



The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School Newsletter



27th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope that all our families who celebrate the lunar new year enjoyed the celebrations and spending time with their families.

The children at both The Oaktree and The Hermitage schools have been learning about our value of Integrity. We have considered what this means and reviewed their ability to carry out behaviours that show this value. They have considered when integrity has been shown in our community and how they feel at times when this value is lacking.

The children have shown in abundance this month their ability to do the right thing when (they think) no one is watching! Two very good examples of this would be, during our year 6 trip to The Rhoda Magaw Theatre walking along the Basingstoke Canal to see Winston Churchill's School production, Little Shop of Horrors and year 2 trip to Portsmouth to the Blue Reef Aquarium on the south coast. The children behaved so well, modelling all of our school values throughout their experience, modelling our high expectations without encouragement. The staff and parent helpers shared how proud they were of them and what great ambassadors for the school each and every child had been.

In the next two weeks we will be exploring being honest, the impact of dishonesty and also link this to making good choices.

Best wishes

Clare Spires

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

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Reception

Reception have started their topic- Long Ago. They have been learning about changes over time. Each class hosted a mother and baby and the children asked questions to find out more about how they themselves have changed. The children have also continued learning about how different people celebrate. They learned about Chinese New Year and made links between these celebrations and their own experiences.



Year 2

Last week, Year 2 went on a school trip to The Blue Reef Aquarium in Portsmouth as part of their Geography curriculum. The children behaved impeccably and learnt a lot about British coastlines. After exploring the aquarium, they walked along the coastal path to the hovercraft station and were lucky enough to see a hovercraft setting off to The Isle of Wight!



Year 4

Year 4 have been busy demonstrating their incredible writing skills this week! Read the fantastic myths below – I'm sure you'll agree that the children have done an amazing job on building tension.

Suddenly, the Sun turned into the Red Moon. Everything changed into something strange. Clouds ~~turned~~ shifted into a black color, and the sky turned dark, dark blue. The city went instantly into a deserted, broken city. The foliage went dead, and the trees shapeshifted into buildings.

Eurydice felt uneasy. "Why did everything just change?" she asked to no-one in particular. "Everything is suspicious!" In the distance, she could make out a gate. Then, without warning, a barking sound erupted. Eurydice gulped. She was shaking, she wanted to leave, but she didn't know how...

With one warning, the mood changed in a heartbeat. In a moment it was gloomy and the clouds were filled with sadness. Eurydice looked around and noticed ~~no one~~ that ~~Acene~~ ~~some~~ ~~not~~ ~~others~~ was no longer near her. ~~musical~~ music started to play, it sounded like an unsettling, unsettling piano. Tears dripped down her face to like a peaceful river.

There was no sight of Birds in air. foully
was nowhere to be seen. AS Eurydice stopped
wiping her wineing. AS she could not hear
whispering coming from the rocky ground.
She tried to hear what the muffled so soon
soon sound was. AS Eurydice put her ear to the ground
so hear was what the sand was to a river
began to tug on her ear. till she luckily
got free. "Help me" Eurydice cried
But R behuk finally got free. She could smell
a smell like well to do no other smell if
you had to say it it was to death.

Year 6

On Wednesday 18th January, Year 6 had the wonderful opportunity to travel into Woking to watch the Winston Churchill School production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

After a chilly walk down the canal, we had a fabulous morning enjoying the singing, dancing, acting and puppetry of the senior school pupils. It was so lovely to see so many ex-Hermitage pupils sharing their talents on stage.

We are now all the more excited for our own performance in the Summer... though we might not have the budget for a giant man-eating plant puppet!



Poppy Appeal

In addition to the incredible amount of money raised by our Hermitage And Oaktree Schools community for Cancer Research last term, we also managed to raise an incredible £545.43 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This total has contributed to the district total of £42,169!

The children and yourselves kindly donated to this worthwhile cause, wore poppies and snap bands or ribbons in remembrance. Another fine example of our community giving back and helping the survivors following conflict and their families. Thank you so much for your continued support.



Parking

Please could we remind all parents/carers to be careful with parking around the crossing area and be mindful when dropping off and picking up at before and after school club as children will still be crossing the road.

We have received many phone calls from unhappy residents regarding parents using driveways to turn their car around. Could we politely ask you all not to do this.

Building Works at The Hermitage

Building works to upgrade fire doors and put in fire compartmentation commenced at The Hermitage school in November 22. The works are progressing well and are due to complete in April 23.



Would your daughter like to learn life skills, have adventures through camping, trips and international opportunities and experience new things such as animal encounters and water sports, then Girlguiding is for her.....



4-7 Years Old

Thursday

(Coming after Easter)

Friday

4th Knaphill rainbows



7-10 Years Old

Monday

1st Knaphill (Holy Trinity) Brownies

Thursday

3rd Knaphill Brownies

Friday

2nd Knaphill Brownies



10-14 years old

Monday

2nd Knaphill Guides

Wednesday

3rd Knaphill Guides



14-18 years old

Friday

Knaphill and Brookwood Rangers

For more information for all units please go to www.girlguidingwokingwest.org or email us on kandbdc@yahoo.co.uk

12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops – the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version – by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' – such as your birthplace or a pet's name – in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency – even if they appear to come from someone you know.

11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates – so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure – criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at www.haveibeenpwned.com (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack – or simply as motivation to review your account security.

8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun – so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



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Meet Our Governors



Hello,

I'm Louise Lawford and I have just started my tenure as Safeguarding Governor of The Hermitage and The Oaktree and I am delighted to join such a dedicated and experienced team of staff and governors in such wonderful schools!

My background is in law and I am a qualified solicitor having practiced corporate law for an international law firm in London, before starting a family. I have lived in Woking for almost 16 years. I have held the post of Beaver Scout leader in our local Scouting unit, which my 2 children thoroughly enjoyed and I am currently coaching rowing in Guildford. My mum was a teacher in secondary state schools in inner London for 25 years and we are both passionate about quality education for all.

I have the pleasure of meeting some of your Reception children once a week for support with their reading. It is lovely to hear about their lives and funny stories from the day. They are brimming with questions and enthusiasm! I also attended a Year 3 trip last term to Butser Ancient Farm which was a fantastic day out. I was so impressed with how knowledgeable, interested and well behaved the children were and also how well they looked after each other.

As Safeguarding Governor, I am committed to and responsible for ensuring that our children at The Hermitage and The Oaktree Schools are and feel safe. I attend half termly Governor meetings and have had separate meetings with Mrs Condon and Mrs Larsen who are Safeguarding Leads. As a governor I attend training courses and other meetings across the Swan Trust, which ensure that I am up to date with the latest legislation and best practice in our schools. I will be checking that there are robust systems and support in place for your children and for the staff. I hope to support your teachers and senior management team, in a collaborative effort in continuing to protect and keep your children safe and happy. I am looking forward to getting to know you all!

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

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

02/02/23	Bumblebee Class Assembly
03/02/23	HOPA Quiz Night
07/02/23	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check for Parents 9 – 9.30am
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 – 3.00pm
22/02/23	Year 1 Book Celebration – 2.45 – 3.00pm
23/02/23	Dragonfly Class Assembly
24/02/23	Year 2 Book Celebration - 2.45 – 3.00pm
02/03/23	Bounce for Books Sponsored Event
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 – 10.15am
23/03/23	Robin Class Assembly
29/03/23	Spring Extravaganza
31/03/23	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

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

Autumn Term 2023		
Friday	1 st September	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Monday	4 th September	First day of Autumn Term 1
Friday	20 th October	Last day of Autumn Term 1
	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 – 31 st May	SUMMER HALF TERM - these dates are still in consultation and may be subject to change
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