



The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School Newsletter



21st October 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

The HOPA AGM took place this half term at which the new committee was formed. I am delighted to inform you that Amy Botha and Ali Dowell have been elected as our new co-chairpersons. I look forward to working in partnership with them both to continue the outstanding work of the HOPA in the year ahead. Other committee members, who were elected to roles, include Charlotte Mosely as treasurer and Kelly Pearce as secretary and they will continue to work with Rachel Lowe and Joanne Denne.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank all of the above-named people for their commitment to The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank previous members of the HOPA for all of their hard work and dedication. A special mention goes to Mrs Rachel Smith, who was our Chairperson last year and Mrs Joanne Denne, for her support of the Chairperson. Both ladies, along with a small army of volunteers, worked tirelessly throughout last year and in previous years, to help raise valuable funds for the school.

This is a reminder, that due to the dedication of HOPA members and the generosity of everyone who has been kind enough to support the HOPA events, £9,206.00 was raised during the course of last year. This represents a fantastic amount of money; it confirms how dedicated the HOPA members are, as well as how kind and supportive members of The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools community have been.

Fundraising by HOPA is instrumental to the school because money that is raised enables us to buy things that will benefit the children which we could not otherwise afford. Funds from previous years were used to develop the school library areas and classroom book corners. Some simple stationery and curriculum subject resources were also funded by HOPA, and both schools have been able to book authors during World Book day or Leavers Chimp mascots for our year 6 pupils as they say goodbye the end of the year. Funding has also been used to purchase additional equipment for our STEM room, enabling cooking and science experiments to be carried out and reading books to enhance the quality of our phonics teaching along with providing quality reading material that all children have access to.

On behalf of the governors and staff at The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools, I would like to thank everyone involved with the HOPA (both past and present) in terms of organising and helping at events, as well as everyone who has supported the events. Without your kindness and generosity, we would not have been able to purchase the wonderful resources detailed above.

To ensure HOPAs continued success and to enable the events planned for the year to go ahead, we need a few more HOPA Class representatives. Without these critical roles, some events will be cancelled. Please do get in touch by emailing hopahelp@gmail.com if you could help the team. We look forward to announcing events dates very soon.

Best wishes

Clare Spires

**Executive Headteacher
The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools,
St Johns,
Woking,
Surrey.
GU21 8WT, GU21 8UU**

Tel 01483 474981, 01483 472047 *The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools are part of The SWAN Trust, a charitable company lim-*

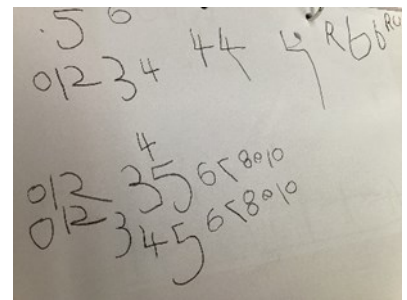
Nursery

The Nursery have really enjoyed exploring our mini topic Autumn over the last 2 weeks. We have looked at how the colours of leaves have changed and the woodlands animals we may find in the woods. We even went on a sensory walk around the school collecting leaves, acorns and conkers which we have used to count 1-5, paint and used the leaves to practice our cutting skills



Reception

The Reception children have completed their Let's Explore topic. They have learned a range of stories and have begun to represent sounds using their letters. In Maths the children have begun to investigate the composition of numbers to four and are becoming more confident in subitising these amounts. They have also been preparing for the Harvest Festival and have been looking forward to sharing their songs and poems with you all.



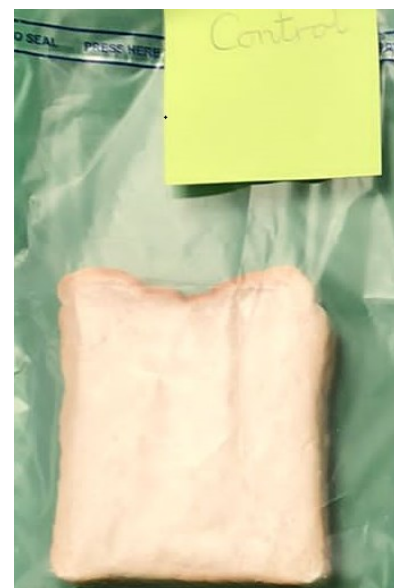
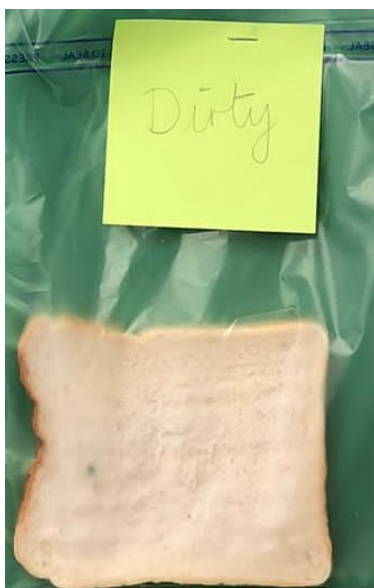
Year 1

This month the children have finished the book of 'The Egg Box Dragon' by creating their own fact files all about magpies before starting our new book 'Where's My Teddy'. The children have been busy writing lost posters! They've been busy learning their songs for the Harvest Festival and preparing the troughs for planting. In Maths, the children have been exploring the addition symbol and have been learning to add through a variety of different practical resources. They've also loved taking part in the Diwali workshop, learning a traditional Indian dance.



Year 2

In Science, Year 2 have been learning about why it is so important that we wash our hands. To make this very clear, the children completed an experiment using bread to see how germs spread and grow. As you can see, the 'dirty' bread is already starting to grow mould! What do you think will happen over half term?



Year 3

In Art, Year 3 have been learning about Stone Age cave paintings. To see how challenging it was to draw and paint on a rough cave wall, they created 'cave walls' by collaging couscous onto card and painting it grey. They then used colours available to Stone Age artists as well as charcoal and chalk to create their excellent art work. Well done, Year 3—your final pieces are so striking!



Year 4

Year 4 have been busy writing character descriptions based on Lila - a character from our core text 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter'. The children have been building their descriptive writing skills by experimenting with emotion comma sentences and using exciting adjectives within their expanded noun phrases. We hope you enjoy reading the character descriptions below:

Tuesday 11th October 2022

Character Description

talented	cautious	reckless	<p>Lila</p>
compassionate	desperate	troublesome	
adventurous	weak	elongated	
determined	careless	delicate	
wise	terrified	slender	
brave	stubborn	petite	
ambitious	anxious	scorched	

only, just
she was

Angry, Lila's fragile, dirty, skin was now dripping with sweat. The children, their burning, hair was so close to her that she was getting light-headed.

The jelly looking, red, lava was slowly dripping down over the rocks.

She crept closer and closer until she could see inside Aunt Anup's. She was amazed, fascinated by the glow of the incense, her brown, misty, eyes glowed with

The brave but slender girl had made it to scorched black, hands with charcoal blood dripping from it.

*Lila's burnt, black fingers grabbed on to the rocks. Lila's face scrunched up in fear and she trembled longing for her father. Lila hoped she would find her wonderful, kind father with her now, she knew he was not. Though this was impossible she ~~some~~ continued with her quest. Her once golden, beautiful clothes were now rags, they were torn and dirty. Her pointy, dirty-brown hat was a mess. Her limbs dripped in blood.

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Angry, Lila walked on fulfilling her dream of being a fire-work maker. Lila's messy hair blew furiously in the strong, powerful wind. Although, Lila was tired and her feet were dragging along the giant, rough stones Lila walked on. Her hands shaking, her forehead sweating Lila started climbing Mount Merapi. Lila's beautiful, chestnut eyes watered as she noticed how stubborn, how careless she was with her father. Lila's body trembled, her legs shivered and she whispered to herself, "Be brave Lila, be brave."

Year 5

In Year 5 we have really enjoyed our topic this half term on Space. We visited the planetarium at Winston, did an investigation to see how our shadows changed throughout the day and we were also lucky enough to get to see some samples of rocks that actually came from the moon and some meteorites.



Year 6

Year 6 braved the dreaded Victorian School day. Our usually kind-hearted and caring teachers were transformed into cruel and demanding school masters and mistresses. We had to suffer the toils of arithmetic (with pounds, shillings and pence, handwriting (right hands only) and deportment. Needless to say, we ended the morning very grateful that we only had to manage three and a half hours. We don't know how Victorian children coped!



The Orchard Centre

The Orchard Centre children went on a school trip to Pizza Express. The children learnt all about how the dough was made and then were able to make their own pizzas too. They were very yummy!



Sports News

On Sunday 2nd October, 14 children from the school swim team and four members of staff took part in the Woking Rotary Swimathon. As a team we managed to complete 365 lengths in 55 minutes!

The Swimathon was raising money for five local charities; SAMBER (Riding for the Disabled), Woking & Sam Beare Hospices, Woking High School, Swan Academy, Mayor's Charity (LinkAble).

Well done to all those that took part and thank you for all those who sponsored us. It was a fantastic afternoon.



Sports Crew Training

Our Year 6 Sports Ambassadors took part in some training at Woking Leisure Centre, where they developed their leadership skills. Hopefully soon they will be able to run some activities for other children in the school and at the Oaktree too!



Sports News

The year 5 and 6 boys both took part in the Surrey Schools FA County Cup. The boys were fantastic and a real credit to the school. The Year 6 team played Kingswood House Primary and won 6-2, they will now progress onto the second round of the tournament. The year 5 boys played against Brookfield Primary Academy, winning 8-3 and progressing onto the quarter finals after a bye in the first round. It is fantastic to see our school being one of the last from Woking still in both of the competitions.



Meet Our Governors



Hello, my name is Gill Carter and I have been a Governor at The Hermitage School for about six years and then recently at Hermitage and Oaktree.

I really enjoy my role as a Governor as I have a background in education, having taught in colleges and university and now have two children who are primary school teachers! I lived in Coventry with my three children and moved to Surrey when they left home to pursue their careers. When I retired I wanted to participate in my local community and to share my skills and knowledge in education by volunteering. The opportunity to become a Governor was something I have really enjoyed!

I have seen both schools go through changes and become part of the Swan Academy, and I have seen the improvements in the quality of education and the opportunities that both schools offer to our children.

I am passionate about children being at the heart of the school and having the best experience and education they can, whatever their needs. My specific roles as Governor are Core Curriculum-English and SEND.

I have regular meetings with teachers who have responsibility for the English curriculum and try to talk to the children and look at their books at least once a term. I also meet with teachers who have responsibility for providing SEND for our children to discuss the needs of the children and how the school is ensuring these are met. I also like to talk to the children and staff at The Orchard Centre, which is based at the Hermitage school. I provide reports for the Governors so that we are all up to date with what is happening.

I really enjoy visiting our schools and find they have a welcoming atmosphere with an inclusive and caring ethos. One of the best parts of being a Governor is meeting the children and we all enjoy their presentations at our Governor meetings. I hope this given you a brief insight into my role and please say hello if you see me in the school!

Heathy Snacks

All children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 are currently provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable by the Government to eat daily during morning playtime.

"The government recommends that we eat at least five portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables per Day. This is based on epidemiological evidence indicating an association between the consumption of more than 400g a Day of fruit and vegetables with a reduced risk of certain diet related chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke and some cancers."

DfE Government 5 A Day logo Licensing guidelines

We intend to continue to promote this Public Health England message by insisting on children in **The Hermitage eating only fruit or vegetables during morning break time**. After Easter, we will be promoting this message and monitoring mid morning snacks. Please help us to support our childrens health, by keeping all other snacks and food for lunchtime or after school.

We will no longer accept cereal bars as many of these contain nuts, or are high in sugar. Children bringing alternative snacks into school, such as crisps, fruit winders, yogurt coated fruit snacks or bars will be asked to eat them at lunchtime.



Nut free !

Can I also take this opportunity to remind all Parents that both The Oaktree and The Hermitage are nut free schools - we have many children with allergies and for this reason no nuts may be brought on site. Please refrain from Nutella in sandwiches also.



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Groups of 3 or 4 - 30 Mins

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T: 01483 519303

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surreyarts.com



Twelve15

The children at Hermitage and Oaktree Schools need you!

Do you want to make a difference by helping to prepare and serve healthy, tasty, nutritious lunches for the children at this lovely village school?

If you are enthusiastic, enjoy cooking and communicate well with children, then your friendly nature will get every opportunity to shine here at this delightful school.

We have a vacancy for a Catering Manager, 27.5hours per week, term time only. Catering experience essential.

We also have vacancies for Catering Assistants in and around Surrey, no experience necessary.

Please follow the link below or scan the QR code to apply via the SCC website, alternatively call Lesley on 07875849237



Apply @

www.surreyscc.gov.uk/jobs
and search 'Catering'
or scan QR code



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.

The Hermitage School
Autumn Term 2022/2023

Date	Event
24-10-22 to 28-10-22	Half Term
2-11-22	Yr4 Mexicolore workshop
3-11-22	Year 6 SATS Evening
7-11-22	Yr3 Book Look for parents
8-11-22	Yr4 Book Look for parents
9-11-22	Open day visits for prospective parents – 9.30 / 1.30
9-11-22	SEND Parent/Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm
10-11-22	Yr6 Book Look for parents
11-11-22	Open day visits for prospective parents – 9.30 / 1.30
11-11-22	Yr5 Book Look for parents
14-11-22	Odd Socks Day
15-11-22	3.30 – 6.00pm Parent/Teacher Consultations - virtual
16-11-22	3.30 – 6.00pm Parent/Teacher Consultations - virtual
18-11-22	HOPA non-uniform day
23-11-22	Sycamore Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
24-11-22	Flu Immunisation Programme – all year groups
25-11-22	HOPA non-uniform day
28-11-22	Pantomime
1-12-22	Yrs5/6 Carol Concert at St Johns Church 10.00am
3-12-22	HOPA Christmas Fair 12:00—3:00pm
7-12-22	School Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
7-12-22	Year 4 Christmas Production to parents 5.30pm
8-12-22	Year 4 Christmas Production to parents 2.00pm
14-12-22	Class Christmas Parties – p.m.
16-12-22	End of term 1.30pm

The Oaktree School
Autumn Term 2022/2023

Date	Event
24/10/22 – 28/10/22	Half Term
02/11/22	Year R – Parents Book Celebration – 2.45pm – 3.00pm
03/11/22	Owl Class Assembly
03/11/22	Year 1 – Parents Book Celebration – 2.45pm – 3.00pm
04/11/22	Year 2 – Parents Book Celebration – 2.45pm – 3.00pm
14/11/22	Odd Socks Day
15/11/22	Parent/Teacher Consultation – 3.30pm – 6.00pm - virtual
16/11/22	Parent/Teacher Consultation – 3.30pm – 6.00pm - virtual
17/11/22	Fox Class Assembly
18/11/22	HOPA non- uniform day for Christmas Fair
23/11/22	Flu Immunisations – Year R – Year 2
25/11/22	HOPA non- uniform day for Christmas Fair
28/11/22	Whole School Pantomime
3/12/22	HOPA Christmas Fair 12:00—3:00pm
06/12/22	EYFS Christmas Performance at 2pm
07/12/22	KS1 Christmas Performance at 9am
08/12/22	KS1 Christmas Performance at 9am
08/12/22	EYFS Christmas Performance at 2pm
09/12/22	KS1 Christmas Performance at 2pm
14/12/22	School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties
15/12/22	St Johns Church – 10am
16/12/22	End of term – 1.30pm

The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School

Term dates and INSET days for 2022-23

Autumn Term 2022		
Thursday	1 st September	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Friday	2 nd September	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Monday	5 th September	First day of Autumn Term 1
Friday	21 st October	Last day of Autumn Term 1
	24 th – 28 th October	AUTUMN HALF TERM
Monday	31 st October	First day of Autumn Term 2
Friday	16 th December	Last day of Autumn Term 2
Spring Term 2023		
Tuesday	3 rd January	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Wednesday	4 th January	First day of Spring Term 1
Friday	10 th February	Last day of Spring Term 1
	13 th – 17 th February	SPRING HALF TERM
Monday	20 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY
Tuesday	21 st February	First day of Spring Term 2
Friday	31 st March	Last day of Spring Term 2
Summer Term 2023		
Monday	17 th April	First day of Summer Term 1
Monday	1 st May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday	26 th May	Last day of Summer Term 1
	29 th May – 2 nd June	SUMMER HALF TERM
Monday	5 th June	First day of Summer Term 2
Thursday	20 st July	Last Day Summer Term 2
Friday	21 st July	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY