



The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School Newsletter



16th December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

This is a very special time of year for so many families and we have certainly seen celebrations begin ahead of Christmas at both The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools. Christmas jumper days, movie nights, parties and Christmas dinner have been part of our celebrations, with a visit from Father Christmas and one of his very cheeky elves, being the highlight for many children young and old!

But the highlights this festive season for me certainly came in the form of our Christmas Fair. I'd like on behalf of the children, families, staff and governors to extend a huge thank you to all those parents who volunteered their time to plan, set up, working on a stall or clear away this fabulous event. There were smiles all round and lots of fun being had whilst fundraising.

The second being the fantastic Christmas performances. We had Christmas Counts performed by Early Years, Everyone Loves A Baby performed by year 1 and 2 and Bethlehem Bake-Off performed by Year 4. The confidence, the stage presence, the lines learnt and tuneful angelic voices never cease to amaze me. Congratulations to all our children for their efforts and entertainment once again.

This leads me on to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January 2023!

Best wishes

Clare Spires

**Executive Headteacher
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Tel 01483 474981, 01483 472047 The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools are part of The SWAN Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 08622047. The registered office is Church Hill, Horsell, Woking Surrey GU21 4QQ

Nursery

The children have been busy exploring our topic, "Once Upon a Time." We have learnt about different sizes and the number 3 from "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears." We used the story "The 3 Billy Goats Gruff," to explore preposition such as over the bridge, under the bridge and on and off the bridge. The children very much enjoyed taking their learning outside using the tunnels, blocks and crates to create bridges and go over and under the bridges they created.



Reception

In Reception the children have begun their Marvellous machines topic. They have been thinking about how machines work and comparing the machines that we use now to the machines that were used in the past. In order to get a better understanding of changes over time, the children had a workshop from Chertsey Museum. They learned about a range of everyday objects that were used in the past and had the opportunity to handle artefacts and take part in role play.



Year 1

In Year 1, the children have been exploring the book 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. We have spent some time writing guides to Earth for any future aliens who might come. In Math's, we have been exploring 2D and 3D shape as well as making numbers within 20 and understanding the place value of the tens and ones. We have been working hard learning our songs for the Christmas Nativity and cannot wait for you to hear us sing as well as watch us dance and perform.



Year 2

Last week, Year 2 had a very exciting visit from Florence Nightingale. We learnt all about the struggles she went through to become a nurse and the changes she made to how hospitals look after patients. We were able to practice bandaging "soldiers" from the Crimean war. We had a great morning.



Year 3

In Year 3, we had the pleasure of learning all about Diwali through a dance workshop! We discovered the story behind the Hindu festival and created our own dances with the help of Hazel, our professional performer from West End in Schools. We learnt so much and really enjoyed ourselves in the process.



Year 4

Mexicolore Workshop

On Wednesday 2nd November, Year 4 participated in an excellent workshop run by Mexicolore! The children enjoyed learning about the weapons the Maya and Aztec people used, why they sacrificed people, the importance of cocoa in everyday life and how this was used as the currency to buy goods and food. They also learnt how to chant from one to four in Mayan and even had a chance to play the drums and wear Mayan and Aztec clothing!



Year 4 Christmas Production – Bethlehem Bake-Off

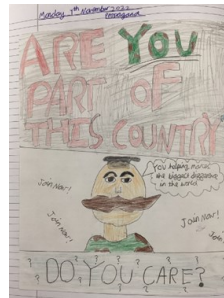


Well done to all the Year 4 children for delivering a very professional and entertaining show! We can't believe it's over. Here are some comments from our Year 4 children:

The Year 4 Production 'Bethlehem Bake-Off' was truly a delectable treat!

Year 5

This term we have been studying World War 1. We have written an informal letter, based on a character, from our class book. In history, we looked at and investigated how propaganda posters were used, before drawing our own. We also had a fantastic morning making dens at St John's Lye and imagining we were soldiers in the trenches.



Hi Kalena,
I am writing today to tell you about all the horrible things that have happened since you got taken away. Nothing stayed the same after you had left. I really miss you. Do you really miss me?

My dad has been in war for ages now if you were wondering. I don't know when he's coming back but I think it's pretty soon. I miss going to your dad's sweet shop. I have not been there for a very long time because it's shut down and abandoned, it's as broken down as a haunted house! Any way how have you been? Have you made any cool new friends, if so maybe I can meet them?

I'm not allowed to go to any parks anymore maybe you have a park near you. I wonder when we can see each other again. The more I think about you, the more my heart starts to shatter. Imagine a world where war did not exist, imagine if you did not get taken away, imagine if peace was spread across the globe, then everything would go back to normal finally.

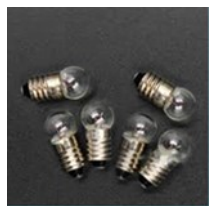
I really wish you would come back to play with me. Do you still want to be prime minister? If you were I'm sure you would get this stopped once and for all so something like this would never happen again.

Lots of love
Alfie



Year 6

The Hermitage School actively encourages its children to develop as Scientists and we are particularly lucky to have a room dedicated to Science and Food Technology. In that room, we encourage the children to experiment, make predictions and test them out.



This month the Science topic for Year Six is electricity. As an introduction to the subject, the children were given a number of objects (the rubber bands were a red herring!) and asked to see if they could make the lightbulb light up.



As you can see, the children were really absorbed in their work, had lots of fun – and once they had worked out what to do with the foil, were also successful!

The Orchard Centre

As part of our Space topic, the children used clay to make their own moons. We looked at images of the moon first and then the children discussed what they thought the moon would like. The children enjoyed using clay and we had a variety of different moons!



Sports News

The Hermitage football team, recently took part in the Surrey Schools' Danone Tournament, playing in Group B alongside Goldsworth, St Mary's, St Dunstons and Knaphill schools. The Hermitage went through as group winners without conceding a goal, progressing to the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, the team faced Pirbright School. They managed to get a goal and hold off a strong team, taking them through to the final where they met New Haw in the final. The final was a close match, with the team conceding to a golden goal at the end. Out of 16 schools, The Hermitage finished runners-up, winning their well-deserved silver medals. The team should be extremely proud of their performance.



The Hermitage boys' football team brought home their first trophy of the season, winning the St Andrew's Cup. Coach Jones said that all the children showed excellent team spirit and were well deserved winners of this inter schools football tournament. After a 2-0 and 2-1 win in the group stage of the tournament, they went on to a 1-0 victory in the final. Well done boys and Coach Jones.



Sports News

Girls Football

Our year 5 and 6 girls took part in a football festival. The girls showed determination and resilience throughout the tournament ; with excellent attacking and defending they achieved some impressive victories. The girls were a credit to the school and developed their confidence throughout the matches. It was a fantastic afternoon of football from everyone involved. Well deserved silver medals for The Hermitage football team.



Meet Our Governors



Hello, my name is Beverley Prentice and I have been a governor at The Oaktree for around 18 years. As The Hermitage and The Oaktree now share a Governing Body, I am also delighted to be getting to know The Hermitage. It is fantastic that the two schools are now working together for the benefit of the children and the staff.

We moved to Woking in 1981 and I worked in the City for around five years until we had our two daughters. The next 12 years were spent bringing up the family but when our younger daughter was about to go to senior school, I realised I had time to spare.

Having always been interested in children's reading, and with the experience of supporting our dyslexic elder daughter, I started to work for a charity which recruited people to read with children in school. I enjoyed this for several years until the charity pulled out of Woking. In the meantime a friend said The Oaktree needed governors and I came along to meet Mrs Alder. My friend famously told me that it was an easy job, you came in once a term to have a cup of tea with the Head and sat in the front row of the Christmas performance. How wrong she was!

At first I didn't enjoy the role; I didn't know anything about the school and was on the point of resigning until I offered to volunteer in school instead of working with the reading charity. This opened up a whole new world and I have now for many years been working in school one morning each week and at special events. Some of you will have seen me around the school. It is a privilege to make a difference to the children, work with the staff and get to know the parents. It also makes me a better Governor who understands the day-to-day life of our Schools.

As a Governor I work on the Admissions Committee, the Pay Committee, Recruitment and Exclusions and do the Health and Safety Walk and any other tasks which come along, including a memorable role one year as the rear-end of a donkey in the school panto. Several years ago I was Chair for two years and now appreciate the responsibility of the position.

Out of school I enjoy travelling, gardening, cooking, days out and the company of friends. Family life is busy with my husband now retired and two young grandchildren.

18 years ago I saw this work as an opportunity to give back but I quickly learned that actually it works both ways as I have benefited so much from being a Governor at The Oaktree and The Hermitage. Thank you for having me.

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.



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

Spring Term 2022/2023

Spring Term

Date	Event
3-1-23	INSET
4-1-23	Start of term for children
9-1-23	Art week
10-1-23	Yr6 First Aid Workshop
12-1-23	Yr6 Latin Day - Winston
13-1-23	Art Exhibition to parents – hall (p.m.)
17-1-23	Maple Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
18-1-23	Yr 6 to Rhoda McGaw Theatre
25-1-23	Oak Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
1-2-23	Chestnut Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
2-2-23	Yr 4 Dogs Trust Workshop
6-2-23 to 10-2-23	Feeling Good Week
7-2-23	Fantastic Fred Experience – all years
8-2-23	Yr5 to Hampton Court Palace
13-2-23 to 17-2-23	Half Term
20-2-23	INSET
21-2-23	Talent Show auditions
27-2-23 to 3-3-23	Book Week
28-2-23	Yr 4 Bikeability
28-2-23	Talent Show auditions
1-3-23	Yr 4 Bikeability
1-3-23	Tamarisk Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
1-3-23	SEND Parent/Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 5.30pm
2-3-23	Bounce for Books
2-3-23	Yr 6 Book Look
3-3-23	Book Character Dress Up Day
3-3-23	Yr 5 Book Look
7-3-23	3.30 – 6.00pm Parent/Teacher Consultations - virtual
8-3-23	3.30 – 6.00pm Parent/Teacher Consultations - virtual
8-3-23	Silver Birch Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
13-3-23 to 17-3-23	Science Week
15-3-23	Monkey Puzzle Class Assembly at 8.50 to parents
16-3-23	Yr 4 Visit to St Johns Church
20-3-23	Yr3 Spring Celebration to parents (p.m. time TBC)
22-3-23 to 24-3-23	Yr4 Hindleap Warren residential trip
27-3-23	Easter Egg competition entries in
27-3-23	Easter Egg Exhibition to parents 3.10 – 3.30pm
29-3-23	Spring Extravaganza – time TBC
30-3-23	Talent Show Final to parents
31-3-23	1.30pm End of term

The Oaktree School
Spring Term 2022/2023

3/01/23	Inset Day
4/01/23	Start of Term – Children return to school
11/01/23	Open Day Visits for Prospective Parents
19/01/23	Year 2 Trip – Blue Reef Aquarium Southsea
25/01/23	Yr2 Parents SATs talk – 9 – <u>9.30am</u>
26/01/23	Rabbit Class Assembly
01/02/23	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check for Parents – 9 – <u>9.30am</u>
02/02/23	Bumblebee Class Assembly
03/02/23	HOPA Quiz Night
13/02/23 to 17/02/23	Half Term
20/02/23	Inset Day
21/02/23	Children return to school
21/02/23	EYFS Book Celebration – 2.45 – <u>3.00pm</u>
22/02/23	Year 1 Book Celebration – 2.45 – <u>3.00pm</u>
23/02/23	Dragonfly Class Assembly
24/02/23	Year 2 Book Celebration - 2.45 – <u>3.00pm</u>
02/03/23	Bounce for Books Sponsored Even
04/03/23	World Book Day Dress Up
07/03/23	Parent/Teacher Consultation
08/03/23	Parent/Teacher Consultation
09/03/23	Ladybird Class Assembly
22/03/23	Grandparents Festival – 9.00 – <u>10.15am</u>
23/03/23	Robin Class Assembly
29/03/23	Spring Extravaganza
31/03/23	End of Term - <u>1.30pm</u>

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