



Friday, 13th February 2026

NOTES FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents,

It has been another wonderfully busy and enriching half term for our school community, with so much to celebrate and be proud of.

We marked 'Children's Mental Health Awareness Week' with thoughtful activities and discussions focused on helping pupils understand that it is okay to have feelings, recognising how we can look after our own wellbeing, and thinking about how we can show kindness and care to others. These important messages have helped to nurture empathy, self-awareness and resilience across the school.

Alongside this, our Digital Leaders delivered an outstanding assembly on online safety, which was interactive, engaging and highly impactful. They did a brilliant job of helping pupils understand how to stay safe online and how to make positive, responsible choices when using technology. Thank you to Mrs Gorman for organising this.

Our sporting spirit was on full display at cross-country, where pupils showed determination, resilience and great sportsmanship. During the course of the fortnight, we have seen thirteen schools compete in events at our school. Congratulations to all the children who took part! Please do read Mr Smith's Sports review below. Meanwhile, our younger learners in Reception enjoyed an exciting visit by their parents to their school classroom museum and pupils were thrilled by our trip to the Polka Theatre, which brought learning to life in a truly memorable way.

We also enjoyed coming together as a community for Quiz Night – thank you to everyone who supported and helped make it such a fun and successful event. Thank you to Mrs Harrison, Mrs Morgan-Robinson and Mrs Smith-Liggins for organising this event. The money raised will be going towards Mr Smith's charity, 'Chance to Shine.'

In Year 4, pupils had a fantastic classroom museum visit by their parents (and some grandparents!) and an assembly focused on the Vikings, deepening their historical knowledge and bringing their learning to life. Year 1's assembly was a joy to watch and showcased the confidence and progress our youngest learners are making. We learnt so many fascinating facts about the UK.

A special well done to Kai (Year3), who received the 'Golden Acorn' for demonstrating our school values so consistently and for the excellent effort he continues to make with his learning – a wonderful achievement.

Finally, from 14th–22nd February, the Village Council is running the Great Chaldon Spring Clean Up, and we hope many of our families will be able to take part. It's a lovely opportunity to support our local community and care for our environment together. If you would like to get involved and need a litter picker or bags, please contact clerk@chaldonvillagecouncil.gov.uk. Please also saved the date: Our School Fayre will be on Saturday 6th June and we are thrilled to be joining the Caterham Carnival on Saturday 13th June. We would be delighted if as many boys and girls could be involved in the parade and we will be sending further details for this nearer the time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to see our pupils growing in confidence, kindness and curiosity every day. I am very much looking forward to hearing about all their adventures during half term.

As Headteacher, I have the privilege of working alongside many dedicated professionals, but I would like to take a moment to recognise someone truly exceptional. Angela Agathocli or Mrs A, has been part of this school for an incredible 25 years. That means she has quietly supported generations of pupils, families, staff and leaders – often behind the scenes, always with total commitment, professionalism and care.

Angela is the person who somehow knows everything that is happening before it happens, keeps everyone calm when things feel busy, and ensures that the school continues to run smoothly day after day. Her kindness, discretion and unwavering loyalty to the school community make a difference far beyond what most people ever see. The school is deeply grateful for her dedication, her warmth and her tireless service over so many years. Angela is now looking forward to spending more time with her family and we are all looking forward to hearing about many of her (out of term time) holidays!

Have a lovely half term.

Mrs Mitchell



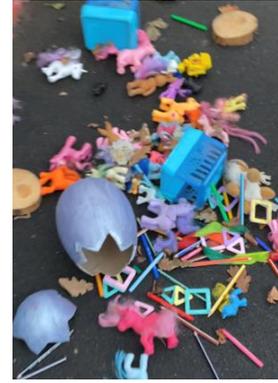




NOTES FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL OAKHYRST STAFF

Pre-Reception

We had an explosive start to the week when the children arrived on Monday morning. There was a big mess in the garden, an egg that had cracked open, and some large footprints on the floor! We spent Monday drawing and writing about what we think was inside. We have been making patterns using different coloured dinosaurs and we even made dinosaur biscuits! It's been a roar-some start to our dinosaur topic, that's for sure!



Reception

Reception have been incredibly busy over the past two weeks, finishing off their exciting learning about dinosaurs and moving on to a brand-new topic all about terrific transport!

In literacy, the children have been writing packing lists for different journeys, thinking carefully about what they might need when travelling by car, bus and plane. In maths, we have been using vehicles to help us solve picture problems, developing our counting and problem-solving skills in a fun and practical way.

Our creative skills have also been on show in expressive arts and design, where the children have been busy designing and creating their own junk-modelled cars. The classroom has been full of imagination, teamwork and some fantastic designs.

The highlight of the past week, however, was our very first Reception class museum. It was a wonderful experience to welcome parents into the classroom to share the children's super learning. The children were so proud as they guided you around like tiny teachers, confidently explaining their work and showing just how much they have learned. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such a special event!



Year 1

We had great fun taking part in NSPCC Number Day, coming to school dressed in our fantastic numbered tops. The children enjoyed celebrating all things mathematical while supporting such an important cause.

Our annual trip to the Polka Theatre in Wimbledon was, as always, a real highlight. We watched the delightful production of '*Ruby's Worry*,' which shared a meaningful message about talking through our feelings. The children

also took part in a creative workshop where they made their very own worry puppets – a fantastic way to explore the story's themes.

To top it all off, our 'class assembly on *The UK*' was a tremendous success. The children impressed everyone with their knowledge, confidence and beautiful singing.



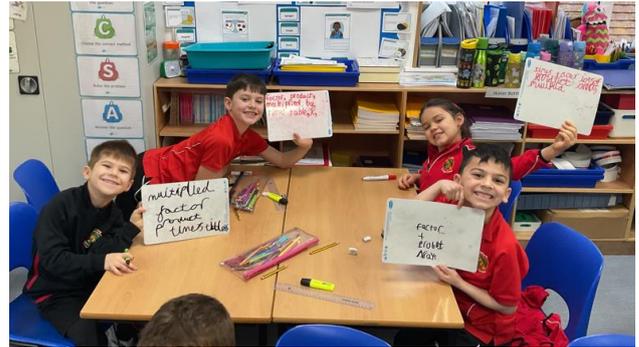
Year 2

This term in Year 2, we have been diving into the exciting world of multiplication, understanding multiplication as a quick way of adding equal groups, building strong number sense and developing our problem-solving skills.

We've been learning to:

- Use arrays to visualise multiplication facts (e.g., 3 rows of 4 makes 12).
- Practise counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s to build strong number fluency, focusing on the 2, 5, and 10 times tables, with an introduction to the 3s after half term.
- Understand equal groups and link multiplication as repeated addition (e.g., 3×5 is the same as $5 + 5 + 5$).
- Solve real-life problems, such as "If there are 4 plates with 5 biscuits each, how many biscuits are there in total?"
- Learn multiplication vocabulary: *groups of*, *lots of*, *times*, *factors* and *product*.

Let's keep the multiplication magic going!



Year 3

Year 3 have been developing their writing by learning a technique called “show not tell”. “Show not tell” is a writing skill that encourages children to paint a picture with words instead of simply stating a fact. For example, instead of telling the reader “*Tranio was scared*”, children learn to show this emotion through actions, senses and detail, such as: “*Tranio’s hands trembled as ash drifted from the sky.*” This helps young writers create vivid, powerful descriptions and makes their work much more engaging for a reader.

We have been using this technique in our poetry writing, inspired by the dramatic events in the book we have been studying: “*Escape from Pompeii*”. To structure our poems, we decided to use the poetry technique of repetition, beginning each verse with the phrase “One Day”, which is the title, set by the ISA for this year’s poetry competition. Each verse of the poem tells the unfolding story of Pompeii.

Well done, Year 3 - your writing truly erupted with brilliance! Parents, can you spot examples of 'show not tell' in the poems below

One day in Pompeii the sun smiled
With the wind chasing people around.
Full of people trading and children
playing knucklebones, having
fun. With adults shopping happily.

One day the ground growled
and started to shake. A boy knew
something was wrong. Suddenly
everybody noticed it. It was an
EARTHQUAKE.

One day a once quiet mountain
shouted. People's knees
started to wobble like jelly,
HEARTS dropped out of
their mouths, the sky turned grey.

One day people ran through
the streets holding their
children as the colour
drained from their faces.
Trying to get to safety.

One day some families
reached the boats
at last. As the tide swept
away the boats disappeared.
Only some SURVIVED.
Would they return one day?

by Evan

One day in Pompeii it was bright and busy
People trading pots of food and going to the theatre
Children running on the streets and playing knucklebones
The sun smiling and the sky watching
All was peaceful, calm and quiet

One day the ground rumbled and shook
People wondering what was going on
A boy sweating and a girl breathing heavily
Some people fainted, mouths dropped open
Most shaking like leaves or jelly

One day Mount Vesuvius bellowed
It was all very chaotic and mad
Ash rising and lava running down Mount Vesuvius
Lightning flashed and thunder roared
All loud, noisy and deafening

One day people screaming and gasping for air
They were running towards the harbour
Two children were clutching hands
Running so fast that they were almost tripping over
Hearts thumping as pumice and ash fell from the sky

One day people finally got to the harbour
Would we ever see our beloved Pompeii again they thought
They all said goodbye to their ruined homes
They all watched as their city got destroyed
Would they ever see Pompeii again... one day?

by Ethan

Year 4

Our Class Museum and assembly are now complete, and what a true success they both were. The children absolutely loved welcoming their parents and grandparents into the classroom, proudly showing off their hard work and sharing their books. It was wonderful to see them explaining their learning with such enthusiasm and confidence. The competitive spirit certainly came alive too, as families joined in with some educational games—there were lots of smiles (and maybe a little friendly rivalry!).

Then came the assembly... what a showstopper! I am so unbelievably proud of every single student for the confidence and bravery they showed during the production. Standing up in front of an audience is no small feat, and they truly rose to the occasion. Their hard work, teamwork and dedication shone through from start to finish.



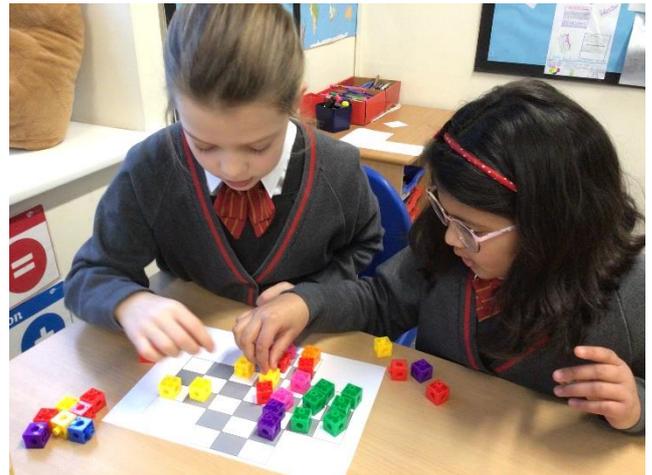
Year 5

We have been working hard across the curriculum whilst having fun outside in various sports fixtures and events that we have been part of. In both our Maths and Science lessons, we have been completing lots of practical activities to enhance our learning. Within science, we have been investigating the properties of materials and have been planning and completing a variety of experiments and investigations. Within Maths, we have been extending our knowledge of shapes. At the start, we refreshed our memories of 2D shapes and then quickly moved on to the properties of 3D shapes. We are currently now investigating transformations including translations, reflections and rotations.

In our digital learning lessons, we continue to be cryptographers to crack codes. At first, we looked at Morse code and most recently, we tried to use the Caesar cipher to create and crack codes. Within our English lessons, we have now completed our ISA Poetry Competition entries and keep our fingers crossed for these.

Over the past two weeks, we have also enjoyed two fantastic sessions with our Reception Buddies. During the first session, the Reception children chose a book in which the Year 5 pupils read with them. During our second session, yesterday afternoon, the year 5 pupils played a selection of card and board games with the Reception class. There were lots of smiles and laughter all around. A fantastic end to our half term.

After half term, we are really looking forward to the French Day, a Years 5 and 6 Buddy Afternoon, Careers Week, World Book Day and Science Week to name just a few!



Year 6

These last few weeks Year 6 have continued reading *Goodnight Mr Tom*, focusing closely on character through speech and dialect. The children analysed how different characters speak and explored the use of contracted forms and the dropping of certain letters, replacing them with apostrophes. We compared Mr Tom's rural dialect with the speech of a well-off London evacuee, identifying how accent, vocabulary and formality can change depending on background and upbringing. Using this understanding, the children wrote their own playscripts based on a chosen evacuee. Leading up to this, they took part in a range of drama activities, bravely standing up in front of the class to act out scenes as the billeting officer, evacuee and Mr Tom, while practising accents and expressive speech.

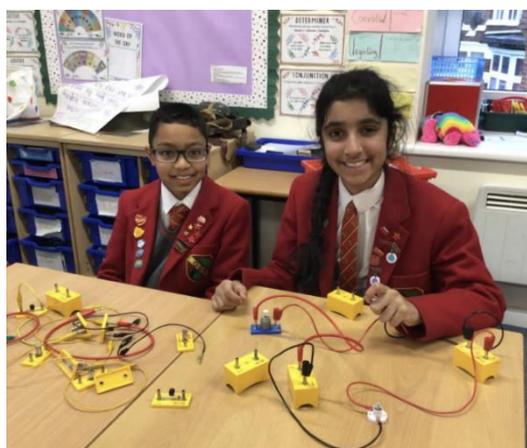
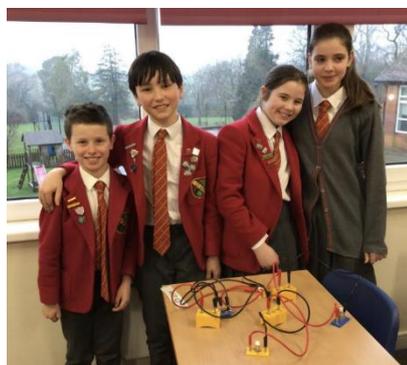
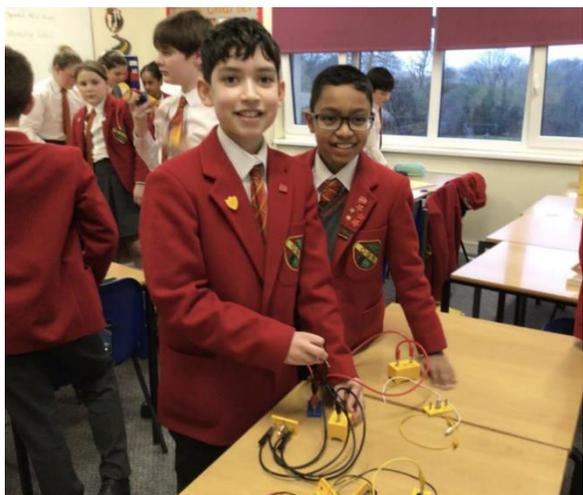
Our focus in maths has been on decimals, with particular attention to place value. Through a mastery approach, the children explored a range of scenarios, deciding whether they agreed or disagreed with given statements and, importantly, proving their answers. They applied this reasoning to rounding, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals, including using function machines, multiplying, and dividing by 100.

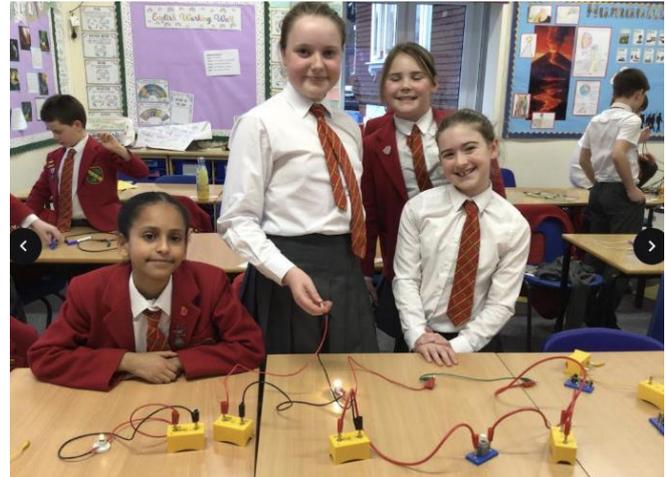
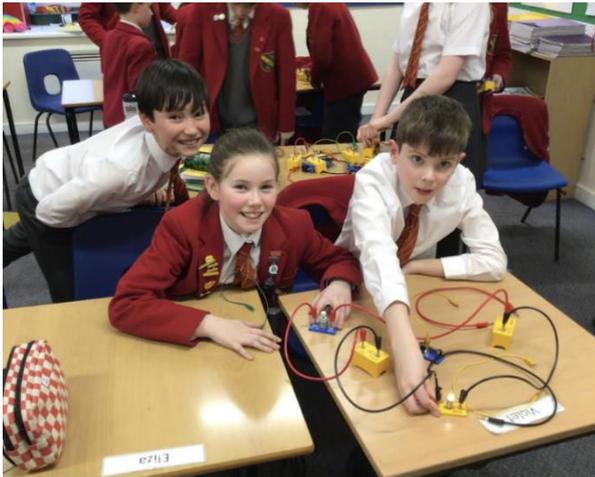
The children have thoroughly enjoyed starting our new unit on circuits, in Science this term. They have had great fun exploring and creating their own circuits using switches, motors and buzzers, clearly demonstrating their

understanding. They have also learned the correct symbols for different components and how to draw circuits accurately, as well as comparing circuit systems to real-life examples such as boilers and radiators.

Our History lessons have been full of excitement as we explored why America entered World War II, including cracking the Zimmermann Telegram. The children also took on the roles of world leaders, deciding what Germany should pay after the damage of World War I and comparing their decisions to the Treaty of Versailles and what the Big Three actually agreed.

In Geography, we have finished our topic 'Volcanoes' by exploring the pros and cons of living near a volcano. The children thoughtfully ordered these advantages, deciding which were significant and most significant, using clear reasoning to justify their choices.





Sport

It has been a busy and exciting fortnight of sport, with many children representing the school brilliantly across a wide range of competitions. Despite cold and wet weather conditions, everyone got stuck in, showed great resilience, and always gave their very best.

All our Year 5 & 6 pupils recently took part in hockey fixtures against Aberdour and Copthorne, demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination, along with some fantastic individual and team performances. It was a valuable opportunity for players of all ability levels to experience competitive hockey.

We were also fortunate to attend the ISA Hockey Competition at the Lee Valley Hockey Centre (Olympic Park), where our team showed impressive skill and resilience against strong opposition, growing in confidence with each match and supporting one another throughout. Laurence captained the team to a bronze medal in the Trophy competition, secured by a decisive penalty shuffle goal from Sienna.

The following day, we turned our attention to the ISA Netball Competition. Our young team played with great energy and enthusiasm, gaining confidence as the tournament progressed. Although results were mixed, the girls embraced the experience, which will undoubtedly support their development going forward.

We rounded off the half term by hosting two consecutive KS2 cross-country events on our school grounds. Eight prep schools attended on Tuesday 10th and five state schools on Wednesday 11th, with children from Years 3–6 running their hearts out across our challenging three-lap course. Every participant showed tremendous perseverance, tackling the muddy conditions with determination and representing their schools with pride.

Aberdour were the overall winners on Tuesday, with Oakhyrst Grange also enjoying success, collecting two gold medals. On Wednesday, our team finished as overall winners, achieving an outstanding total of nine medals. A big thank you goes to the students from RGS Surrey Hills, along with our fantastic Year 5 & 6 helpers, for helping to make the events such a success.

Aside from competitions, we'd like to say a big 'Well done' to Georgia Rustom-Best (Year 5) who was recently involved in making history for Warlingham RFC by being a part of the first ever Junior girls rugby match there. Well done Georgia!



Art



Fabulous fish by Year 4, incredible insect by Joe in Year 3, delightful dinosaurs by Reception class, colourful chameleon by Hanna in Year 3, fantastic frog by Eloise n Year 4.

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ROTATIONAL WEEKLY MENUS



Oakhyrst Grange School Spring Term Menu 2026

Week 1	Week Commencing: 26 th January, 23 rd February, 16 th March				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day	Jacket Potatoes served with Cheese, Baked Beans and Sweetcorn	Pork Sausages and Creamy Mash Potatoes served with Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Chow Mein and Seasonal Vegetables	Roast Pork Potatoes Yorkshire Puddings Onion Gravy and Seasonal Vegetables	Fish and Chips served with Seasonal Vegetables
Vegetarian Dish (only for who require this)	As above	Plant Based Sausages	Mix Vegetable Rice Noodles	Plant Based Roast	Plant Based Veggie Fingers
Dessert	Homemade Cake	Pineapple and Watermelon	Yoghurt	Chocolate Chip Cookies	Poffertjes
	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table



Oakhyrst Grange School Spring Term Menu 2026

Week 2	Week Commencing: 12 th January, 2 nd February, 2 nd March, 23 rd March				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day	Pasta in Tomato and Basil Sauce served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Margarita Pizza served with Mini has Browns and Cucumber Batons	Beef Chilli con carne Basmati rice served with tortilla chips and seasonal vegetables	Roast Pork Potatoes Gravy served with Yorkshire Puddings and Seasonal Vegetables	Breaded Fish and Chips served with Cucumber Batons
Vegetarian Dish (only for who require this)	As above	As above	Three Beans Chilli	Plant Based Roast	Plant Based Veggie Fingers
Dessert	Homemade Cake	Pineapple and Melon	Yoghurt	Homemade Flapjacks	Homemade Chocolate Cake with Warm Custard
	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table



Oakhyrst Grange School Spring Term Menu 2026

Week 3	Week Commencing: 19 th January, 9 th Feb, 9 th March, 30 th March				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day	Pasta in Tomato Sauce Grated Cheese Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Chicken Korma Rice served with Naan Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	All Day Breakfast Pork Sausage Baked Beans Hash Browns served with Garden Peas	Roast Gammon Roast Potatoes Rosemary Gravy Yorkshire Pudding and Seasonal Vegetables	Breaded Fish and Chips served with Cucumber Batons
Vegetarian Dish (only for who require this)	As above	Three Beans and Potato Curry	Plant Based Sausages	Plant Based Roast	Veggie Fingers
Dessert	Homemade Cake	Pineapple and Watermelon	Yoghurt	Jelly	Chocolate Chip Cookies
	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table	Fruit Table

KEY FORTNIGHTLY DATES

- 23.2.26 Bags to School – Drop Off Day
- 23.2.26 French Day Y6, 5, 2 & R
- 24.2.26 ISA Regional Cross Country
- 24.2.26 Year 4 Tea Time Concert
- 25.2.26 Year 1 Classroom Museum
- 26.2.26 Year 5 & 6 Buddy Afternoon
- 27.2.26 French Day Y3 & 1
- 27.2.26 Year 2 Form Assembly
- 27.2.26 Little Acorns Music & Movement