



Friday, 20th March 2026

NOTES FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents,

It has certainly been a busy and exciting fortnight at school! From Science Week and Careers Week, to assemblies, Stay and Play sessions, classroom museums, Pi Day maths, eco meetings, reports, clubs, matches, prospective parent tours and pupil taster days – there really has been a huge amount happening. The list could go on! It has also been wonderful to see parents joining us for PE lessons this week. These sessions have been fun, engaging and full of energy – made even better by the welcome arrival of some sunshine!

Pi Day was a particular highlight. We were delighted to welcome the Caterham School Lower Sixth Maths Ambassadors, who led engaging circle activities and mathematical challenges with our Year 4–6 pupils. It was a great opportunity to see problem-solving, collaboration and enthusiasm for maths in action. The students also shared with our children their future career path choices and the benefits of studying A-Level Maths.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our PFOG team for their continued energy, creativity and support. I am incredibly grateful for the thoughtful organisation of the Mother's Day gifts and to everyone who contributed such marvellous cakes – these moments really do add something special to school life. I would also like to thank PFOG for the fantastic Experience Day, which this year focused on respect through martial arts. The children gained so much from this engaging and meaningful experience. On this note, I would like to share that Mrs Smith, who has been an outstanding Chair of PFOG, has decided to begin handing the baton on as her son moves into Year 6 next year. Mrs Smith has gone above and beyond in her role and has been an exceptional support to both the school and our families. I am hugely grateful for all that she has done and am delighted that she will continue to support PFOG in a slightly different capacity. As we look ahead to the summer term, I will be inviting more members of our community to get involved with PFOG, as the team is currently small. Further information will be shared shortly, and I would warmly encourage anyone who is interested to consider getting involved.

Residential trips continue to play a vital role in our pupils' development. They provide invaluable opportunities for children to build independence, resilience and confidence, while also strengthening friendships and developing teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. Our Year 3 pupils had an amazing time at Runways End, where they enjoyed activities such as archery, climbing and sitting around the campfire. My thanks go to the staff (Miss Allybacus, Miss Sumners and Mrs Dance) who organise and lead these trips, giving their time and energy – often away from their own families – to create such special experiences for our children.

Our Spring Concert was exceptional and a real highlight of the term. The standard of performance was outstanding, with pupils playing with confidence, musicality and real joy. From soloists to ensembles, every performance reflected the dedication, practice and passion of our children. It was particularly special to see pupils supporting one another and taking such pride in their achievements. Thank you to Mrs Price for her inspiration and organisation, to our peripatetic music staff for their expertise, and to all of the pupils who made the evening so memorable. We also held our Lamda sharing assembly on Wednesday. Congratulations to Mrs Flowers and all the children who recited poems with clarity and expression. A special mention to Ella, Esme, Lucas, Tristan – all in Reception!

One of my personal highlights this week was spending time reading with Year 1. We enjoyed the delightful *Porridge Please*, kindly donated by the author, Laura Mucha to Oakhyrst Grange – a funny, modern fairy tale full of problem-solving, a love of books and, of course, plenty of porridge! It was such a lovely reminder of how special it is to share stories together. Those quiet moments of reading – whether at school or at home – really do spark imagination, conversation and a genuine enjoyment of books.

As always, we continue to review and refine our school policies to ensure they reflect current best practice and support our whole school community. The most up-to-date versions are always available on the school website for your reference. As in my communication this week, the children were exceptional as we carried out a lockdown drill – all moving calmly and confidently into their classrooms. Just like Shelley the turtle – the children were all able to go into ‘turtle mode.’

The sun has been out and the boys and girls have thoroughly enjoyed playing together with their friends and exploring the many opportunities we have at our very special school.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.

Mrs Mitchell









NOTES FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL OAKHYRST STAFF

Pre-Reception

Our Pre-Reception children have been busy exploring the signs of spring and embracing the new season through lots of hands-on learning. As part of our topic, the children worked together to create a wonderful bug hotel in the garden, carefully choosing natural materials to make a cosy home for insects and learning about the important role mini-beasts play in our environment. In the classroom, the children also enjoyed making delicious Easter nest cakes, practising their measuring, mixing and decorating skills. We were especially delighted to welcome Mums into school for our Mother's Day Stay and Play session, which was a truly special morning. The children loved sharing their classroom, activities and smiles with their loved ones, and it was a joy to see such a warm and happy atmosphere.



Reception

This week in Reception we have launched ourselves into space-themed learning and the children have been busy exploring the wonders of space across all areas of the classroom. We said hello to the *Little People, Big Dreams* figures of Neil Armstrong and Mae Jemison, learning about these inspirational astronauts and the amazing journeys they made beyond our planet. Our classroom has been full of excitement as the children set off on their own space adventures in our astronaut-themed role-play area. Budding astronauts travelled to distant planets, worked together on missions and imagined what life might be like in space.

In Literacy, the children used their fantastic imaginations to write their own space adventure stories, thinking about where they might travel and what they might discover along the way. Meanwhile in Maths, we explored ordering numbers, using the planets to help us place them in the correct sequence.

It has been a fantastic week of learning, imagination and adventure in Reception, and we are looking forward to continuing our journey through space next week!



Year 1

Year 1 have been working incredibly hard while having lots of fun along the way! In Maths, the children have been developing their confidence with multiplication by learning and practising their 2, 5 and 10 times tables through a range of engaging activities. In English, we have been focusing on punctuation, particularly how and when to use question marks and exclamation marks to make our writing more expressive and accurate.

In computing, the children have been consolidating all of their coding skills by completing an independent assessment using Scratch Jr, where they demonstrated their ability to create and debug simple programs.

Science Week was a real highlight, filled with exciting, hands-on learning opportunities. The children especially enjoyed a practical workshop where they worked collaboratively to design and build towers and bridges, exploring ideas about structure and stability.

We also had a fantastic time during our PFOG Experience Day, where the children thoroughly enjoyed learning some basic Kung Fu techniques, showing great enthusiasm, focus and teamwork throughout the session. In addition, we celebrated Pi Day by creating artwork using circular-shaped brushes, and the children had great fun exploring patterns and shapes through painting.



Year 2

Kung Fu In Year 2!

We have been learning how to use commas in lists in Year 2 so we've collected a group of adjectives to describe our experience of Kung Fu and use commas! Kung Fu is... energetic, skilled, calm, powerful, fun, healthy, strong, exciting and fierce. We learnt all about how Kung Fu copies the movement of animals to increase your skill. We loved learning how to move like a tiger, powerfully, gracefully, fiercely and using our facial expression too. Moving like a crane showed us how to perform calm, controlled, balancing movements and frog movements taught us to be stretched, flexible and bouncy!



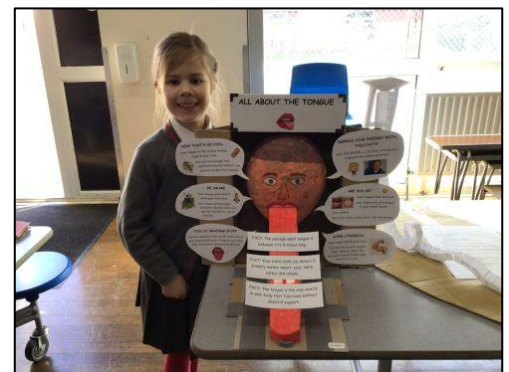


Year 3

The standard for this year's Science Fair was incredible - every project showed real effort, great ideas and lots of creativity. The children's enthusiasm and hard work really shone through. Well done to everyone! Each buddy year group teacher chose a winner for the competition. Year 3 was partnered with Year 2 and so a special mention goes to Alice for being our competition prize winner.

We can't forget the unforgettable Year 3 Residential, of course! Even with the chilly, windy weather, the children stayed positive and gave every activity their best, whether they were attempting the climbing wall, firing water rockets, tackling the water balloon challenge or trying out archery. Their teamwork and determination were wonderful to see.

The evenings were just as special, with lots of laughter, toasted marshmallows, the excitement of sharing pods with friends and celebrating Keir's birthday. For many children (and parents), it was the first time staying away from home, and they handled it brilliantly. It really was a week full of learning, growing and making great memories!





Year 4

This week, Year 4 have shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm across the curriculum. Their determination and hard work throughout their lessons have been wonderful to see as they begin preparing for their move up into Year 5 in September.

In Science, pupils began their new topic on teeth, exploring how to keep them healthy as well as their properties and functions. As part of this, they carried out an exciting investigation into the effects different drinks can have on teeth. The results kept us enthralled throughout the week as we checked our experiment daily, observing the changes taking place. We noticed a particularly clear difference in the beakers containing Coke and orange juice, which led to thoughtful discussions about the importance of brushing teeth regularly, especially after consuming sugary foods and drinks.

In English, the class has continued reading *Stig of the Dump*, showing great engagement with the story while developing their comprehension skills. In geography, pupils have been building their knowledge of Europe, learning about its countries, capital cities, and flags.

In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of metric units and reading scales—skills that will be very useful when creating some yummy Easter treats in the coming weeks! They were also introduced to square numbers and were set an exciting challenge by Mrs Dance to learn them off by heart up to 20^2 .

Year 4 also had a wonderful time at Forest School with Miss Clare, exploring nature and getting creative outdoors. The children loved using their imagination to design and make their own clay bugs, carefully shaping and decorating them using natural materials they found around them. It was a fantastic session filled with creativity, teamwork, and lots of smiles!



Year 5

Over the past two weeks, the class has demonstrated excellent commitment and enthusiasm across all areas of their learning, whether this has been in class, performing at the Spring Concert or in Wednesday's LAMDA assembly. I have been blown away by their continued hard work and high effort levels.

In English, pupils have been focusing on formal persuasive letter writing. The children wrote thoughtful letters to Mrs Mitchell, proposing new initiatives for the school, and also crafted persuasive letters to prospective visitors, encouraging them to come and experience all that our amazing school has to offer. The children impressed with their use of a wide range of persuasive techniques, including rhetorical questions, emotive language, exaggeration, repetition, and well-chosen facts to support their arguments.

In History, the class has been exploring the Stuart period, with a particular focus on Oliver Cromwell and his leadership of England. Pupils have shown great curiosity and developing understanding of this significant time in British history. geography lessons have focused on rural and urban areas, where children have been investigating the advantages and disadvantages of urbanisation. They have engaged in thoughtful discussions and comparisons, showing a growing awareness of how people live in different environments. In science, pupils have been learning about the properties of materials, with a focus on investigating which materials are soluble and insoluble. They have approached their experiments with care and curiosity, making sensible predictions and observations along the way.

Year 6

This week, we have been refining our arithmetic skills, focusing on multiplication, subtraction, division, and addition. The children have also been developing their understanding of fractions and percentages of amounts. In lessons, we explored ordering fractions, decimals, and percentages, as well as identifying equivalent forms. The children applied this knowledge to Maths Mastery problems using number lines and fraction cards, and they enjoyed analysing whether given statements were true or false. We also practised converting fractions into percentages with denominators other than 100.

In English, we have been building our inference skills by examining diary entries from 'The Pompous Evacuee', with a focus on understanding the character of Mr Tom. We also learned the difference between dashes and hyphens, and how to use them effectively - particularly for adding relative clauses and afterthoughts to sentences. The

children then produced some superb diary entries, writing in the role of an evacuee spending their first night with Mr Tom. Their creativity and expression were truly impressive!

It has been an exciting Science Week! The children thoroughly enjoyed presenting their DNA PowerPoints to Pre- Reception and did a fantastic job tailoring their explanations for a younger audience. We were especially impressed with their use of comparisons, such as explaining DNA like the ingredients of a chocolate cake - clear, engaging, and thoughtful. They also took part in an inter-house science quiz, which was incredibly exciting and went to three tie-breaks. This was a very suspenseful moment for everyone involved!

In Geography and History, we have completed our end-of-unit assessments and have now begun our new topic on World War II. In History, we started by exploring how and why WWII began and created timelines of key events to support our understanding.

Finally, this week brought the moment many had been waiting for - Shrek auditions! The children worked incredibly hard and truly wowed us with their confidence, acting, and singing abilities.

Sport

It has been another exciting few weeks for sport at Oakhyrst Grange, with lots of children having the opportunity to participate across a wide range of activities. All our girls from Year 3-6 had some fun friendly football matches against Aberdour, demonstrating improved skill and determination throughout. Across the few afternoons, the games were played in good spirits, with the girls having to work well together to create scoring opportunities.

On Saturday 7th March, two Year 6 teams took part in *"It's A Fish Out"*, a lifesaving-based competition featuring a range of activities including rope throwing, straddle entries, a relay with head-up swimming, ball throwing, and lifting a brick from the water. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and represented the school brilliantly. Out of 21 teams, our A team achieved an impressive 4th place, while the B team finished 17th.

On Saturday 14th March, Caiden, Sofia, Sienna & Ophelia represented the school at the ESSA Surrey competition. Held at Guildford Spectrum, the team achieved a Bronze medal for the medley relay and 6th place for the front crawl. A superb achievement! A big thank you to Mrs Evans & Mrs Harris for their hard work and commitment on a Saturday evening.

We have enjoyed welcoming our Pre-Reception – Year 2 parents into school this week to take part in our PE lessons. These lessons allowed pupils and their parents to take part in fun, but competitive activities together. From relay races to skill-based fitness activities, there was something for everyone, and the enthusiasm from both children and parents made these events a real highlight of this week.

There is plenty to look forward to in the coming weeks before we break for Easter. Year 3&4 have a hockey fixture against St David's as well as some of our U11 girls getting the opportunity to compete in the 'Primary Fitness Games' held at Seaton House School. Overall, it has been a fantastic term for school sport, and we look forward to building on this success into the Summer months.

Mr. Smith



Art



Owls by Gracie and Oscar, Year 2. Foxes by Cara and Harrison, Year 4

OTHER NEWS

AthletixKIDZ
EASTER CAMPS
 AT OAKHYRST GRANGE

Activities

- Fun Team games
- Relay / obstacle races 10am - 1pm
- Athletix Kidz session
- Hurdles
- Agility
- Throwing activities
- Arts & Crafts
- Easter Egg Hunt

Dates / Address

Oakhyrst Grange School
 Thursday 9th April
 Friday 10th April
 Thursday 16th April
<https://athletixkidz.classforkids.io/camp/43>

(AGES 3 - 10 YRS)

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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 Basmati 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

- 24.03.26 Years 2 and 3 Interhouse Swimming Gala
- 25.03.26 Years Reception- Year 1 Interhouse Swim Gala
- 25.03.26 Years 3-6 Art Show
- 26.03.26 Years 4-6 Interhouse Swimming Gala
- 26.03.26 Pre-Reception- Y2 Art Show
- 27.03.26 Spring Clubs finish
- 31.03.26 PFOG Easter Egg hunt
- 31.03.26 Terms ends 12 noon, staggered collection time