



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

## NOTES FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents,

It has been a delight to meet so many of you at the school gate this week. Building these relationships is a privilege, and I am truly grateful for the warmth of the Oakhyrst community. I am also delighted that our Little Acorns group for toddlers has launched so successfully — please do help us spread the word that this takes place every Monday morning at 10.30am to 11.30am.

The past fortnight has been filled with a real buzz of learning and activity, and I could not be prouder of how well the pupils have settled back into school life. Our new enrichment programme is already proving a source of great excitement, offering opportunities as diverse as British Sign Language, embroidery, circus skills, yoga, STEM, current affairs and debating, origami, product development and drama. Each child will experience this carousel of activities throughout the year, developing skills and interests that extend far beyond the classroom.

A particular highlight has been the recent Year 6 School Council elections. I was blown away by the quality of the speeches and the confidence of every candidate — truly, any one of them could have been elected. It was democracy in action, with pupils experiencing first-hand how our school voting system works. A huge thank you and congratulations to all of our Year 6 pupils who were so ambitious and brave in putting themselves forward. It has also been wonderful spending time with the children in their learning. One of my favourite moments this week was with Year 3 in the Woodlands where pupils worked together to recreate pyramids using sticks, string, and great teamwork. Their energy, imagination and determination were inspiring to see.

This half term, we will be saying farewell to two much-valued colleagues. After ten years of dedicated service, Sarah Peay is retiring to enjoy a very well-deserved rest, while Terri McGregor is moving on to spend more time with her family. We are deeply grateful for all that they have contributed to school life and wish them every happiness for the future.

This week, I have greatly enjoyed meeting senior heads from across the local area and will continue to do so over the coming weeks. These conversations allow us to build on strong relationships and ensure that Oakhyrst Grange remains connected, outward-looking, and ambitious for all our pupils.

We are also fortunate to have a wonderful Parents and Friends of Oakhyrst Grange (PFOG), who work tirelessly to organise activities and events, generously giving up their own time and expertise for the benefit of our community. Please do reach out to Mrs Smith or Mrs Bourns if you would like to support this excellent work. As we begin this new academic year, we warmly welcome interest from any parents keen to join the main committee or if you are interested and have work constraints and would like to create a subcommittee that can help to run further activities please do reach out to PFOG or myself. Our wonderful 'Twiglets' newsletter should also provide a valuable platform for sharing community events and strengthening the connections that make our school such a special place. If you do wish to share any information please do let the office team know.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our wonderful staff, whose dedication shines through in the richness of activities, lessons, and opportunities offered to the children each and every day. A personal highlight for me has been sharing time with Year 6 over juice, Jammie Dodgers and Jenga — a lovely reminder of the joy and energy that fills our school. A huge thank you also goes to our Admin and Support staff, whose care and commitment are the backbone of our special school.

Looking ahead, we have a busy and exciting few weeks planned. On Tuesday 17th September, Mrs Dowling and Miss Wright will be hosting a Phonics and Number Workshop for EYFS parents after drop-off. Later in the month, on Tuesday 30th September, Mr Smith, Mrs Flanders and Mrs Price will lead a session on How We Teach Sport, Art and Music at OGS (please note this change of date). We are also looking forward to our Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Forum, (EDI) on Wednesday 8th October, followed by a Grandparents' Tea Party on Wednesday 16th October. Please do sign up on Wisepay.

Thank you for your continued support — it has been a magical beginning to the term, and I look forward to all that lies ahead.

**Mrs Mitchell**

## NOTES FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL OAKHYRST STAFF

### **Pre-Reception**

We have had such a memorable start to our school journey! All of the children are settling well and getting to grips with all that school life brings. We have enjoyed our first music lessons and sports lessons, we have swimming to come and so much more. We made a great first impression on the rest of our school family when we attended our first assembly where we got to see all of the children and staff at our school.

We have spent time getting to know each other's names and where all of our resources live in the classroom. We will continue focussing on settling in to our new routine before having a tour of the school and learning lots of teachers' names.



## Reception

We are only a few weeks into the term, and already the children have made a brilliant start to life in Reception! Our focus has been on *settling in* – getting to know each other, exploring our new environment, and beginning our learning journey together. One of our highlights so far has been creating a giant Reception banner to welcome everyone to our classroom. The children loved working together on this collage project, using a range of materials and techniques to make something colourful and full of personality – do take a look next time you're in!

We've also been busy finding our way around all the different areas of our classroom and wider school, learning how to use the resources independently, and understanding the routines that help our days run smoothly. It's been fantastic to see the children growing in confidence and curiosity. In phonics, we've been revisiting our initial sounds and are continuing to learn to blend them into words. In maths, we've been working with numbers to 10 – focusing on counting carefully, recognising numerals, and beginning to order them correctly. We've also enjoyed the start of our specialist lessons. The children have taken part in their very first French lesson, where they began learning simple greetings. Our first art, games and swimming lessons have all been exciting and full of energy, with lots of smiles all round.

Finally, our weekly Forest School sessions with Mr Burke have been a huge hit! The children have had the chance to explore nature, get muddy, and take part in some wonderful outdoor adventures.





## Year 1

What a fantastic start to the new school year we've had in Year 1! The children have settled into their new classroom and routines brilliantly, and it's been lovely to see them already producing such thoughtful and creative work.

In Maths, we've been exploring numbers up to 20, while in English, we've been diving into the alphabet. Our Phonics lessons have focused on long vowel sounds, and the children have really impressed us with their enthusiasm and progress.

A definite highlight so far has been our Forest School sessions with Mr Burke—there's nothing quite like learning in the great outdoors! We've also been buzzing with excitement about the new clubs on offer this year and can't wait to get started with our Enrichment lessons this week.

We're so proud of how well the children have embraced the start of Year 1 and are really looking forward to all the adventures the coming weeks will bring!





Year 2



Our smiles 😊 were ENORMOUS in Year 2 when we realised that we would be having Forest School EVERY Thursday morning this year! We were organised and ready to go in super speedy time and so excited to meet Mr Burke at the boot changing area. When asked if they had had an amazing time, there was a unanimous YES! We came up with the following adjectives (we are getting so good at finding powerful, interesting adjectives in Year 2) to describe our woodland learning: creative, exciting, energetic, interesting, intriguing, lively and astonishing. We always have an awesome time down in the woods.

### Year 3

We have had a busy and exciting start to the new school year. There has been a lot to take on board - new class teacher, new classroom, new routines. Everyone is working hard to settle in and do their very best. We all helped create our Class Charter, which is a set of promises about how we will treat each other and learn together. Every student agreed and signed it. Great teamwork!

This week, we had a surprise visitor... Paddington Bear. Mrs. Mitchell sent him to year 3 to encourage us to think about doing our personal best - just like his initials, PB. Paddington is staying with us for the week and watching how we try our hardest.

He has already seen some brilliant work! In English, we have been exploring how nouns, adjectives and prepositional phrases come together to create engaging and impactful sentences when describing a forest. **"The tall, shady trees were swaying in the sun-dappled light" – Evan.** **"The damp, earthy path nestled beside the stream" – Ethan.** Well done, everyone - Paddington is very proud!





## Year 4

Year 4 have made a brilliant start to the year! They've come in full of energy and are tackling new challenges with confidence and enthusiasm.

In geography, we've been learning all about the water cycle — how it works, why it's important, and the different stages involved. In history, we've started exploring life in Anglo-Saxon Britain, from where they came from to how they lived and ruled. Our class text, *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, is already a firm favourite, sparking great discussions and inspiring creative thinking. We were also lucky to have Mrs. Mitchell visit and read our first creative writing pieces — a proud moment for the whole class!

We're now busy preparing for our first Year 4 assembly. It's shaping up to be something special — watch this space!

Well done, Year 4 — keep up the fantastic work!



## Year 5

Year five have made a fantastic start to this new academic year. They have returned from the summer break full of enthusiasm, eagerness and determination to work hard and achieve great things this year. We are well underway with our curriculum learning from designing our own interactive online games within Digital Learning, to learning about the Wars of the Roses within History and the British Isles within Geography. We have also been refreshing our knowledge of place value within Maths and have been identifying key components of sentences within our English lessons. We set our personal bests in our times tables test and look forward to beating these as the weeks go on!

As we join year five, we now have the opportunity to join Mrs Price's Chamber Choir. Fourteen of us took part in the first session on Tuesday. The children will be working hard learning lots of new songs and we all look forward to hearing our peers sing at this term's Carol Service.

We have a busy term ahead of us and are all looking forward to strengthening our skills, knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. We look forward to sharing our learning with you throughout the year in our fortnightly newsletters.



## Year 6







## OTHER NEWS

### A Helping Hand

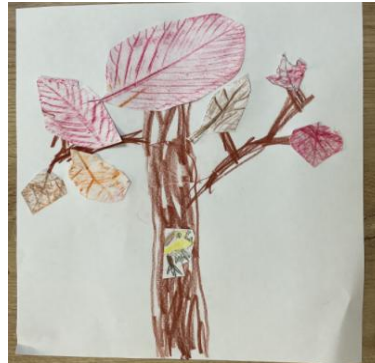


## Forest School



## Art club

For our first session of art and craft club of the year, we went on a little walk to the woods. Each child carefully chose some leaves that they thought we be great for our task. We brought them back to the classroom and got to rubbing! Each of the children created a unique autumn tree using crayons, scissors and glue. Lots of fun was had!



### Art Curriculum

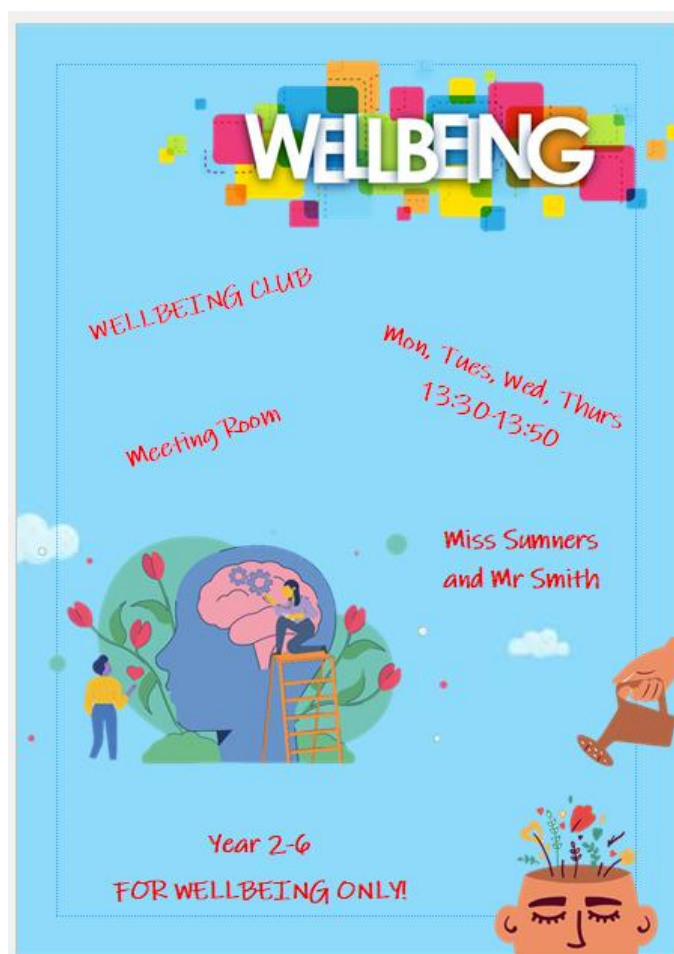
In preparation for their assembly, Year 4 have been using chalky pastels to record the shapes and colours of autumn. Year 2 have been learning about the resilience of Henri Matisse who would not let a physical disability stop him from making the art he loved. Reception thought about how to improve their drawings of people and then drew their families.

Artwork by Anna T, Isabelle M, Amelie W, Emma B and Lillian F.





## Wellbeing Club



### 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: [Exclusive Oakhyrst Parents' Christmas Wreath making masterclass - Monday 1 December 2025 - GRACE Charity -](#)

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Morgan-Robinson

## Netball Chequers – Netball Training for Years 3 to 6 children



### Invitation to: Music Scholars' Recital

Thursday 25 September 2025

5.30pm-6.30pm

Wilberforce Hall, Caterham School

Music Scholars from Caterham School and their parents, together with pupils and parents from our local schools are warmly invited to a Recital given by special guests from the Caterham School music team and selected Music Scholars. This event will be of particular interest to those considering applying for a music scholarship or any enthusiastic young musicians in Year 5 or 6.

The Recital will showcase some of the work undertaken by scholars during the course of the workshops earlier in the day, as well as some performances and presentations from our special guests: Dr Matt London (Woodwind), Mr James Beddoe (Voice), Dr Katie De La Matter (Keyboard), Mr Ben Wragg (Strings). This illustrious panel will offer their insight and experience into different approaches to performance and will allow all to hear from experts in the field- a fantastic opportunity for dedicated musicians.

#### Important information

- Please arrive at 5.20pm at the Wilberforce Hall
- Refreshments will be served
- Family members are welcome

If you plan to attend please email [music.enquiries@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:music.enquiries@caterhamschool.co.uk) by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

## Dunottar School Year 7 Admission



**DUNOTTAR SCHOOL**  
**Registration Deadline**  
**Year 7 2026 Admission**

**9am on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

 **Register here**

Last Open Morning before the registration deadline for Year 7 2026 Admission

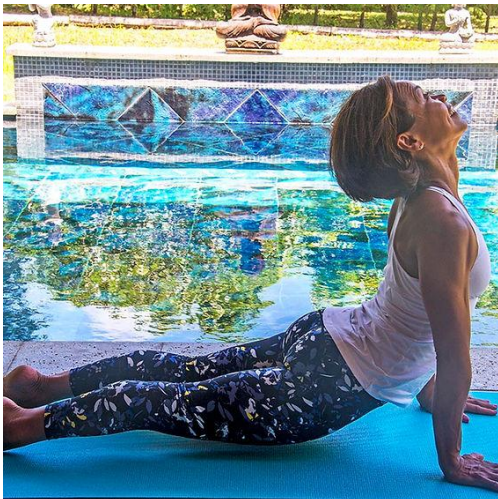
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

 **Book here**

Register today and start your Warrior Learning journey

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

## Parents Monday evening Yoga Club at Oakhyrst Grange School



The Hummingbird Studio with Karen Cadogan

Vinyasa Flow Yoga – Monday 6.15pm to 7.15pm – BWA Hall  
Access through the swimming pool gate

Please book your space through

[Yoga In Caterham](#) | [The Hummingbird Studio](#) | [Caterham](#)



## ROTATIONAL WEEKLY MENUS



### Oakhyrst Grange School Autumn Term Menu 2025

Week 1	Week Commencing: 1 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025, 13 <sup>th</sup> October, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dish of the Day</b>	Jacket Potatoes served with Baked Beans Cheese and Sweetcorn	Beef Chilli Con Carne served with Nachos and Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Chow Mein Served with Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Turkey Roast Potatoes served with Stuffing Balls and Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Goujons and Chips served with Cucumber Batons
<b>Vegetarian Dish (only for who require this)</b>	As above	Plant Based Chilli	Stir fry Oriental Vegetables with Noodles	Vegetarian Strudel	Plant Based Veggie Fingers
<b>Dessert</b>	Homemade Cake	Water Melon and Pineapple	Yoghurt	Ice Cream	Chocolate Chip Cookies
	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table



### Oakhyrst Grange School Autumn Term Menu 2025

Week 2	Week Commencing 8 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2025, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dish of the Day</b>	Margherita Pizza Served with Hash Browns and Sweetcorn	Beef Pasta Bolognese served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Korma Curry Basmati Rice served with Naan and Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Pork with Roast Potatoes Gravy served with Yorkshire Pudding and Seasonal Vegetables	Battered Pollock with Steak Cut Chips served with Cucumber Batons
<b>Vegetarian Dish (only for who require this)</b>	As above	Veggie Pasta Bake	Chickpeas and Potato Curry	Vegan Roast Strudel	Veggie Fingers
<b>Dessert</b>	Homemade Cake	Water Melon and Pineapples	Yoghurt	Ice Cream	Chocolate Chip Cookies
	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table



### Oakhyrst Grange School Autumn Term Menu 2025

Week 3	Week Commencing: 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025, 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dish of the Day</b>	Tomato and Cheese Pasta served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Beef Burger and Hash Browns served with Ketchup and Cucumber Batons	Mediterranean Chicken with Basmati Rice and Vegetables	Roast Turkey Roast Potatoes Rosemary Gravy served with Stuffing Balls and Seasonal Vegetables	Breaded Fish with Steak Cut Chips served with Cucumber Batons
<b>Vegetarian Dish (only for who require this)</b>	As above	Plant Based Burger	Vegetarian Paella	Richmond Vegan Sausages	Veggie Fingers
<b>Dessert</b>	Homemade Cake	Honeydew Melon Pineapples	Yoghurt	Ice Cream	Chocolate Eclairs
	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table

## KEY FORTNIGHTLY DATES

- Tuesday 16.9.25 Year 4 Dominoes and Donuts with Mrs Mitchell – 10.20am
- Wednesday 17.9.25 Pre Reception and Reception Phonics and Number Workshop to Parents – 8.45am Cameron Hall – Please book your seats through your Wisepay Account
- Thursday 18.9.25 Reception Story Time with Mrs Mitchell – 10.40am
- Monday 22.9.25 Perform Drama Workshop for Reception, Years 1 and 2 during the morning
- Monday 22.9.25 Year 1 Story Time with Mrs Mitchell – 10.40am
- Tuesday 23.9.25 Year 3 Jenga and Jamie Dodgers with Mrs Mitchell – 10.20am
- Wednesday 24.9.25 Well-being Wednesday – family time no homework
- Wednesday 24.9.25 U11 Football Tournament away at Epsom College leave OGS 9.00am
- Wednesday 24.9.25 Year 2 Dominoes and Donuts with Mrs Mitchell
- Friday 26.9.25 Year 4 Form Assembly – 8.45am Parents welcome
- Friday 26.9.25 U11 ISA London South Football Tournament – away at Lingfield College all day
- Saturday 27.9.25 U9 Football Tournament at Caterham Prep School all morning commencing 9.00am




Oakhyrst Grange School




**Join us at  
Our Open Day**  
Friday 3rd October  
and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

To book a personal tour and get a real sense of what life is like at Oakhyrst Grange School, contact our admissions

An independent day school for pupils aged 3 - 11 Oakhyrst Grange School,  
CO-EDUCATIONAL / OUTSTANDING FACILITIES Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6AF  
office@oakhyrstgrangeschool.co.uk 01883 343344



**FREE  
TO JOIN**




# Little Acorns

A fun and friendly toddler group

Join us for stories, games and sing-a-long songs

Term-time Mondays 10:30 - 11:30am  
Starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
No need to book

**JOIN US AT:**  
Oakhyrst Grange School,  
Stansted Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6AF  
01883 343344 | office@oakhyrstgrangeschool.co.uk



Oakhyrst Grange School