shooting stars by Pre Reception, angels by Year 5, Jesus Mary and Joseph in a stable by Year 3, wise men following the star by Y4.



## OTHER NEWS

**DUNOTTAR SCHOOL**

**Due to popular demand, we are holding an additional Open Morning**

For families looking to join Dunottar in Year 7, 2027

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

**9:45am to 11:45am**

Guided by our Year 8 pupils, our Open Mornings include a tour of the school, showing lessons in action and conclude with a presentation from Mr Mark Tottman, Headmaster in our fabulous Castle Theatre

 Scan me to book your place

**Book now!**

Visit us and start your Warrior Learning journey  
We look forward to welcoming you to Dunottar.

[dunottarschool.com/admissions](http://dunottarschool.com/admissions)  
[admissions@dunottarschool.com](mailto:admissions@dunottarschool.com)  
01737 761945

**playball** [manager.playballpurley.com](http://manager.playballpurley.com)  
07833 458051

**PLAYBALL PURLEY'S XMAS PARTY 2025**

Drop Off Service For Ages 3-10 Years Boys & Girls

**MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER**  
**WOODCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**CHILDREN MUST BE FULLY TOILET TRAINED**  
**09:30AM TIL 2PM - £25 PER CHILD**



tennis hockey netball baseball  
football cricket basketball rugby

**CAMP OGS**

**15-18 DEC**

**PRICE £40 PER DAY 9AM-4PM**

**GAMES | OUTDOOR ACTIVITY | CRAFT**

**EARLY DROP OFF AT 08.30AM £5 EXTRA**

**BOOK NOW!**

**OGS pupils PR-Year 3**

Booking information to follow

DECEMBER 1948 - JANUARY 2026

**WOLDINGHAM PANTOMIME**

PRESENTS

At the - Woldingham Village Hall

Written & Directed by James Peacock

**SNOW WHITE AND THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN**

Sponsored by THE ARC CENTRE

Early Evening & Matinee Shows  
1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at 5:00pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 2:30pm

Evening Shows  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 7:30pm

**29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

[www.woldinghampanto.com](http://www.woldinghampanto.com)





# Oakhyrst Grange School

## HIRE OUR FACILITIES



Astro Turf

Swimming Pool

Main Hall

BWA Hall

Tennis Court/Netball/Basketball Court









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### OFFICE REMINDERS

- Lost Property – lots of additional unnamed school shoes, sports shoes, wellies and book bags left behind today. Together with these items below.



If your child has lost something and you think it might be with us, please email the office.



### KEY DATES

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Staff Inset
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Start of Spring Term for the whole school
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 5 & 6 RSE Talks to parents – Cameron Hall - 6.00pm