



Friday, 25th September 2026

NOTES FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents,

We were incredibly excited this week to officially launch our new international partnership with Escuela San Lorenzo in Colombia.

Two schools • two countries • one shared learning journey

A huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Gonzalez for leading such a wonderful assembly and helping the children learn more about Colombia, Escuela San Lorenzo and what this exciting partnership will mean for us all. Over the coming year, our boys and girls will have opportunities to say hello, share their world, learn together and build friendships with pupils at Escuela San Lorenzo. We hope to exchange work, photographs, school traditions, favourite books, games and projects, as well as explore language, geography, culture, music, sport and everyday school life. Most importantly, this partnership is about creating meaningful opportunities for our children to connect with others, develop their curiosity about the wider world and celebrate both the similarities and differences between our two school communities. We are really looking forward to seeing where this shared learning journey takes us!



This week also saw our first School Council meeting of the year. Congratulations to Theo, our President, Paige, our Vice President, and Barney, our Secretary for being elected. The meeting was a great success and the children are already bursting with ideas about how they can make a difference across the school.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors also held their first meeting in our new wellbeing room, The Nook, and are now busy preparing for its official opening next week.

Finally, Year 5 had a wonderful time at Bushcraft. My thanks to Miss Sumners and Miss Richardson for all their work in making the trip such a special experience for the children.

A week full of learning, leadership and new opportunities – and plenty more to look forward to.

Mrs Mitchell





Pre-Reception

We have had another lovely week in Pre-Reception and the children have been very busy! Our topic has been All About Me and we started the week sharing photographs of our family. This week the children also completed their very first piece of writing and we were so proud of how well they all had a go. In Maths, we have been looking at more and fewer, using different groups of objects to help us work out which has more and which has fewer. We have also started our phonics journey this week and learnt our very first sounds, 's' and 'a'. The children have been practising saying the sounds, spotting them and

having a go at writing them. In cookery, we continued our all about me theme by making mashed potato faces. They have worked so hard this week and it has been lovely to see how excited they are about all of their new learning!



Reception

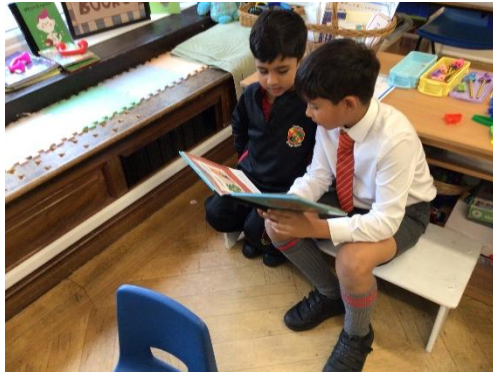
Reception have been thoroughly enjoying our new topic, 'Me, Myself and I'! We have been thinking about what makes each of us special and celebrating all of the wonderful differences that make us who we are.

We have loved sharing stories such as *Elmer* and *Giraffes Can't Dance*, talking about how we all have different talents and strengths. We have been learning that we might not all be able to do the same things, and that's what makes us wonderfully unique!

In Maths, we have been using something very special to us – our families! We have looked at family photographs and used them to help us compare groups. We've then thought about our favourite things to help us create our own class pictographs and thought about which were the most and least popular choices. Unsurprisingly, ice cream was the big winner for favourite food!

In our fine motor work, we have been using mirrors to carefully look at our own faces, picking out our individual features and creating our very own self-portraits. We have been working hard on our pencil control and taking great care with the little details – we have some very proud Reception artists!

We also had a very special time celebrating Little People, Big Dreams Week. We loved sharing our favourite *Little People, Big Dreams* stories with our wonderful Year 4 buddies and talking about our own dream jobs. We thought about what we are already amazing at and how, just like the inspiring little people in our stories, we can dream big too!



Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderful two weeks! In English we enjoyed learning how to describe a character using Julia Donaldson's "The Gruffalo", using adjectives, the conjunction "and", capital letters and full stops. In Maths we have been thinking about counting forwards and backwards, recognising number words and finding 1 more and 1 less.

In PSHE we have been learning about emotions, how to recognise them and whether they are 'big' or 'small' emotions. We were delighted to have Mrs. Mitchell pop in and join us for a session!

We have also been enjoying our trips to the library to look at different books and reading some of them together!



Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been excited to start their new book 'The Lion Inside', building on our 'Courage' theme in English lessons! We have enjoyed listening to the story, discussing the main characters and themes, and retelling the main events. We have been working hard on developing our grammar skills, looking at tense and converting verbs from present to past tense. In our Maths learning, Year 2 have been continuing their Place Value and Number work. We have been busy comparing and ordering numbers as well as estimating and representing them along a number line.

We have also been demonstrating our teamwork skills in Science through listening to others, sharing our ideas about 'Living Things and their Habitats' and collaborating in group activities. Well done Year

Year 3

One of our five British Values is democracy. We put this into action by voting for our class roles and responsibilities. Congratulations to Oscar, Teddy, Nancy, Oliver and Louis who were voted as our Form Captain, Vice Form Captain, Wellbeing Prefect, Digital Leader and Eco Prefect respectively. They will hold these positions for one term with re-elections for the spring term and then again for the summer term.



In this edition, we are shining a spotlight on our English lessons. Starting off with nouns, we broke this word class into proper nouns and common nouns. This led to noun phrases, then extended noun phrases and we finally added in prepositional phrases for good measure. If this has left you a little bit perplexed, don't worry! Year 3 were able to use these grammar building blocks to create interesting sentences. Here's a taster:

'The timid deer beside the stream stopped by the mossy log.' (Raif)

'Through the trees, the sunlight shone in the beautiful, light sky.' (Cecilia)

'Hiding in the haunting shadows, a bear jumped out of the gloomy cave.' (Georgina G)

'The lush trees swayed slowly.' (Rian)

'During the morning on the riverbank a proud, peaceful butterfly hid in the boulders next to the tall grass.' (Gracie)

'By the creaking tree the deer is drinking clean, crystal-clear water.' (Louis)

Well done, Year 3!

Year 4

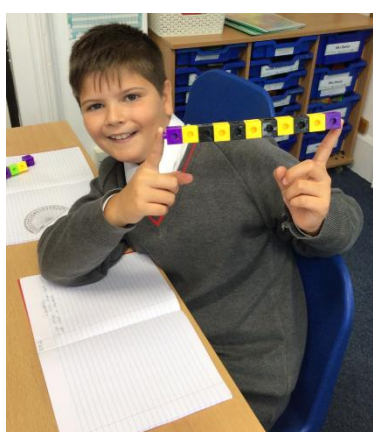
Year 4 have continued their flying start to the new academic year. We are now well underway with all of our lessons and new topics for the term and the classroom is buzzing with energy, excitement and enthusiasm.

Within Science, we have begun our studies focusing on the digestive system and how food is transported through our body. We also looked carefully at our teeth, the different types and their functions and the importance of looking after them with daily cleaning habits. We also made 3D models of our teeth to demonstrate our new knowledge. Next up, we will be investigating various mammals and how differences in teeth relate to their diet.

Over in Geography we have commenced our studies on climate zones and biomes. We have already travelled between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn to investigate tropical climates and rainforests and this week we learnt about our climate; the temperate climate.

We are already starting preparations for our end of half-term class assembly and eagerly prepare our singing voices for next week's Grandparents Tea Party and the Harvest Festival after that.

Year 4 continue to strive for excellence in all that they do, demonstrating resilience, determination and fantastic effort levels across the board. Well done Year 4, it truly is a great start to the term.



Year 5

Year 5 have had an incredibly exciting couple of days at Bushcraft, at the Penshurst estate. We did some incredible activities including shelter building, bushcraft challenges, axe throwing, archery and campfire sing-alongs.

Our camp leaders Curtis and Josh were amazing and helped everyone to create really imaginative shelters. We did wilderness first aid and Miss Richardson and Josh were the survivors of a plane crash which Year 5 worked tirelessly to provide first aid too and save!

Now that we are back at school are joining in with all the little people big dreams fun and using some inspirational stories to think about our future careers. The possibilities are endless!



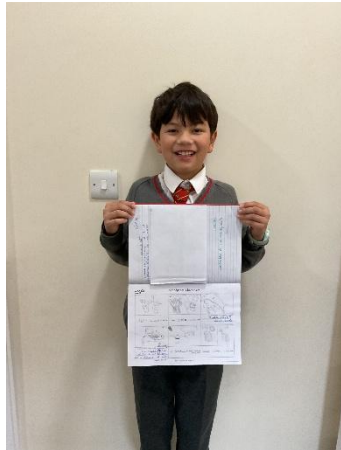
Year 6

Another busy week in Year 6! In English, inspired by our class novel *Kensuke's Kingdom*, we have been looking at how to create cohesion within our paragraphs and learning all about modal verbs. We then applied these skills to our two-sided debate about whether Michael should sail around the world and leave everything behind.

In Science, we learnt about warm-blooded and cold-blooded animals and, after carrying out our own research, created storyboards to show what we had learnt. In History, we have started exploring the long-term causes of WWI and learnt about MAIN – Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism and Nationalism.

We have also really enjoyed learning about Maya Angelou through our *Little People, BIG DREAMS* work and created butterflies for our classroom, inspired by her life and finding your voice.

Year 6 are really looking forward to taking on their new responsibilities around the school and being positive role models for the younger children. It was lovely to see how proud they were of their new roles.



Sport

The children have been working hard PE and Games, with great enthusiasm shown throughout the school. We have been developing fitness in the upper school through activities including cross country and the bleep test, with pupils challenging themselves to improve their stamina, speed and overall fitness. There have been some very red faces but some excellent scores/times on show.

Children in the lower school have been getting stuck into a range of ball skills, developing their coordination, control and teamwork.

From this week, our **competition calendar is in full swing**, with lots of fixtures and events taking place across a variety of sports including football, cross country and swimming. It is wonderful to see so many children wanting to represent the school and their skills on show. We wish everyone taking part the very best of luck!

Mr Smith, Miss Lomax, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Harris.

ART





Kiwi by Bella Year 5, Reception had their first lesson in the art room making hibernating hedgehogs, Scribble bird by Sebastian in Pre-Reception, Still Life compositions in the style of Michael Craig Martin by Kenji, Claire and Lauren in Year 6, people in a garden by Sebastian in Reception class

Music

We are in full swing learning our songs for the Harvest Festival, as well as refreshing our memories on some old favourites in preparation for the Grandparents' Tea Party.



Pre-Reception are proving to be very talented with their orchestral skills, while Reception and Year 1 have been introduced to the Nativity they will be performing this year. The excitement has already begun!

Year 2 are learning to recognise and read rhythm sticks. They have also enjoyed taking turns to be the 'teacher', writing rhythms on the board for the rest of us to read and clap back.

Our musical journey through history continues across the school. Year 3 are exploring Stone Age music, Year 4 are discovering Anglo-Saxon music, Year 5 are learning about Tudor music, and Year 6 are investigating music from the First World War. Year 6 are also producing a lovely display board in the BWA, showcasing information they have researched about music during this fascinating period.

A few of our Year 6 pupils recently had their Music and Performing Arts Scholarship auditions for Caterham here at Oakhyrst. We were delighted to welcome Mr Assen, Director of Music, and Mr Brammald, Head of Instrumental Music, who came to assess the children. It was a valuable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved, and the children should be very proud of themselves. We will be keeping everything crossed for them!

Our peripatetic music lessons are going very well, and we are always delighted when children decide to start learning a new instrument. We have welcomed several new instrumentalists this term, which is wonderful to see!

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please do let me know. We would be very happy to arrange a trial lesson with the relevant teacher.

 **It is wonderful to see so much music-making taking place across the school!**

The Golden Leaf

Golden Leaf	Alice (Y6) Claire (Y6) Freddie (Y6) Cecilia (Y3) Emilia (Y3) Emilia (PR)
-------------	---

OTHER NEWS

WOODLAND ADVENTURE DAYS

Situated in beautiful private woodlands in Coulsdon

5-12yrs
28th & 29th Oct 10am - 4pm
£40 per day, sibling discount




- FULLY QUALIFIED FS LEADERS
- DEN BUILDING
- NATURE CRAFTS
- CAMPIRES
- GAMES
- BUSHCRAFT

WWW.BRANCHINTOTHEWOODS.CO.UK
[HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/BRANCHINTOTHEWOODS](https://BOOKWHEN.COM/BRANCHINTOTHEWOODS)

HALLOWEEN HALF DAYS

30TH OCTOBER 2026
PRIVATE WOODLAND IN COULSDON

10AM - 12.30PM
5-12YRS
£25

1.30PM - 4PM
8-14YRS
£25

COME AND JOIN US
IN THE WOODS FOR
SOME SPOOKY
HALLOWEEN CRAFTS
& TREATS



WWW.BRANCHINTOTHEWOODS.CO.UK
<https://BOOKWHEN.COM/BRANCHINTOTHEWOODS>

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Oakhyrst Grange School

JOINING US FOR OUR OPEN MORNING?

WE WOULD ALSO LOVE TO WELCOME TODDLERS TO OUR

Bear Hunt

FROM 10AM-11AM
ALL 2-4YEAR OLDS
ARE INVITED TO JOIN
OUR FOREST SCHOOL
LEADER FOR AN HOUR
TO EXPLORE OUR
WOODS AND JOIN OUR
SPECIAL HUNT.

PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON THE LIST NOW!

Croydon High School
for girls aged 3-18

GDST

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Senior School OPEN MORNING

Saturday 10 October 2026
9.00am-12.30pm

HER FUTURE. WITHOUT LIMITS
Confidence • Aspiration • Opportunity



BOOK NOW

SPOOKY BREAKFAST

At Knights Garden Centres Woldingham!

29th, 30th & 31st October
10am-11.30am

In The Dene Coffee Shop
Tickets £15
a ghostly inspired breakfast and children get a spooky gift!

Plus a prize for the best fancy dress costume! (adults can join in too!)

Booking essential
Tickets available from
The Dene Coffee Shop
01883 652 712
Knights Garden Centres
Woldingham Road, CR3 7LA

Book now!

New to Woldingham!

KNIGHTS

*Fancy dress is optional

ROTATIONAL WEEKLY MENUS

Week 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main: Jacket Potatoes with Baked Beans, Grated Cheese & Sweetcorn	Main: Mince Beef Cottage Pie with Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Chicken Chow Mein in Soya Sauce with Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding & Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Fish & Chips with Petite Pois
Vegetarian: As above	Vegetarian: Vegetarian Pasty	Vegetarian: Asian Stir Fry	Vegetarian: Plant-Based Roast	Vegetarian: Veggie Fingers
Dessert: Homemade Cake	Dessert: Yoghurt	Dessert: Pineapple & Melon	Dessert: Jelly	Dessert: Choc Ice
 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table

Week 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main: Jacket Potatoes with Baked Beans, Grated Cheese & Sweetcorn	Main: Chicken Korma with Basmati Rice, Naan Bread & Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Spaghetti Bolognese with Grated Cheese & Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Pork Sausages, Potatoes & Gravy with Yorkshire Pudding & Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Chicken Goujons & Chips with Cucumber Batons
Vegetarian: As above	Vegetarian: Halloumi Curry	Vegetarian: Veggie Bolognese	Vegetarian: Plant-Based Sausages	Vegetarian: Vegan Nuggets
Dessert: Homemade Cake	Dessert: Yoghurt	Dessert: Pineapple & Watermelon	Dessert: Choc Ice	Dessert: Jelly
 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table

Week 3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main: Pasta in Tomato Sauce, Garlic Bread, Grated Cheese & Sweetcorn	Main: Margherita Pizza & Hash Browns with Cucumber Batons	Main: Chilli con Carne with Tortilla Chips & Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing Balls & Seasonal Vegetables	Main: Fish & Chips with Seasonal Vegetables
Vegetarian: As above	Vegetarian: As above	Vegetarian: Veggie Chilli	Vegetarian: Plant-Based Roast	Vegetarian: Veggie Fingers
Dessert: Homemade Cake	Dessert: Yoghurt	Dessert: Pineapple & Watermelon	Dessert: Choc Ice	Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookies
 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table	 Fruit Table