

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous full first week back. The children have returned to school so well and have shown their true values; settling back into routines and expectations at The Oaktree and The Hermitage immediately.

### **Newsletters**

I intend to send shared monthly school newsletters at the end of each month with updates and news from various year groups. The first will be sent on September 24th. Please take a note of important dates and events so that you do not miss out. These dates will also be advertised on each school website and newsletters are also uploaded here.

### **Websites**

The Oaktree Schools new website is now live and can be googled or found via <http://www.theoaktreeschool.co.uk>. The Oaktree School website is a clone of The Hermitage school one. This decision was taken by myself to aid parents who have a child in both schools. If you are looking for information for your child, on either website, it can now be found in the same place on each site for each school. Please be patient with us as we work to update information and photos. Our photographer this week took some lovely images, and you will see these on our websites soon. The websites hold a raft of information and are a valuable tool if you have a question. Failing that please do contact the school offices.

### **Visitors and volunteers**

We are keen to welcome volunteers on site again soon and recognise the huge support and role you play in helping the children's development further. I will be in touch as soon as this is possible. We are requesting support for trips however please see below. If you are interested in helping, please do ask about applying for or updating a DBS.

### **Trips and residentials**

Whilst at The Oaktree or The Hermitage your child will be lucky enough to be able to take part in a range of trips. At The Hermitage this includes residentials. We are hugely appreciative of any offer of help and readily encourage parents to come with us when needed. The Hermitage school policy is that parent helpers on trips, will usually be placed with their child's class but unlike The Oaktree, will not be put together in the same group as them. This is to enable the children to engage and have experiences, with growing independence in preparation for growing up.

### **HOPA**

This week I have met with our Parent Teacher Association HOPA . They have some wonderful and exciting events planned for this autumn term and beyond. Please do look out for their communication, newsletters and flyers. I know they too are seeking more parents to support the group, organise and lend a hand when planning and preparing events. Do get in touch if you can help. I look forward to meeting you at their coffee morning later in September.

### **Parent meetings and Workshops**

Across the course of the year, our teachers will prepare workshops or presentations for you to welcome you or support you with how to help your child's learning journey. Look out for communication on these in our Friday post. Parents evening this year will be held in November and will be via school cloud or google classroom again - we recognise the benefits this remote opportunity provided. More news on dates and access will follow. We will also be hosting opportunities for you to come into the schools and see first-hand your child's learning later in the term.

### **School council**

Our school councils from The Oaktree and The Hermitage are working together this year to represent pupil voice and speak for their peers. Their first responsibility this year is to seek the children's chosen charities for the year. Both schools wish to give to charity and the children will select one per term. One international, one national and one local.

### **Bank Holiday**

All schools across the country are being awarded an additional bank holiday this year - a school closure day in lieu for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. The SWAN school trustees have decided that all SWAN schools will take October 22nd 2021 as their Bank Holiday. Therefore, the last day of this half term will be Thursday 21st October 2021. We will close at normal times. The children will of course celebrate the Queens Jubilee at the appropriate time in June next year.

### **Prospective Open Mornings**

If you have a child due to start at The Hermitage School or Reception in The Oaktree School September 2022 then please look out on our website for the coming open mornings and afternoons where you can hear about the school and have a tour.

### **Covid**

The government guidance for schools regarding covid was updated just before the start of term and our Risk Assessments and Outbreak Management Plans have been revised in light of this. The schools are being cleaned and ventilated continually. Unlike before parents are now not informed of positive cases as children under the age of 18 and adults who have been double vaccinated do not need to isolate. If, however we deem there to be a rise in cases we will send those who may have been in close contact, a letter. If you wish to see further measures, please do see our school website pages linked to covid which will be refreshed by the end of today.

(Please note: All invitations into the school are subject to change with government guidance around covid).

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to meeting more of you soon.

Best wishes

Clare Spires

Executive Headteacher