



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

STANSTEAD ROAD • CATERHAM • SURREY CR3 6AF • TEL: 01883 343344 • FAX: 01883 342021

HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

3rd July 2024

Dear Parents

I would like to use this end of term letter to say a special thank you to my Board of Governors, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Pauline Clark and our very successful PFOG team led by Mrs Vicky Smith for all that they do in supporting the school. I do know that the children enjoyed a whole range of exciting activities that were organised by PFOG which will culminate with everyone enjoying an ice cream tomorrow, the penultimate day of term.

Leaving staff

I also take this opportunity to say a formal thank you to four leaving members of staff. Mrs Pauline Oates has been working in the school since 2009 during my time here but was a staff member for many years prior to that. Mrs Oates will be remembered fondly by countless children both in her capacity as a Teaching Assistant and Play time Supervisor.

Mrs Lynfa Landauer joined us in 2019 and has continued our strong tradition of French and modern languages teaching. Her French curriculum days were very popular not least because of the French breakfast and lunch.

Mrs Elisabeth Leyshon joined us in 2016 as our Year 4 Class Teacher and became our Head of English. Mrs Leyshon's input into various public competitions and events has helped raise the profile of English within the school and indeed of the school as a whole on a regional and national level. Shakespeare monologue competitions, public speaking, creative writing, poetry and handwriting among the many ISA and regional events that I would like to highlight. Our library and a growth in the love of reading has been led and managed by Mrs Leyshon very successfully.

Mr Keith Burke joined us in 2011 and as our Year 3 Class Teacher and he soon established himself as our Forest School Leader and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The Year 3 country project will be remembered by many children and parents alike. His amazing energy and enthusiasm around all activities to do with the woodlands and forest schools have added significant value to the holistic approach that we take as a whole school to teaching and learning. Mr Burke is tireless in developing the school's residential educational trips and activities. The Bushcraft and PGL trips are annual highlights. Mr Burke is also a key player in all of our school productions with regard to his involvement with light and sound.

We will miss Mrs Oates, Mrs Landauer and Mrs Leyshon and wish them every success and happiness in the years ahead. I am pleased to remind you that Mr Burke will still be here to help us with the delivery of the Forest School programme and on residential trips.

I am pleased to be able to remind you that the following staff will be joining us in September. Mrs Cecile Ellis will be our Modern Foreign Languages teacher. Mr Samuel Ryan as our Year 3 Class Teacher. Miss Millie Hopkins as our Year 4 Teacher and Miss Katie Bechelet will be joining as a Support Assistant. I am also delighted to remind that you Miss Amy Wright will be rejoining us in September as our KG Teacher and Mrs Harbott and Mrs McKiernan will be taking up the role as Year 2 Class Teachers.

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

EMAIL: OFFICE@OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK • SECRETARY@OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK

WEB: WWW.OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK • CHARITY NO: 325043



Educational day and residential trips and competitions

Our Year 5 class once again enjoyed a hugely successful Bushcraft Residential trip. Year 4 enjoyed their Bough Beech Reservoir visit. The Chamber Choir attended the Woldingham Junior Choir Festival. The

Year 6 pupils attended a Junior Citizen Child Safety Event at Lingfield Race Course. Our choir went to the Junior Choir Festival at Woldingham School and Year 5 went to the Fairfield Halls Expressive Arts Music Concert.

The KG and Year 1 classes enjoyed their annual visit to the Polka Theatre to see Tidy. The Year 3 and Year 4 classes each enjoyed exciting overnight residential trips at the Hampshire Outdoor Centre. The Year 3 and 4 classes visited the Herstmonceux Science Observatory and Year 2 enjoyed a day at Tonbridge Castle. Six Year 4 and six Year 5 children went to Caterham School for their annual Junior Globetrotting Geography Quiz. They acquitted themselves extremely well. Our Year 4 team came third and our Year 5 team came second.

Daniel H, Jude M, Ilana N and Amaaya P from Year 5 competed in a Maths Challenge at Royal Russell School. A very enthusiastic Year 6 class went on their annual residential PGL trip to Osmington Bay in Dorset. Our Year 4 children visited the British Wildlife Centre near East Grinstead. A highlight for me was the visit made by the Animal Petting Farm who came in to meet with our LKG children who were joined by our Year 5 boys. How lovely to see ponies, sheep, chickens and other creatures up close and personal here at school. The KG and Year 1 classes had a fun time at Chessington Zoo last week.

Selected pupils from Years 2 to 6 were entered into the ISA writing competition. Akash S and Myla P were chosen to represent us in the ISA essay competition and a selection of pupils from Years 2 to 6 represented in the ISA poetry competition. Jaimin P, Sofia C and Pareesa K were placed first, second and third in the Caterham Rotary Club's Young Writer Competition 2024. A clean sweep for our young writers.

Sport

Our U9 boys and girls played in a total of one football tournament at Caterham Prep and three football fixtures against Caterham Prep, Banstead Prep and St David's. Our U9 netballers had two fixtures against Aberdour and Chinthurst Schools. In hockey our U8s and U9s played a mixed fixture against Chinthurst. They also had mixed cricket fixtures against Chinthurst and our inter-house mixed cricket match. Our U9s boys and girls also competed at the ISA London South cross country championships and Alec W, Isabelle L and Bonnie B all qualified for the Nationals.

Our U11 teams competed in one football tournament at Caterham School and two fixtures one for boys and one for girls against Essendene School and Lingfield College. In netball our U11 girls played two fixtures one against Aberdour and the other against Caterham. Our U11 cross country runners competed in the London South Championships at Radnor House and Vivienne L, Scarlett K, Beau P, Jude M and Caiden H all ran at the National Finals in Sheffield. Once again the whole school took part in the inter-house cross country event and it was obvious that all of the children and parents in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the competition and the occasion. Our U11 boys and girls hockey teams both competed in the ISA Hockey championships at the Lea Valley Stadium. The U11 boys had one hockey fixture against Lingfield College and the U11 girls one hockey tournament at Old Cranleighans Hockey club and there were two mixed hockey fixtures against Chinthurst for our U10s and U11s. Our U11 cricketers played a mixed fixture against Chinthurst and we also held our annual inter-house mixed cricket event.

The ISA London South Athletics Championships was held at the Excel Sports Hub in Walton and we had competitors from Years 4 to 6. Alec W came 1st in the Year 4 boys 600m and 60m races, Bonnie B came 1st in the Year 4 girls 600m and Ball throw, Caiden H came 2nd in the Year 4 Ball Throw, Beau P came 3rd in the Year 5 600m and the Year 4 Girls Relay Team came 3rd in their race the team consisting of Bonnie B, Harriet J, Sofia C and Sienna O. We are delighted that Bonnie B and Alec W both qualified for the National Finals at the Alexander stadium in Birmingham. Alec came away with a gold medal in the 600 metre race and Bonnie acquitted herself in her 600 metre race.



Mrs Evans and Mrs Cox have been busy arranging a programme for our swimmers. Years 3 to 6 had swimming galas against Royal Russell, Reigate St Mary's and Caterham schools. All of the children competed in their individual class inter-house swimming competitions.

The following children qualified for the ISA National Finals at the Olympic Pool in London, Scarlett K, Alec W and Sienna O. Scarlett won a gold for her Year 6 breaststroke 50m, Alec won gold for his freestyle race, silver for his Year 4 breaststroke 50m, and silver for his Year 4 boys relay, Sienna competed in the Year 4 girls relay team who came 5th but Sienna produced a personal best time.

Two teams made up of Connie H, Millie T, Maggie M & Elissa L and Scarlett K, Katie R, Surina R & Vincent N from Year 6 took part in the It's a Fish out lifesaving competition for primary schools in Dorking. Scarlett K, Amaaya P, Daniel H and Jude M competed in the Surrey Schools' Swimming Association Primary Schools Relay Gala at Guildford they all came away with two Bronze medals. They then competed in the South East Schools Divisional Relay Finals at Guildford Spectrum and just missed out on a place in the National Finals in Sheffield.

Music, ABRSM, Dance and LAMDA

We have a very full programme of peripatetic Ballet, Modern Dance and LAMDA teaching. Our ballet dancers and there were 43 have all made excellent progress. A total of 56 pupils enjoyed Modern Dance lessons. In LAMDA we had some excellent results. All 40 children passed their examinations, 5 with merit and 35 with distinctions.

It is good to be able to say that our usual calendar of Form Assemblies, Harvest Festival, Year 5 & 6 Remembrance Service, the Nativity Play, Carol Service and the Year 5 & 6 Easter Assembly all went ahead as usual and were very well received. On the music front we have had a full programme of class concerts and I am happy to report that they were all brilliant.

This year 85 pupils have taken peripatetic music lessons in violin, viola, flute, fife, cello, piano, guitar, cornet, tenor horn and singing. 43 ABRSM exams have already been taken this year and all the candidates were successful. We are awaiting the next round of ABRSM examinations, and a further 24 children took their examination yesterday.

A sincere congratulations, to everyone involved in the production of Frozen. A special thank you to Mrs Debbie Stevens for her musical and artistic direction throughout the production and all those staff members and parents who have given so freely of their time and talent.

I congratulate each and every Year 6 pupil on their success this year. They have all achieved suitable next school places and between them the 19 students have been awarded a total combination of 17 Scholarships and Awards, and offers of Grammar School places. This Year 6 has enjoyed a wonderful year and they have given freely of their time and abilities. A special word of thanks to their Class Teacher Mr Womersley who along with all of the Teachers in the school have contributed greatly to their success. I know that the whole staff are very proud of our Year 6 pupils as are their mums, dads and family members.

I end my newsletter by wishing you all a very happy and safe family summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster