



*Inspiring everyone to learn*



*“Pupils develop good social skills and thoroughly enjoy school. Pupils feel safe and behave well. They have positive attitudes towards learning and are keen to do their best. Pupils from different backgrounds work together happily and are able to take part in all activities.”*

OFSTED'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE HERMITAGE SCHOOL

# Welcome to The Hermitage

Thank you for considering The Hermitage School. I do hope you find this prospectus informative.

Situated on The Hermitage Estate in Oakwood Road, St John's, Woking, The Hermitage is a three-form entry school which caters for children aged from 7 to 11. We boast bright, attractive and well-equipped classrooms, a large playing field, an environmental area, a well-resourced library and a computing suite. What's more, we also have a specialist resource centre called The Orchard which has been designed to meet the needs of children with moderate learning difficulties. Our modern facilities mean that we can provide your child with a brilliantly balanced school life.

Staff, governors, parents and pupils at The Hermitage all recognise the importance of a high quality primary education. We strive to provide a

purposeful and challenging environment which encourages children to engage and to have fun while they are learning.

Our mission statement is 'Inspiring Everyone to Learn', so our aim is to motivate and inspire children, building and developing upon their individual strengths and talents. The whole child is nurtured during their time at The Hermitage and we are passionate about every child feeling valued and having their achievements celebrated. We work in partnership with parents in order to bring out the very best in each child.

You are very welcome to visit The Hermitage to experience a typical working day first hand, as well as speaking with the children and meeting the staff.

*Mrs G Condon, Acting Headteacher*



# Our curriculum



At The Hermitage School we offer an exciting, relevant, balanced and challenging curriculum. As a school, we have selected the following four curriculum drivers which underpin everything we do:

- **Knowledge of the world**
- **Physical and social wellbeing**
- **Enterprise**
- **Possibilities.**

These drivers allow the teachers at The Hermitage to design a curriculum which prepares our children for, and gives them the opportunity to develop an appreciation of life in modern Britain. Here are just a few examples of what each driver entails:

**Knowledge of the world** – how things work, environmental awareness, how things have changed and global links.

**Physical and social wellbeing** – social skills, confidence, self-esteem, resilience and cooperation.

**Enterprise** – entrepreneurial skills such as communication, drive, confidence and success.

**Possibilities** – determination, adaptability, open-ended investigations and careers.

Guided by these drivers, the curriculum focuses on the learning that we believe our children need. We recognise that children learn best when connections are made with the real world, so we strive to show them the impact of their learning, both in the immediate and the long term.

At The Hermitage School, everything is taught through topics. At the start of each topic, an 'entry point' is used as a hook to capture the children's imagination and attention, whilst at the end of each topic there is an 'exit point' which consolidates and combines the learning that has taken place in a real life context.

Participation through activity days and focus weeks means children have the opportunity to take their learning into a new dimension. Our exciting and inventive curriculum engages pupils and ensures their education is a memorable experience.



Our curriculum is enhanced by a lively programme of educational trips and visits. From walking with dinosaurs to experiencing life in an Iron Age home or spending an evening star gazing, such activities reinforce the work undertaken in class and leave children with special, long-lasting memories.

We encourage all children to take part in our broad range of extra-curricular activities. Not only are they hugely enjoyable, but we believe they also enhance each child's learning experience and inspire them to even greater success. Our committed team offers a variety of clubs for activities including music, art, drama and a wide selection of sports activities. We also provide a range of fee-paying activities which are run by professional teachers and coaches.

All our sporting activities encourage teamwork and co-operation. We regularly compete against other schools in leagues and tournaments throughout the year, as well as holding our own in-house competitions and our annual sports day.

Our children perform in local musical festivals and the school choir performs each year at The Royal Albert Hall. Every child participates in class assemblies and there are always opportunities for children to perform in school productions and concerts.

At The Hermitage School, we believe it is essential that children are given the opportunity to say what they think and develop valuable citizenship skills. We encourage every child to express their views and we listen to their ideas on how their school can be improved.

## *Developing the whole child*



*The Hermitage School is dedicated to working with parents and carers, as well as other schools in the community, to make sure our pupils have the best experience possible.*



#### **Before and after school childcare**

The Sunrise Breakfast Club and the Sundowners After School Club cater for children from both The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School, which is located on the adjoining site. The Sunrise Breakfast Club welcomes children from 7.15am and then sends them safely to their classes at the start of the school day. The Sundowners After School Club starts as soon as the school day ends and offers a variety of interesting activities up until 5.45pm.

#### **Parental support**

When it comes to the education of your child, The Hermitage School believes that we are working in partnership with you. As a result, we always welcome parents and carers into the school and value their support and expertise. If you would like to help in the school, please talk to your child's teacher. Please note that DBS checks are carried out on any adults who regularly work in school.

#### **HOPA**

Parents and carers from both The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School work together in a parents' association called HOPA (The Hermitage and Oaktree Parents' association). The schools are grateful for this association which helps provide extra funding, enhancing the resources and equipment used in both schools.

We wholeheartedly encourage everyone to get involved, and parents and carers of children attending either school automatically become members of the association. Not only will you be rewarded by the immense satisfaction that comes from raising money to help your child directly, but you'll also discover an instant social group and have fun in the process.

*Working together*

# Working together

When children join our school we liaise very closely with their infant schools to make sure they are fully prepared and supported during the transfer. Many of our children come to us from The Oaktree School, which is situated on the adjoining site. We work very closely with them, arranging visits between the two schools and sharing the children's achievements.

Pupils at The Hermitage School are proud to help children at The Oaktree School by participating in shared reading events and supporting play activities. We also hold joint staff meetings each term to ensure that there is a continuity of provision.

The Hermitage School is proud and excited to be part of the Swan Trust, an umbrella trust formed by five local schools. All five schools are united by the belief that school-to-school support and collaboration will bring about improvements in the quality of learning for pupils in our area.

Our partner schools are Barnsbury Primary School, The Oaktree School, Beaufort Primary School and The Horsell Village School.

Our aim is that our shared child-centred ethos will enhance the education of all the children in our care. We hope to develop the range of activities that all schools can participate in, including events for children and parents alike.





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