



**The Hermitage School
and
The Oaktree School
Newsletter**



28th April 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

The children have all returned to school this term with real gusto and are into the throws of learning already. In just the past two weeks, we have seen so much activity, it is no wonder The Easter School Holiday feels so long ago! The Oaktree children celebrated Arts week last week, looking into various work from continents and artists around the world and began creating their own masterpieces using various media. Some classes have completed Commando Joe challenges, working in teams to use equipment provided to solve puzzles. The children in The Hermitage have thoroughly enjoyed the return of the swimming pool on site and have benefited from the additional lessons to develop their techniques and strokes as well as the occasional lifesaving skills. Various trips and excursions have begun this term already with our Hermitage Choir taking part in the Surrey Primary Music Festival. You can read more about this later in the newsletter. I also had the pleasure of accompanying Year 6 to Neasden Temple yesterday. We were all in awe of the magnificent architecture, the warm welcome, selfless way of life and many of us learnt even more fascinating facts about the Hindu way of life.

This half term we have been talking about the value of Resilience with the children, learning how to become more resilient, when resilience helps us and the impact it can have on any outcome. I have seen first-hand many children and staff demonstrating this value daily. They have shown true bounce-back-ability when overcoming hurdles and obstacles in their learning and play and recognise that when learning a new skill or when in a disagreement with someone, our half termly value of resilience can help immensely. I am sure this value will come in handy as we approach the end of this half term and the national assessment period begins.

I wish you all a very enjoyable and restful bank holiday weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs Clare Spires

Executive Headteacher

The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools

Nursery

We hope you all had a lovely Easter break. The children have settled back into Nursery very well and seem to have grown over their break. We have started exploring our new topic, "Sunshine and Sunflowers." We have been learning the parts of the plants and what each part's important job is. The children have been practising counting forwards and backwards from 1-5 and learning to subitise 1-3.



Year 1

The children have come back to school with big smiley faces and have begun learning about our new topic 'School Days'. Last week the children took part in International Arts Week where we looked at the continent South America. The children learned about Rio Carnival, Machu Picchu and Salsa dancing. They had an opportunity to make masks, learn how to salsa and create Inca art.



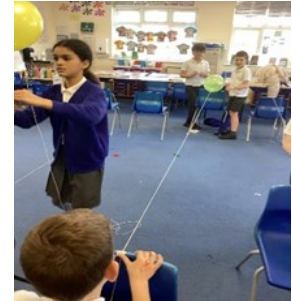
Year 3

In year 3 we have been completing our work on the artist of the term. The whole school have been looking into American artist, Jessi Raulet. Her art focuses on colour, experiences and positivity, looking to brighten her surroundings with her art. As a year group we have been so inspired by the work that Jessi has produced, we have used paint crayons to develop our own art, using a heart to develop our imagination. I think you'll agree, they look fantastic!

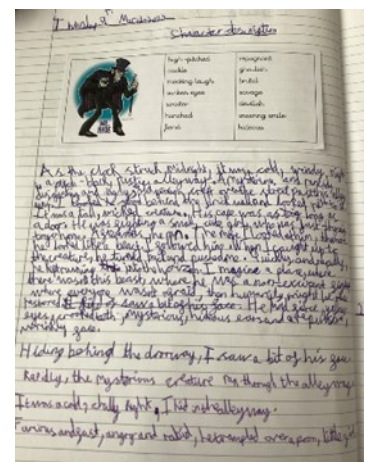
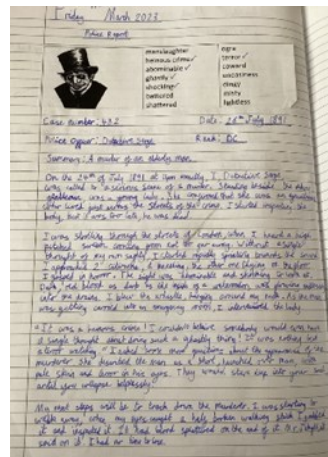
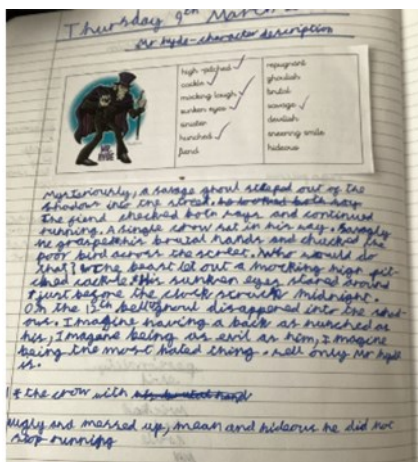


Year 5

Last month, Year 5, enjoyed the topic 'We are Scientists'. We carried out many experiments within our science lessons on reversible and irreversible changes. During Science week, we used our investigative skills to explore a range of forces – potential and kinetic energy, buoyancy and thrust.



In English, whilst reading 'Mr Jekyll and Mr Hyde', we wrote a character description and a police report.



Keeping with our science theme, in Art, we used MC Escher tessellation art to inspire our creative skills.



SENCO

ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) are teaching assistants who have been trained, and are regularly supervised, by Educational Psychologists. The role of an ELSA is to help children to feel happy in school by building their emotional development, and helping them to find solutions to any problems or challenges they may be facing.

ELSA sessions are carefully planned for each child, and consist of an emotional check-in, a warm-up activity, a main activity, and relaxation time. ELSAs then work with the other adults in the school to support the children with to apply strategies they have learned during the sessions.

ELSAs can help with:

Emotional literacy

Emotional regulation

Anxiety

Self-esteem

Loss and bereavement

Social skills

Friendship

Relationships

Independence

Growth mindset

Please click on the link below to see an ELSA leaflet:

[What is ELSA? Leaflet for parents - ELSA Support \(elsa-support.co.uk\)](http://elsa-support.co.uk)



Choir

On Wednesday 26th April, the choir were delighted to perform at Dorking Halls as part of the Surrey Primary Music Festivals. We sang with many other schools from the Woking area and performed to a crowd of around 900 people! As always, the choir were exemplary ambassadors for the Hermitage and should be proud, not only of their beautiful singing voices, but their model behaviour and professionalism.

Free online guides for parents and carers; Understanding your child / teenager

Free online guides are available for families living in Surrey with top tips from childcare, education and NHS health experts.

You can get free access to the online guides by using the code 'ACORN' and visiting the [In Our Place website](#).

The following guides are available:

Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby

Understanding your pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby: for women couples

Understanding your baby

Understanding your child

Understanding your child's feelings

Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing

Understanding your teenager's brain

Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your teenager

Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)

Understanding your feelings (for teenagers only!)

Understanding your child with additional needs

Understanding your relationships

A QR code can be found on the '**Understanding your child guides**' (pdf) below



REMINDERS

Water Bottles



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

Correct School Clothing

Please can we remind the children to bring in a suitable coat for playtime and ensure all items of clothing are named. 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.

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.**



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