



The Hermitage School
and
The Oaktree School
Newsletter



31st March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

With it being such a busy month I am not quite sure where to begin! The spring term is always one of the shortest with only a few weeks each half term, but we always manage to squeeze in such a lot of excitement, fun, opportunities and learning and this half term has been no different.

The children have experienced a wealth of enrichment in their curriculum with arts, book and science weeks brimming with activities and experiments. They have heard from a variety of visitors sharing their talents, hobbies and roles of responsibility. Thank you to our parents who visited in these themed weeks to provide further excitement. The hedgehogs visit this last week was a particular highlight for many, as we learnt how to care for both them and the wildlife we encounter in our day to day lives.

The trips, excursions and Year 4 residential provided further enrichment opportunities and helped children broaden their knowledge, become motivated and inspired by the world around them and helped some face their fears. Even the wet weather we have experienced lately has not dampened our spirits.

We have also benefitted greatly this half term from the generosity seen by HOPA and our community with our youngest year groups experiencing Bears at Bedtime and the many thousands of donations from families and local companies pouring in for our Spring Extravaganza. Thank you to everyone who donated to this years spring school fundraising activities, the smiles on our children's faces made every second worthwhile. Congratulations to all of our prize winners. All have been informed and have been to collect their prizes and our finance team are busy totalling the funds raised at the fair.

We have also heard in the past few weeks that we raised a joint amount of £545.43 between the two schools for the Poppy Appeal back in November. Year 6 have also raised an incredible sum for Comic relief. Read inside for more details.

I do not doubt for one second that the summer term will bring less excitement, but for now I wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable school holiday with friends and family. Stay safe and see you all on our return on 17th April.

Best wishes

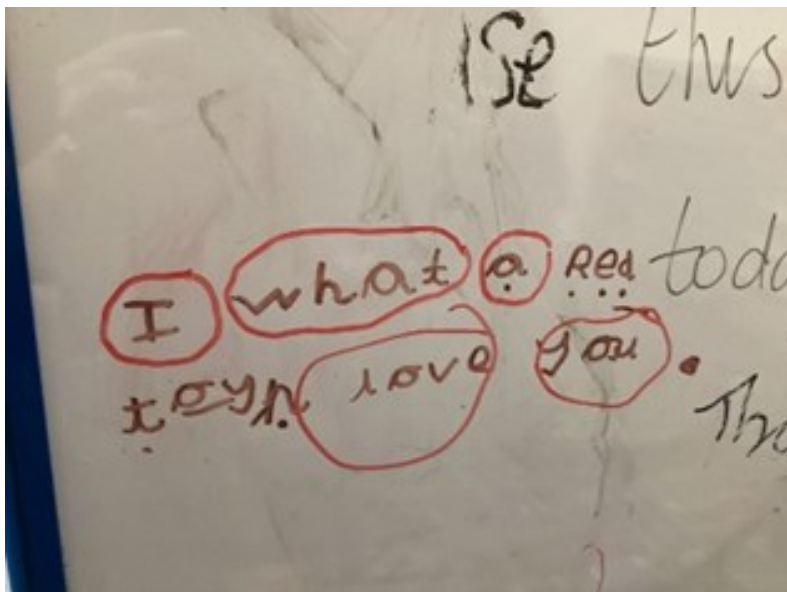
Mrs Clare Spires

Executive Headteacher

The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools,

Reception

This half term Reception have enjoyed their Ready, Steady, Grow topic. The children have been learning about where our food comes from and how living things grow and change. In English they have been writing sentences and captions and in Maths they have been exploring the composition of numbers to 10. They were also pleased to be able to showcase their learning to their loved ones during the Grandparents Festival and Robin Class assembly.

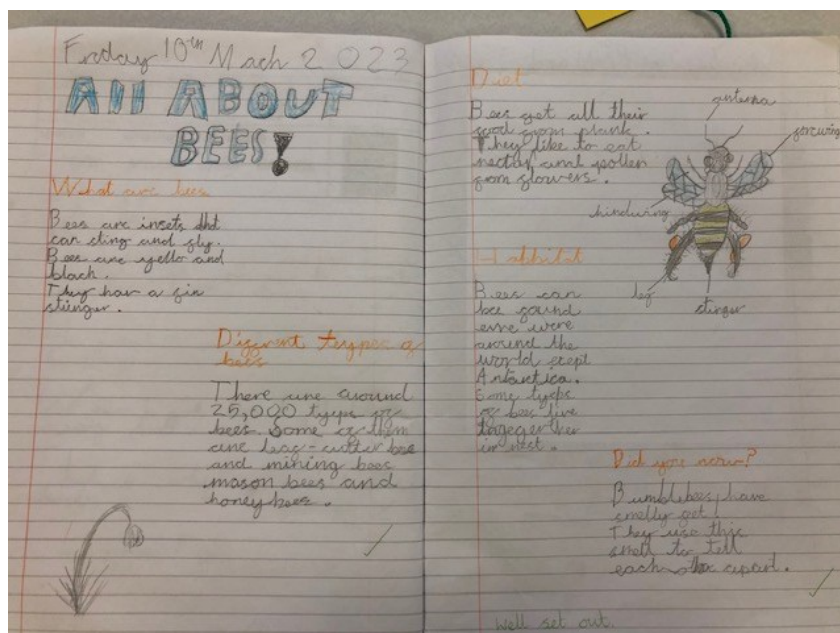


Year 2

This month, Year 2 have enjoyed using team work to complete a Commando Joe's mission. They had to work together to create a carriage for the Queen then recreate it in a shorter time. The children also enjoyed meeting hedgehogs and experiencing being part of a band!

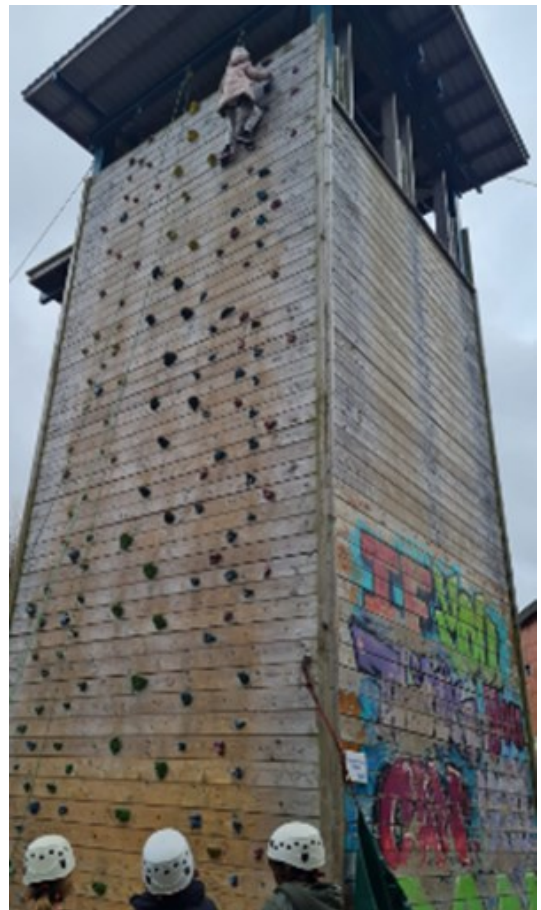
In English, we have been reading the book 'The Bee Who Spoke'. The children worked really hard to research non chronological reports and created fact sheets on bees.

Science week was a good opportunity to explore the skills needed to investigate. We dissected flowers, looked at colour mixing and investigated how to make eggs roll further. Well done Scientists!



Year 4

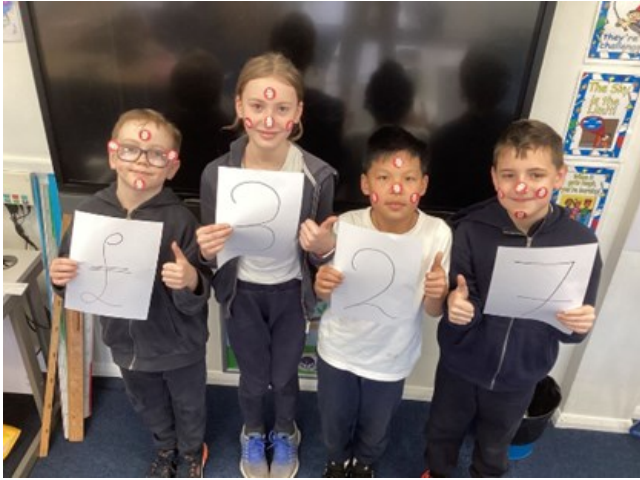
Last week, Year 4 went to Hindleap Warren for a fun residential. The children and adults had a fantastic time experiencing enjoyable outdoor activities, undertaking a camp fire and becoming very muddy during the forest adventure walk! The children were super role models throughout the residential and we were particularly impressed with their fantastic team building skills. Well done Year 4!



Year 6

It has been a very busy time in Year 6. The House Captains ran a bake sale in aid of Comic Relief and raised an amazing £327. They worked really hard making this event such a success and would like to thank everyone who donated cakes.

In DT this half term, we have designed and made our very own Swedish meatballs after tasting and evaluating all Sainsbury's had to offer. We think ours were better! We might even be able to give IKEA a run for their money.



Our Science topic has been light. We have built periscopes in order to investigate the angle of reflection and have investigated how the size of a shadow is affected by an objects distance from the light source. During science week, we had a highly entertaining afternoon making our very own seismographs.



Orchard



We have had a wonderful half term in The Orchard Centre, full of various different learning activities and experiences. We particularly enjoyed the visit we had from the Hedgehogs! Thanks to Mrs Hallums for organising. We are looking forward to lots more fun in the Summer term.



We loved being able to dress up for World Book Day and had a great time taking part in Bounce for Books!



We wrapped up warm and put wellies on to head outside and enjoy the snow that was briefly here!

Sport



Congratulations to Maisy whose cheerleading team participated in the Legacy Dream Extreme competition in Birmingham. Not only did they come 1st in their category making them Division Champions, they also went on to be crowned Grand Champions having the highest scoring routine of the entire competition.

Congratulations to Leo for achieving his 6th certificate in Judo. He is now on red belt 2nd stripe after mastering the skills to pass his exam. What a fantastic achievement.



Cross-Country

On Tuesday 21st March, the year 3 and 4 children took part in a Cross-Country competition at Hoebridge School. All of the children were fantastic and put so much effort into the races, some of our best placings being 2nd, 23rd and 24th out of 170 children. They were so supportive of each other throughout all the races, cheering and celebrating each other's victories.



Football



On Thursday 16th March, the girls football team took part in their football league matches. After a tough first game, we secured a vital 3 points with a 5-3 win over Pirbright. Our second game came against Knaphill. Hermitage took a 1-0 lead but were unable to hold on. The points were shared as the game finished 1-1. With the final standings all square between Hermitage and Knaphill, a first-place playoff will be played in the coming month to find a group winner!



On Thursday 23rd March, the year 5 boys travelled to Pirbright for their Woking schools league matches. On what was an incredibly cold and wet day, the boys battled hard to secure 1-0 wins against Bisley and Pirbright. With 2 wins secured, the boys topped their group and will now progress onto finals day. The boys were a credit to the school throughout.

Book Week



Bounce for Books

During Book week, the children all enjoyed our Bounce for Books event. Thank you to everyone that sponsored their child, we raised over £1200 – which is an incredible amount and will buy lots of new books for our library.

Visit from Garry Parsons

We had a visit from the illustrator Garry Parsons who lead a whole school assembly and then a workshop with each year group. He inspired us to use drawing to tell a story .



Character Dress up day

The day begun with all the teachers dressing up as Where's Wally and the children being set the challenge of trying to find them all as they were hiding in the playground. The children all looked brilliant in their different costumes celebrating a wide variety of books they enjoy reading.



The Oaktree School World Book Day 2023

Wow! What a fantastic World Book Day we've had. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to Author Karen Inglis discuss her books and how she plans her stories. We even had the opportunity to see how her illustrator develops her ideas into drawings. They also took part in Bounce for Books, jumping on a bouncy castle and raised money an incredible £1,200 for reading books across the school. Thank you so much for all your kind donations. Finally, the children finished the week off by dressing up as their favourite characters. The children all looked fantastic!



Well done to our World Book Day winners!



Mila P entered a competition at WH Smith for World Book day to design her own book cover. She found out that she won a prize and received vouchers to spend on new books! Well done Mila.



The Hermitage and Oaktree Schools Get Active for a Good Cause!

We have been busy keeping active to support our chosen spring term charity, Dabbagh Welfare Trust. To find out more, read the following speech by Lydia. If you would like to donate or find out more about this important cause, please go to the following JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/faaria-sahi>



My name is Lydia. I have written this speech to tell you about Mrs Sahi and how she is raising money for the Dabbagh Welfare Trust.

In September, Mrs Sahi is kindly going to climb X climb Mount Snowdon to donate money to the Dabbagh Welfare Trust, a charity which is going to build maternity units in poor areas of Pakistan. The ~~extra~~ exhausting climb will take estimated seven hours.

All the classes at the Hermitage School are supporting Mrs Sahi by doing at least five minutes of physical ~~per~~ physical activities every day. There is a fun competition going on, which is to see which of the classes will have done a total of seven hours by the end of the year. It's great!

I hope my speech will have inspired you to give money to the wonderful Dabbagh Welfare Trust. In the meantime, I ~~and~~ would like you to be rooting for glorious Mrs Sahi as she trains hard to reach her goal.

If you would like to donate or find out more about this important cause, please go to the following JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/faaria-sahi>



REMINDERS

Water Bottles



Please remind your child to bring a water bottle every day clearly marked with their FIRST and LAST name.

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. **Please note that the charge for a school meal will be going up after Easter and will be £2.70 per meal.**



Correct School Clothing

Please can we remind the children to bring in a suitable coat for playtime. Children are to wear the correct uniform and no jewellery/earrings are to be worn, this includes items such as Apple watches as they are a distraction throughout the day and it is classed as having a phone on them which is not allowed in school. We appreciate your co-operation with this.



Dog Fouling

We have noticed lately that there has been an awful lot of dog mess left on the pathways in front and around both schools. Could we please encourage all dog owners to clean up as it is often stood in and brought onto the school premises. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.



The Hermitage School

Spring Term 2022/2023

17.04.23	Start of Summer Term
26.04.23	Hawthorn Class Assembly 8.50am
27.04.23	Yr 6 Trip to Neasden Temple
01.05.23	May Bank Holiday
08.05.23 -11.05.23	Yr 6 SATS week
12.05.23	Yr 6 Pizza Party afternoon
17.05.23	Redwood Class Assembly 8.50am
18.05.23	Yr 5 & 6 HOPA Disco
24.05.23 - 26.05.23	Yr 5 Bushcraft Residential Trip
29.05.23 – 02.06.23	Summer Half Term
05.06.23 – 09.06.23	Yr 6 Avon Tyrell Residential Trip
12.06.23	Orchard Book Look 2.50 – 3.10pm
21.06.23	Send Parent/Teacher Consultations 3.30 – 5pm
22.06.23	Sports Day
28.06.23	Meet the Teacher
28.06.23	Move up Morning for all Year Groups
05.07.23	HOPA Summer Event
06.07.23	Reserve Sports Day
06.07.23	Swan Concert at Beaufort School
07.07.23	Annual Reports to Parents
11.07.23	Yr 6 Production – 1.30-3pm and 6.30-8pm
12.07.23	Volunteer Helpers' Tea Party
13.07.23	Yr 6 Production – 6.30-8pm
19.07.23	Yr 6 Leavers' Assembly 1.30-3pm
20.07.23	Last day of Term – 1.30pm finish
21.07.23	Inset Day

The Oaktree School
Spring Term 2022/2023

17.04.23	Children return to School
25.04.23	Dragonfly Parent Consultation
27.04.23	Dragonfly Parent Consultation
27.04.23	Squirrel Class Assembly
01.05.23	Bank Holiday
05.05.23	Year 1 Trip to Milestones Museum
05.05.23	HOPA Disco – Year R, Year 1 and Year 2
08.05.23	Bank Holiday
11.05.23	Hedgehog Class Assembly
16.05.23	Class Photo's
19.05.23	Year R Trip to Marwell Zoo
29.05.23 – 02.06.23	Half Term
05.06.23	Children return to School
13.06.23	Rabbit Class Assembly
14.06.23	Reception 2023 Induction Evening
21.06.23	Move Up Morning
21.06.23	Year 1 and Year 2 Meet the Teacher – Parent Information Evening
22.06.23	Sports Day
23.06.23	Year 2 – Trip to Windsor Castle
28.06.23	Move Up Morning
05.07.23	Move Up Morning
05.07.23	HOPA Summer Fair
06.07.23	Reserve Sports Day
10.07.23	EYFS Book Celebration
11.07.23	Year 1 Book Celebration
12.07.23	Volunteer Helpers Tea Party
12.07.23	Year 2 Book Celebration
19.07.23	Year 2 Performance
20.07.23	End of Summer Term – Finish at 1.30pm
21.07.23	Inset Day

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