



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



20th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have made it to the end of another year, full of activities, laughter, learning and more. Those of you who have joined us in these past few weeks to spectate, will understand the sheer volume of opportunities and enjoyment that have made this summer term one of the best. A full calendar of events with trips and visits, sporting competitions, performances and productions which have brought smiles to all those who took part and hopefully to all of you who came to enjoy.

I would like to extend my biggest thank you to all of our staff here at The Oaktree and The Hermitage Schools for enabling the children to thrive and succeed. Not only did we see their increased confidence and abilities but I have also witnessed their progress academically during this year. Credit to the staff for enabling each and every child to excel.

We sadly say goodbye to Mrs Duthie and Mrs Clarke at The Oaktree School who have helped teach many classes over the years. We wish them every happiness in their new home and new career. Mrs Gallo will also sadly be leaving us from the Orchard. We thank her for care and patience with our children and wish her every success in her new role.

I know many tears were shed (and that was just our staff and parents this week!) as we sadly said farewell to year 2 leaving The Oaktree School, the majority of which join us again in September at The Hermitage School. I can see so many of them are ready for the next phase of their educational journey. But the most boxes of tissues were used amongst our year 6 cohort. Congratulations to each and every one of them for all of their achievements. They will leave The Hermitage School with their heads held high, armed and equipped with the values, skills, confidence and attitudes that will help them to see even greater success as they embark on their new adventures in secondary school.

I wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you again in September.

*Kind regards,*

*Clare Spires*

## Governors message

On behalf of all the school Governors, I would like to wish you a happy and safe summer holidays. Good luck to the year 6 as they move on to their new schools.

Thank you to all the staff, HOPA and parent volunteers that have worked hard this year for our children. We are so lucky to have a wonderful community of parents, carers and other volunteers who give up their time to support the school and the children.

I am sad to say that, after 8 years in various roles on the Local Governing Committee, I have decided to step down from the LGC to spend more time with my family and to support my children as they continue their education. I will miss it greatly.

I am, however, delighted to announce that Louise Lawford, our Safeguarding Governor, will be taking on the role of Chair of Governors from the beginning of the new term. Louise has been with the LGC for 1 year and been a valuable addition to the team, stepping into several roles and spending considerable time at the school, getting to know the staff and children. Louise has experience of volunteering through work with her children's school, as a Beaver Scout Leader, rowing coach and as Deputy Chair of her Local Resident's Association. Prior to raising a family, Louise spent seven years as an M&A lawyer for two leading international law firms in London.

Louise will be well supported by the members of the LGC and I know they are already excited about the start of the new term!

All the best  
Charlotte Hill  
Chair of Governors



## Reception

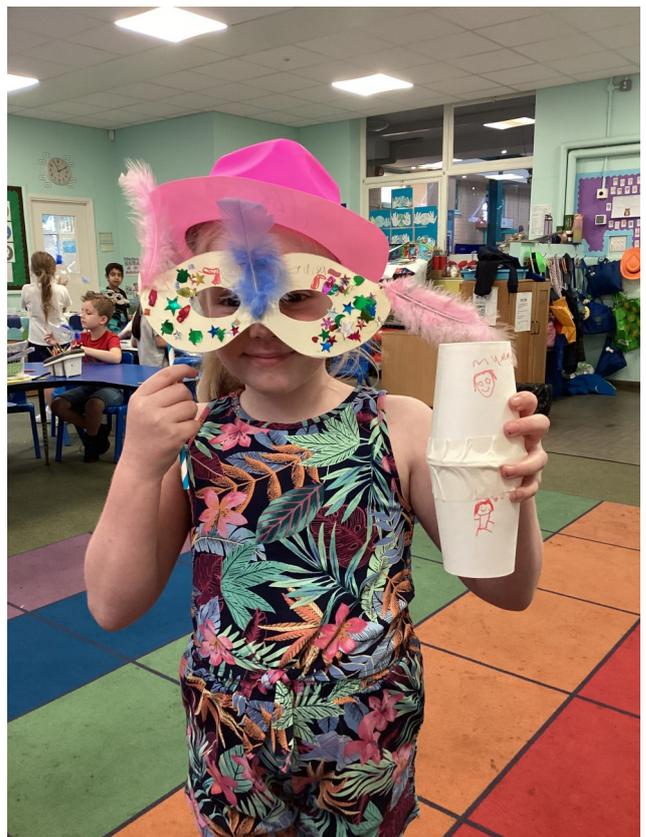
The children have been enjoying their On the Beach topic. They have learned all about sea life and how to protect our ocean friends. They also learned about beach holidays in the past and created treasure maps and messages in bottles. The children have been excited to meet their new teachers and reflect on their year in Reception. They were proud to share their learning and progress with their parents during the Celebration Afternoon. To celebrate our end of year, Reception invited Caterpillar Class to a Teddy Bears' Picnic. They decorated snacks, sang a little concert to their audience, ate their picnic and then had a dance party.



## Year 2

### Year 2 Celebration Day

Year 2 enjoyed their celebration day on Monday this week, celebrating their successes with a carnival day! They had a dance workshop, made masks, played games outside and even had an ice lolly. It was a lovely way to reward them and round up their learning at The Oaktree School, before making the move to KS2. As you can see from the pictures, they had an amazing time!



## Year 4

Year 4 had a great time during a cross-curricular RE lesson, where the children created land art using natural materials. This was an exit point lesson to our 'Rescue Plan' topic. Look at the images below and see if you can interpret the artistic creations and the connections they have to the word rescue.

The Year 4 team would like to say a huge well done to all our brilliant Year 4 children. They have been a pleasure to teach this year and we wish them a relaxing summer. We know the children will be just as amazing in Year 5!



## Year 6

Just after half term, most of Year 6 went on an intrepid adventure deep into the wilds of the New Forest. We stayed at a place called Avon Tyrell, a Victorian manor house which is now the site for outdoor adventure and fun. As soon as we arrived, we dove straight into activities. Throughout the week, we were lucky enough to test our resilience on the abseiling wall, race against each other on the zip-lines over the lake, splash about while paddle boarding and build our confidence and engineering skills whilst creating catapults. The children loved being able to spend time together with their friends, hang out in the dorms (impressing the adults with their immaculate presentations during room inspections) and all in all have the best time possible.

The children were amazing ambassadors for our school: their behaviour, attitude and positivity were praised by many of the staff on site. As Mrs Laxton always says, the pupils left as children and came back as young adults, ready to tackle the challenges the next year will bring.



## Orchard



The children enjoyed their end of year summer celebration. We had a look back at all the learning we have done this year and spent some dancing!

The children took part in their annual horse-riding Gymkhana. All the children completed a fun race and were awarded a rosette. Here are just a few of the pictures from the event. We also have enjoyed our visits from Dory the dog.



## Swimming



On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, The Hermitage took part in a swimming gala at Woking Pool in the Park. 9 primary schools from across Woking also participated. The children all had an amazing time and swam brilliantly. We came 5<sup>th</sup> overall, just a few points shy of 4<sup>th</sup> place!

We also came away with some individual medals:

Silver in the Girls Y3/4 Free – Emi

Bronze in the Girls Y6 Butterfly – Ailsa

Silver in the Boys Y6 Butterfly – Takara

Silver in the Boys Y3/4 Backstroke – Elliott

Gold in the Girls Y5 Backstroke – Ailsa

Gold in the Boys Y6 Backstroke – Takara

Silver in the Chain relay – Cherry, Millie, Elliott, Takara, Ailsa and  
Emi

Well done again to all the children involved and the parents that supported on the night.

## 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 you to ensure that all children's 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 is £2.70 per meal.**

Thank you



## The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School

### Term dates and INSET days for 2022-23

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

## The Hermitage School and The Oaktree School

### Term dates and INSET days for 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023		
Friday	1 <sup>st</sup> September	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	First day of Autumn Term 1
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of Autumn Term 1
	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> October	AUTUMN HALF TERM
Monday	30 <sup>th</sup> October	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Tuesday	31 <sup>st</sup> October	First day of Autumn Term 2
Friday	15 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Autumn Term 2
Spring Term 2024		
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> January	First day of Spring Term 1
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of Spring Term 1
	12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February	SPRING HALF TERM
Monday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET DAY
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> February	First day of Spring Term 2
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Spring Term 2
Summer Term 2024		
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of Summer Term 1
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of Summer Term 1
	27 <sup>th</sup> May – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	SUMMER HALF TERM
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> June	First day of Summer Term 2
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last Day of Summer Term 2
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY