



**The Hermitage School
and
The Oaktree School
Newsletter**



Dear parents and carers

As I write the first newsletter of the school year I get to reflect upon the past seven weeks, which appear to have raced along at record speed.

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year; it has been wonderful to see how all children have settled back into school life so happily. We have also welcomed lots of new faces to both in our intake years - reception and year 3 classes and new arrivals joining us in various year groups from other schools and countries. This year we only have a couple of spaces in our Reception year group and are approaching the time when we have to decline applications in various year groups across the primary phase as our schools are full.

I am lucky enough to celebrate pupils achievements with them on a daily basis but I wish to send a special celebration this month to our year 6 cohort who have adopted their new "eldest pupils in the school" position with a great sense of pride. Positions of responsibility have been awarded to almost all children with four being named Head Boy, Head girl, deputy head boy and deputy head girl. Congratulations to these four and all our prefects for supporting me this term with our new prospective parents and tours of the schools. They have all demonstrated their role model capabilities to our younger children and their learning behaviours have shone brightly! A great start to their final year. Keep it up!

Kind regards,

Clare Spires

Executive Headteacher

TRAFFIC and PARKING

The school continually receive complaints about parking at drop off and pick up times sharing their concerns about the safety of our children. The message below was received this week.

"I am a school parent but also live on Hermitage Woods Crescent. There is some inconsiderate and dangerous parking going on.

People are parking over driveways, on yellow lines, on blind corners in a way a rubbish truck or emergency vehicle could not get through, as well as speeding while using the street as a cut through. I have also seen people parking across the yellow zig zag lines outside of the school holding up traffic or the crossing.

It's dangerous with so many children around and frustrating for local residents."



We are going to purchasing signs to remind all parents that parking on double yellow lines (even for short periods of time), blocking footpaths and stopping on zig zags lines outside of school, puts lives at risk and prevents ease of both motor and pedestrian traffic in the mornings. As a school we are also requesting traffic warden and council support to prevent inconsiderate driving and parking particularly at these times but I suspect we are on a waiting list as other schools face the same issues.

Thank you of course to those who do show respect when driving.

Please can I therefore send a plea once again, to ALL our families and ask if driving to drop off or pick up children you park and stride. Park further away from the school and walk the remaining distance to keep us all safe.

Kind regards,

Clare Spires

Nursery

The Nursery children have had a fantastic first half term, settling in well to their new environment, with a keen interest to explore all learning opportunities available to them.

Our topic this term has been “Me and Community,” where we have drawn pictures of ourselves, using the mirrors and shared who lives in their home.

One of our main focuses has been supporting the children with recognising their own feelings and emotions. We’ve used the “Colour Monster” story to support the children with this. The teachers have very much enjoyed seeing the children’s faces for each emotion.

We are now busy exploring Autumn and went for an Autumn walk around the school to spot the different changes we could see.



Reception

This has been an exciting half term for our new Reception children. They have worked hard to settle into their classes and have had fun making lots of new friends. As part of our Let’s Explore topic the children have been talking about their families and homes. They have learned that all families are different and special. The children have begun to learn their new sounds in phonics and are starting to blend these to read words. They are now able to access Oxford Owl in order to read more level-appropriate books at home. In Maths, they have explored the concepts of more and fewer and have developed a mastery of numbers up to 4. They have been enjoying observing the changing seasons and used all sorts of natural resources creatively, including making their own recipes in the mud kitchen! We are now very excited to begin our Magnificent Machines topic when we return from our half term break.

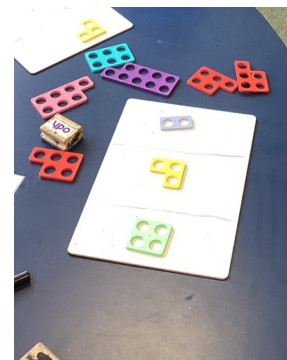
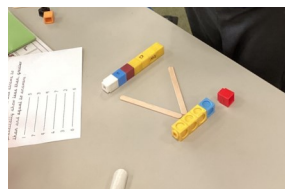


Year 1

In English, we have been working on our sentences—trying to add describing words to make our writing even more interesting! We looked at the book the Egg Box Dragon, and even got to make our own one to help us with our descriptions.



In Maths, we have been working with numbers up to 20, including making comparisons and looking at how we can find different parts within numbers.



In Science, we have been learning about materials—and the properties of each type. We have spent time discussing which materials should be used for different jobs and how we can spot the differences between man made and natural materials.

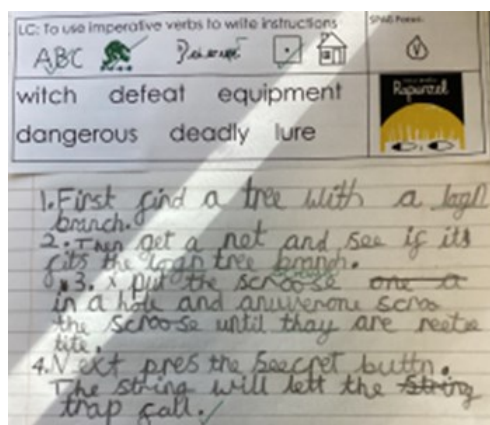
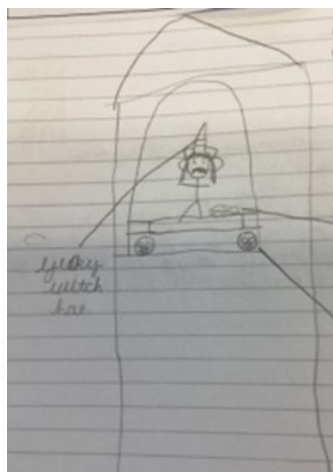


In Art, we have been discovering about mixing colours and have focussed our attention on Kandinsky—who used bright colours in his artwork. Here are some of our Kandinsky colour circles.



Year 2

The children have settled very well into Year 2 and have been thoroughly enjoying our topic of Movers and Shakers. We have been reading Rapunzel by Bethan Woolvin, exploring the illustrations and different vocabulary used. The children have then created their own trap to catch a witch and we have made our own class instruction manuals. In Maths, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of place value, partitioning numbers and comparing these with other numbers within 100. In DT this term, the children have been learning how to peel, chop, grate and mash different foods as well as experimenting with raw and cooked vegetables.



Year 3

This year, Year 3 will be joining in with exciting sessions with a company called 'Wilder Schools'. They work with the Surrey Wildlife Trust to learn how we can take action for nature. The children thoroughly enjoyed their first session and are very excited for the next one!



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed using their sewing skills in DT to make their very own felt phone cases. The children did a fantastic job in planning, making and evaluating their end products. Look at some of the amazing phone cases below:



Year 5

This half term Year 5 have had a variety of different educational experiences. As part of our topic of space, we visited the Planetarium at Winston Churchill School. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their knowledge further and be able to visualise their learning. They were also able to use the facilities at Winston to research the space topic further. Alongside this, we have also created space mobiles using our knowledge of the planets. The children searched for sticks on the field and then used their understanding of the size and location of planets to create a mobile out of plasticine and paper.



Year 6

It has been a very busy half term in Year 6, especially with our science topic 'Living Things and their Habitats.' We have been learning about Carl Linnaeus classification system and using it to sort animals and plants. We visited the STEM room and looked at some magnificent invertebrates in resin and tried to classify them. We also went out in the school ground to investigate the question 'What habitat on the school ground has the greatest number of invertebrates?'



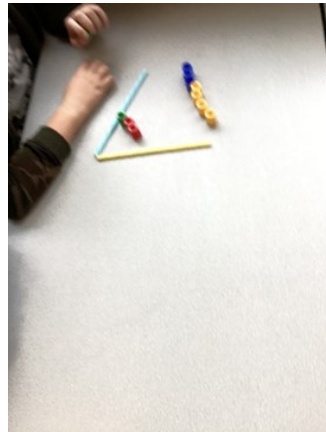
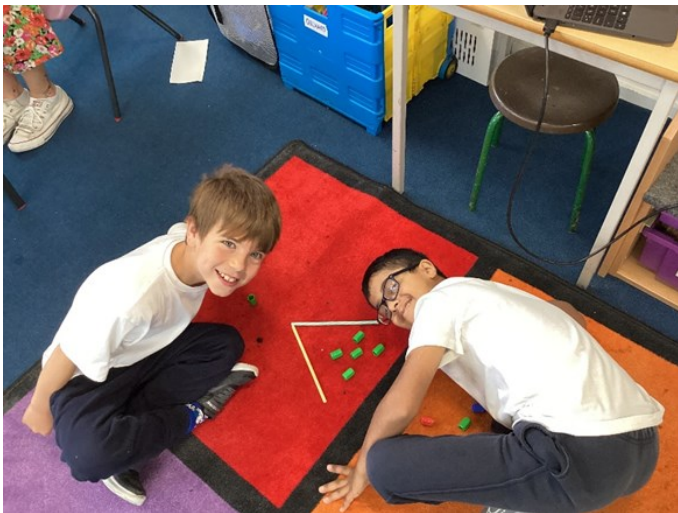
Orchard



Our Year 6 children enjoyed taking part in Victorian Day with their mainstream classes. They definitely prefer school now rather than in Victorian times.



In our Maths lessons, some of the children have been working on showing if numbers are greater than or less than. The children used straws to make models of this.



The children have been learning about their senses. As part of this we had a go at some taste testing! The children were very brave. We talked about how things can be sweet, sour and bitter.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown



Sport

On Friday 13th the Hermitage Girls football team participated in a football tournament at Woking Leisure Centre. It was a fantastic turn out with so many schools taking part. The tournament started with a tough game against West Byfleet losing 3-1, the girls then went on to win their remaining two games against Broadmere and New haw, scoring a total of 10 goals in the remaining two games. Unfortunately, only the top team went through from each group but the girls finished the tournament with her heads held high in second. West Byfleet went on to win the whole tournament!



On Friday last week our Year 5 Boys Football team competed in a Year 6 competition and did amazingly well. They won their first two matches 1-0 against Horsell and St Dunstan's, and worked extremely hard to earn a draw against eventual Group Winners Goldsworth. With Goldsworth and us top of the table going into our last match it was all to play for, and with Goldsworth playing first and scoring a couple in their last game, Hermitage needed a lot of goals to go through top. Unfortunately the boys had to play more attacking football which left us open at the back and ended up losing 2-1 to New Haw. We finished 2nd in the group which is a fantastic achievement given the fact the Boys were playing against children a year up.



Sports Crew

On Friday 6th, The Hermitage School sports ambassadors went to Woking Leisure Centre to complete their Sports Crew training. Whilst there, the children completed activities which demonstrated how to deliver mini games. After splitting off into groups, the children taught their peers various games and received feedback on their leadership skills. Hopefully there will be lots of opportunities for the Sports Ambassadors to implement their skills into the school.



Charities

Each year the schools support three charities, one each term. We try to ensure one is a local charity. One international and one national. Supporting charities helps the children learn the importance of giving back and supports our values, helping others and treating them the way we want to be treated.

The school council have met this year at both schools and agree that our charities this year are:

Autumn term 2023 - National charity, walking with the wounded.

Spring term 2024 - international charity, Comic relief.

Summer term 2024 - local charity - yet to be agreed. Watch this space!

More information on our charities can be found below.

What is Walking Home For Christmas?

Walking Home For Christmas is an annual, nationwide walking challenge to support this charities work helping wounded veterans re-ignite their sense of purpose and get back on their feet with positive physical and mental health. This Christmas, is their tenth year of this event, help us push the lifetime total to over £2m raised for veterans.

Our children will take part in a sponsored walk in the month of December to help the veterans too.



Red Nose Day- Taking place every March, this unique fundraising campaign uses comedy as a means to fundraise money for great causes. Anyone and everyone can get involved. Past years have seen bake sales, 24-hour dance-a-thons or simply wearing our iconic Red Nose. The children will decide nearer the time how we hope to raise funds for this charity this year.

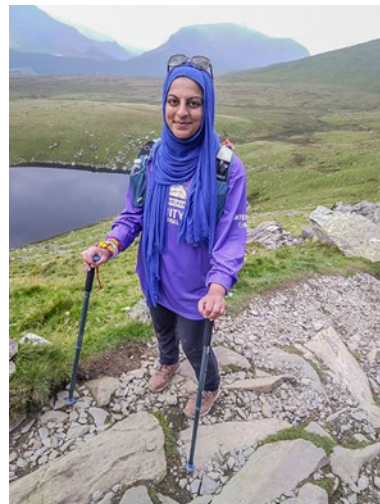


Thank You!

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported The Oaktree and Hermitage School Councils and myself with raising funds to support the building and running of maternity units in poverty stricken areas of Pakistan. Together we raised an amazing **£4,510!**

Below are a couple of pictures of my trek up Mount Snowdon which was completed on 2nd September. I had to walk eight miles from Caernarfon Castle to the base of Snowdon and then began the long trek up to reach the Snowdon Summit. It was a truly amazing experience and I can't thank you all enough (especially our fantastic school councils). Collectively, The Dabbagh Welfare Trust raised **£272,787** for this cause, which will make a positive difference to so many newborn babies and their mothers.

Mrs Saki





Louise Lawford

Chair of Governors

I have lived in Woking for 16 years together with my family, including two teenage children. I qualified as a solicitor in 2003 specialising in corporate law and lived in London, working for an international law firm for a number of years. In my spare time I am a rowing coach in Guildford, helping to develop aspiring teenage athletes and having lots of fun along the way!

I am passionate about education and what a difference it makes to our children's development. I believe that great teachers are not only the gateway to learning but also, eventually, to promising future opportunities for children as they grow towards adulthood. With my own children I have seen first hand what a difference inspiring and committed teachers make. I believe in helping our young people to reach their full potential, including and especially those with challenges.

I would like to use my skill set to help support our schools in providing a first-rate education within our local community. I believe that learning should be fun and rewarding and that our children should feel secure, nurtured and supported in their educational journey.

Having previously served in the role of Safeguarding Governor I have got to know our schools well. As Chair of Governors, I am delighted to continue on as part of a dedicated and experienced team of Staff and Governors and I look forward to welcoming you to The Oaktree and Hermitage Schools.

Reminders

Water Bottles



Please remind your child to bring a water bottle every day clearly marked with their FIRST and LAST name.

Coats

As the weather is turning, please can we remind the children to bring in a suitable coat for playtime.



School Lunches

A gentle reminder for all school lunches to be paid for in advance of meals being provided. If you are in arrears, please can you log into Scopay and make a payment to clear it.

Thank you



PE Kit



A reminder that during PE lessons, children are to wear the correct uniform and no Jewellery / earrings are to be worn.

HOPA event dates

Friday 10th November – Year 1 and 2 disco
4.30-5.30pm

Friday 17th November – Year 3 and 4 Movie night
3.30-5pm

Saturday 2nd December – Christmas fair
12-3

Friday 2nd February – Quiz night
Tbc

Friday 9th February – Year 5 and 6 movie night
3.30-5pm

Friday 1st March – Bears at bedtime
4.30-5.30

Thursday 18th April – Year 5 and 6 disco
6-7.30

Thursday 16th May Year 3 and 4 disco
6-7.30

The Hermitage School
Summer Term 2023/2024

30.10.23	Inset Day
31.10.23	School reopens
01.11.23	Yr 4 Mexicolore Workshop
06.11.23	Yr4 and Orchard Book Look 3.00 – 3.20pm
07.11.23	Yr 3 Book Look 3.00 – 3.20pm
08.11.23	Prospective Parent Tours 9.30am and 1.30pm
08.11.23	SEND Parent / Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm
09.11.23	Prospective Parent Tours 9.30am and 1.30pm
09.11.23	Yr 6 Book Look 3.00 - 3.20pm
10.11.23	Yr 5 Book Look 3.00 - 3.20pm
11.11.23	Hermitage Choir Singing at Charity Concert 6.30 – 8.30pm
13.11.23 – 17.11.23	Anti Bullying Week
13.11.23	Odd Socks Day
14.11.23	Parent / Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 6.00pm
15.11.23	Yr 5 Trip to Brookwood Cemetry
15.11.23	Cherry Class Assembly 8.50 – 9.10am
15.11.23	Parent / Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 6.00pm
17.11.23	HOPA Non Uniform Day for Christmas Fair
17.11.23	HOPA Yr 3 & 4 Movie Night
21.11.23	Yr 3 Trip to Butser Farm
22.11.23	Parent Support Group 8.45 – 9.45am
22.11.23	Sycamore Class Assembly 8.50 – 9.10am
24.11.23	HOPA Non Uniform Day for Christmas Fair
27.11.23	Whole School Pantomime
30.11.23	Carol Concert – Yr 5 & 6 and Choir 10.00 – 11.00am
30.11.23	School Choir to sing at Woking Hospice 4.00 – 5.30pm
02.12.23	HOPA Christmas Fair – 12.00 – 3.00pm
04.12.23	Yr 3 to Oaktree’s Christmas Production 9.15 – 10.30am
05.12.23	Yr 4 Christmas Production Dress Rehearsal 1.30 – 2.30pm
05.12.23	Yr 4 Christmas Production 5.30 – 6.30pm
06.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day
06.12.23	Christmas Lunch
07.12.23	Yr 4 Christmas Production 2.00 – 3.10pm
13.12.23	Class Christmas Parties 1.00 – 3.20pm
14.12.23	Rock Steady Concert 2.45 – 3.15pm
15.12.23	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 1:30pm

The Oaktree School
Summer Term 2023/2024

30.10.23	Inset Day
31.10.23	School reopens
01.11.23	EYFS Book Celebration 2.50 – 3.10pm
02.11.23	EYFS Physical Development Workshop 9.00 – 9.30am
02.11.23	Yr 1 Book Celebration 2.50 – 3.10pm
03.11.23	Yr 3 Book Celebration 2.50 – 3.10pm
08.11.23	Prospective Parent Tours 9.30am and 1.30pm
08.11.23	SEND Parent / Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm
09.11.23	Prospective Parent Tours 9.30am and 1.30pm
10.11.23	HOPA Disco Year 1 & 2 4.30 – 5.30pm
13.11.23 – 17.11.23	Anti Bullying Week
13.11.23	Odd Socks Day
14.11.23	Parent / Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 6.00pm
15.11.23	Parent / Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 6.00pm
17.11.23	HOPA Non Uniform Day for Christmas Fair
24.11.23	HOPA Non Uniform Day for Christmas Fair
27.11.23	Whole School Pantomime
02.12.23	HOPA Christmas Fair – 12.00 – 3.00pm
05.12.23	KS1 Christmas Production 9.00 – 10.00am
05.12.23	EYFS Christmas Production 2.00 – 3.00pm
06.12.23	KS1 Christmas Production 1.45 – 2.45pm
07.12.23	KS1 Christmas Production 9.00 – 10.00am
07.12.23	EYFS Christmas Production 2.00 – 3.00pm
08.12.23	KS1 Christmas Production 1.45 – 2.45pm
13.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day
13.12.23	Christmas Lunch
13.12.23	Class Christmas Parties 1.00 – 3.00pm
14.12.23	St Johns Church for Christmas Service 9.00 – 11.30am
15.12.23	Last Day of Term – School Closes at 1:30pm

The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School
Term dates and INSET days for 2023-24

	23 rd – 27 th October	AUTUMN HALF TERM
Monday	30 th October	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Tuesday	31 st October	First day of Autumn Term 2
Friday	15 th December	Last day of Autumn Term 2
Spring Term 2024		
Tuesday	2 nd January	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Wednesday	3 rd January	First day of Spring Term 1
Friday	9 th February	Last day of Spring Term 1
	12 th – 16 th February	SPRING HALF TERM
Monday	19 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY
Tuesday	20 th February	First day of Spring Term 2
Thursday	28 th March	Last day of Spring Term 2
Summer Term 2024		
Monday	15 th April	First day of Summer Term 1
Monday	6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday	24 th May	Last day of Summer Term 1
	27 th May – 7 th June	SUMMER HALF TERM
Monday	3 rd June	First day of Summer Term 2
Monday	22 nd July	Last Day of Summer Term 2
Tuesday	23 rd July	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY