# THE HERMITAGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Odd Sock Day**
**16th October 2026**
Wear Odd Socks to celebrate Anti Bullying Week.

**Parent Consultations**
**17th/18th October 2026**
Parent/Teacher Consultations - Virtual Appoointments

**Non Uniform Day - HSA Donations**
**6th November and 3rd of December 2026**
Non uniform day, please keep an eye out for donation requests for the Christmas fair.

**Flu Immunisations**
**9th November 2026**
Flu immunisations across both infant and junior schools

**HSA Christmas Fair**
**28th November 2026**
HSA are hosting their annual Christmas fair, times TBC, keep an eye out for further information.



Mrs Clare Spires - Executive Head Teacher
Mrs Larsen - Infant Deputy Head Teacher
Mrs Condon - Junior Deputy Head Teacher
Mr Greenwood - Assistant Junior Deputy Head Teacher
Mrs Quirk - Inclusion Lead
Miss Foster - SENCO



# A Message from Mrs Spires

*A Wonderful Start to the Autumn Term!*

*As we reach the end of the first half of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly positive and exciting few weeks across our schools.*
*It has been an absolute pleasure to see the children return so sensibly, settling back into school routines and demonstrating such positive attitudes towards their learning. We are incredibly proud of the way they have represented our schools, acting as fantastic ambassadors at the many internal and external events they have already taken part in this term.*

*From children attending PGA golf sessions to representing us in football and dodgeball competitions at other schools and at Woking Leisure Centre, as well as enjoying visits to Knaphill Library, our children have embraced the opportunities available to them with enthusiasm, confidence and a wonderful sense of positivity. It has been lovely to see them challenging themselves, trying new experiences and making the most of everything school life has to offer.*





*Our half-term value of Positivity has certainly been evident throughout the schools. The children have really embraced this value, showing it in their learning, their relationships with one another and their willingness to get involved.*
*We are also beginning to see our OPAL play provision really develop, with the children making the most of the opportunities it provides for imaginative play, collaboration, creativity and independence.*
*A very special thank you goes to the two families who generously gave up their time to support our staff on our recent Ground Force morning. Your help and enthusiasm made a real difference, and we are so grateful for your continued support in helping us create an even better outdoor environment for our children.*

***However, the very best news of the term has to be… our school minibus!***
*Yes, you heard correctly — we have secured our very own school minibus! Thanks to the fantastic fundraising efforts of our Hermitage Schools Association, together with an additional donation from Woking Lions and our school budget we have been able to make this exciting purchase a reality.*
*The minibus is currently undergoing its MOT and necessary checks over the half-term break, and we are hopeful that it will be delivered early next half term. This is such an exciting development for our schools and will open up even more opportunities for our children to enjoy visits, experiences and activities beyond the school gates. We cannot wait to see the adventures it will take us on!*
*I would like to finish by saying a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and families. Your ongoing support, whether through fundraising events, volunteering your time or encouraging your children to make the most of every opportunity, makes such a positive difference to our school communities.*

*I hope you all enjoy a restful and happy half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back for the second half of the autumn term, refreshed, ready to learn and full of positivity for all that lies ahead!*
*With my very best wishes,*
*Mrs Spires*

# EYFS

In Early Years, our children have settled in really well and are now becoming confident with our daily routines and familiar with the rules that help make our classroom a happy, safe and welcoming place for everyone.

In Nursery, the children have been exploring the exciting topic "Shall I Tell You About Me?", while Reception children have been discussing "What is Marvellous About Me?". These engaging themes have encouraged our young learners to discover more about themselves, their feelings and what makes them unique.



''What is marvellous about me?'

'Shall I tell you about me?'



Overall, this topic has been a lovely way for the children to build confidence, celebrate their individuality and learn more about one another. It has been wonderful to see friendships developing as they discover both their similarities and differences, and we are excited to continue supporting their curiosity and learning throughout the year.

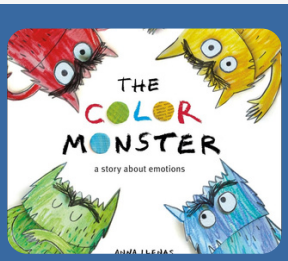
We have also spent time talking about families and the people who are important to us. The children loved sharing who lives at home with them and speaking about the special relationships they have with family members and loved ones.





## Topic Highlight

One of the highlights of the topic has been creating self-portraits. The children enjoyed expressing their personalities through colourful artwork and celebrating the special qualities that make them who they are. To support their understanding of emotions, both Nursery and Reception children listened to the story The Colour Monster, which helped them recognise, talk about and understand a range of different feelings.




As part of their learning about emotions, Reception children made their own mirrors to observe and practise different facial expressions. They were also encouraged to create a "Chatter Box" at home, giving them a wonderful opportunity to share their interests, favourite things and family experiences with both their teachers and classmates.

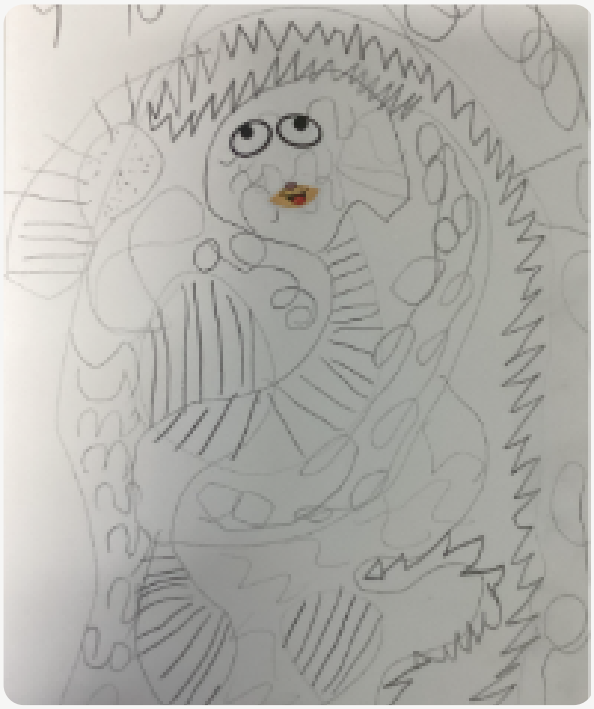
# Year 1

We have had a wonderful first half term in year 1. Settling into our new classrooms and becoming confident with new rules, structures and teachers.

As scientists we have studied "Sensitive bodies" we have used our senses to discover the wonder of our world through sight, sound, smell, touch and taste!
As artist we have studied line and how it helps us to create art, with textures.

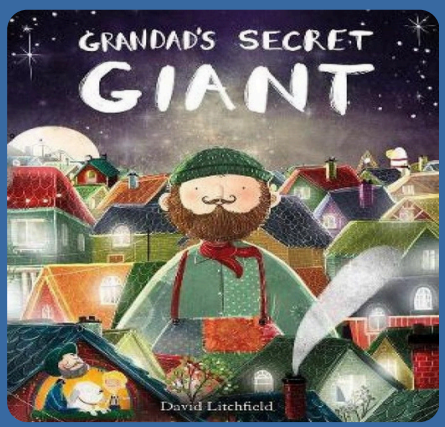



As geographers we have found out where we live in the world and how the world is divided into continents.

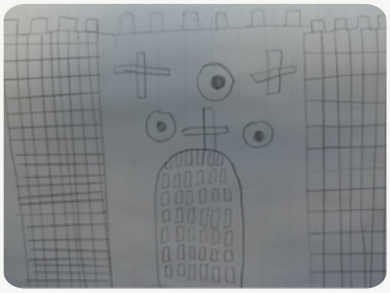


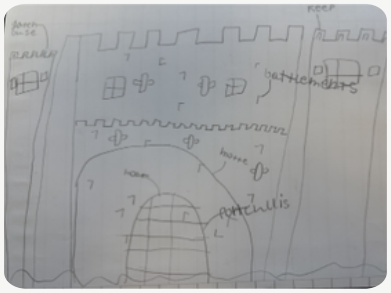
## Topic Highlight

Our topic of "Marvellous Me!" has given us the opportunity to identify how we are all unique, in ourselves and our families. We have enjoyed getting to know the Giant in "Grandad's secret Giant" and writing our own sentences.



# Year 2





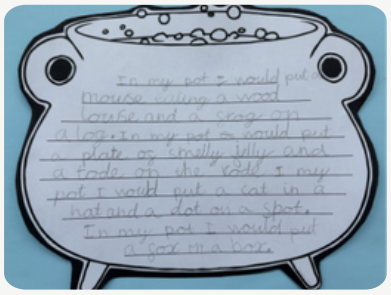



The children designed and drew their own castles.

The children have settled into Year 2 brilliantly and have made a fantastic start to the year. We have thoroughly enjoyed beginning our new topic, Castles, where we have been learning about William the Conqueror and how he became King of England. The children have explored sections of the Bayeux Tapestry, helping them to understand this important period in history. Using their growing knowledge, they have identified the different parts of a castle and their purposes before designing and drawing their own impressive castles.

In English, we have been captivated by the wonderful twists and turns in Bethan Woollvin's retellings of Hansel and Gretel and Rapunzel. The children have enjoyed discussing the unexpected story developments and comparing them with the traditional tales they already know. We are all looking forward to discovering how Rapunzel ends after half term and finding out what surprises await us in the final chapters!







## Topic Highlight

A particular highlight was our visit to Windsor Castle, where the children were excited to spot real-life castle features and explain their uses.



# Year 3





Year 3 enjoyed an exciting and engaging science workshop in the STEM room with Fab Science, where they stepped into the role of geologists and explored the fascinating rock cycle.

Through a range of hands-on activities, the children demonstrated how rocks change over time by creating their own rock cycles using chocolate. They also investigated different types of rocks, discovered how fossils are formed by making their own, and ended the session with some spectacular volcanic eruptions.
The workshop provided a fun and memorable way for the children to develop their scientific knowledge and understanding, bringing their classroom learning to life through practical investigation and discovery.









## Topic Highlight

Year 3 have had a fun (and rather messy!) time exploring Stone Age art. They have honed their drawing and shading skills using charcoal and chalk and then moved on to making their own paint using flour and spices. The effects on their final cave painting are pretty impressive. Well done, Year 3!



# Year 4

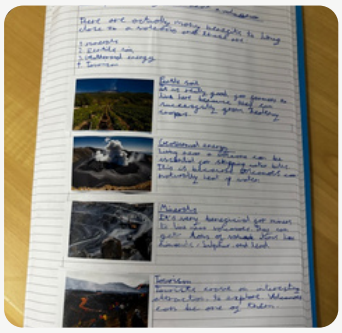
Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the year! They had a wonderful time visiting Knaphill Library in September, exploring a range of books and taking part in a fun scavenger hunt. One pupil described it as "...the best trip ever!"

Over the last couple of weeks, we have also had so much fun being busy sewing our felt phone cases, they look amazing!









As part of our topic, we learned how volcanoes are formed and discussed why some people choose to live near them despite the dangers.

One of our pupils told us what they had learned:

"There are actually many benefits to living close to a volcano. These include valuable minerals, fertile soil for farming, geothermal energy, and tourism."

We were delighted to see the children demonstrating a strong understanding of both the advantages and challenges of living in volcanic regions.




## Topic Highlight

We have been learning about volcanoes and have taken part in a range of exciting activities to support our learning. One highlight was a volcano experiment, where we watched a model volcano erupt. We also used our map-reading skills during an orienteering activity.



# Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic time this term and have been busy learning, exploring and working together! In Science, we have really enjoyed learning all about Space. We explored how shadows are formed and had a wonderful visit to the Planetarium, where we enjoyed discovering more about our Solar System and learning fascinating facts about the planets, stars and Moon. It was fantastic to see the children's curiosity and excitement as they explored the wonders of space! The children have also enjoyed making vegetable soup. They worked carefully and safely, practising their knife skills and following instructions to prepare their ingredients. They were very proud of their finished soups and enjoyed tasting what they had created!









## Topic Highlight

Finally, we were incredibly proud of how Year 5 worked together as a year group to produce a fantastic Harvest Assembly. The children showed wonderful teamwork, confidence and enthusiasm as they performed songs, spoke clearly and acted out different parts of the assembly. It was lovely to see everyone supporting one another and working together to create such a memorable performance.

Well done, Year 5, on another fantastic half term! We are so proud of all your hard work, enthusiasm and teamwork

# Year 6

At the end of September, Year 6 had the opportunity to take part in a Level 2 Bikeability course. 24 cyclist from the school took part. The course taught the children how to grow more confident when cycling including practical experience on our local roads. They not only learnt to pass stationary vehicles but also learnt to negotiate roads and junctions.

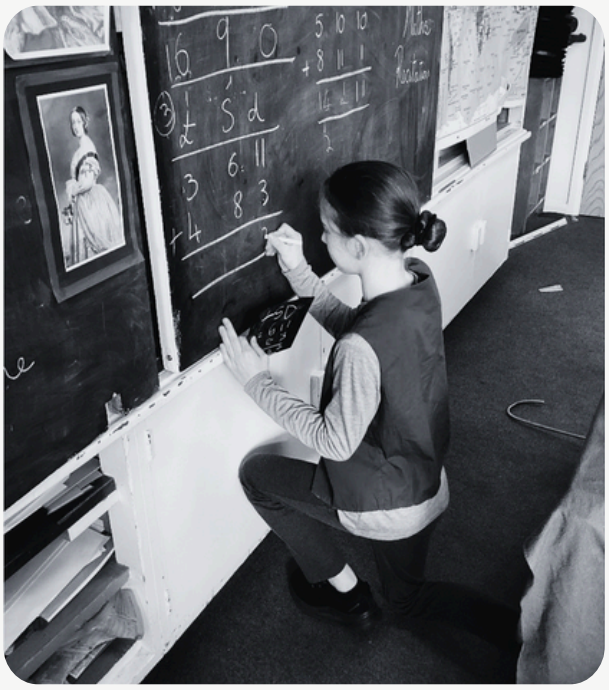


Year 6 stepped back in time and experienced what school life was like during the Victorian era. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a variety of authentic Victorian classroom activities, including practising handwriting, completing maths problems using pounds and shillings, reciting monarchs in chronological order, and learning the importance of good posture by balancing books on their heads.

The children also wrote on blackboards, took part in Victorian-style drills, and explored the strict rules and routines that Victorian schoolchildren followed. It was a fascinating and memorable experience that brought their history learning to life and helped them gain a deeper understanding of education in Victorian Britain.







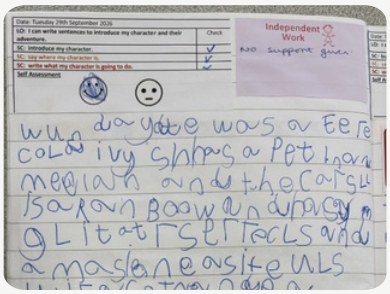
## Topic Highlight

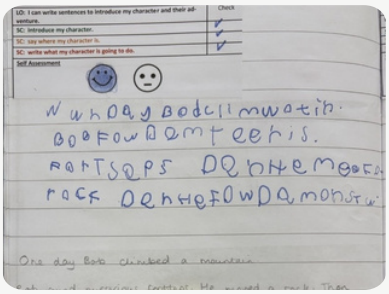
“My favourite part of Victorian Day was the teachers being really strict”
- Year 6 pupil

"I really liked that the teachers didn't explain too much and simply told us what to do. It felt just like being in a Victorian classroom."
- Year 6 pupil

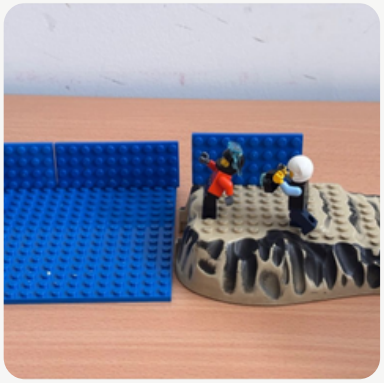
What a fab start to Year 6!

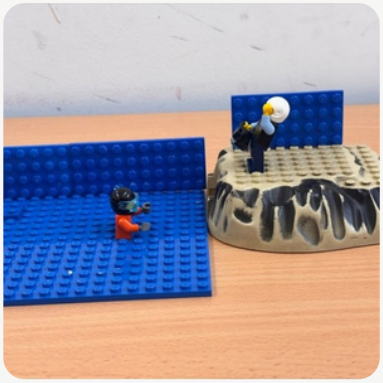
# The Orchard Centre





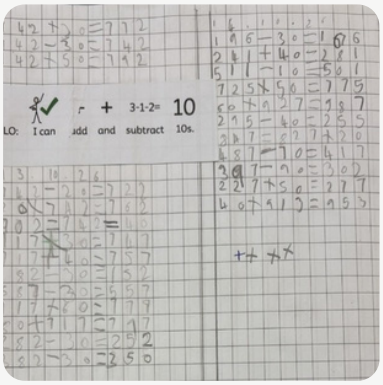
This half term, we have been using LEGO as our topic to inspire our writing. We have focused on story writing as well as looking at the past, present and future tense when writing our stories.








In maths we have been working on our place value.



# Sports

**Hermitage Schools Sport Update - Autumn Term 1**

It has been a fantastic start to the sporting year at The Hermitage Schools, with children across both the Infant and Junior Schools embracing a wide range of opportunities to be active, compete and develop new skills. From leadership training and football fixtures to cross-country and dodgeball tournaments, there has been plenty to celebrate already this term.

### 🏃 Cross Country

Many children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in our Cross Country trials, with a record-breaking 57 Year 3 pupils stepping up to take part. Children demonstrated tremendous resilience and determination as they completed laps of the field and challenged themselves to keep going. Congratulations to everyone who took part. The fastest runners in each year group have been selected for our Cross Country Squad, and a new Cross Country Club after half term will help them build stamina and prepare for competitions in the spring.




### 🤾 Dodgeball Success

Eight pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented the school at a Dodgeball Tournament held at Woking Leisure Centre at the start of term. The team performed brilliantly, finishing in 3rd place overall. What impressed staff most, however, was their excellent sportsmanship. Our pupils not only supported their own teammates but also cheered on competitors from other schools, demonstrating the values we are so proud of at The Hermitage Schools.





### ⚽ Football Season Underway

Our football teams have already enjoyed a busy start to the season.

The Year 6 boys' team opened their campaign with an exciting 2-2 draw against Pirbright, showing strong teamwork and determination throughout.

The Year 5 boys' team secured their first victory of the season, scoring an impressive five goals in a confident team performance.

A huge thank you goes to our parent volunteers who continue to support the teams through coaching, refereeing and transporting pupils to fixtures. Your support makes these opportunities possible.

### ⚽ Pokémon Football Tournament

Both our Year 6 boys' team and our Year 5/6 girls' team recently competed in the Pokémon Football Tournament at Woking Leisure Centre alongside schools from across the Woking area. The teams represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent teamwork, determination and respect throughout the competition. Regardless of results, it was wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying competitive football and testing themselves against strong opposition.



# Sports

**Hermitage Schools Sport Update - Autumn Term 1**

### 🌟 Year 2 Sports Leaders

Our Year 2 Sports Leaders have completed leadership training with Active Surrey and have already begun putting their newly learned skills into practice. They have learned a variety of team games and leadership techniques and have been confidently leading warm-ups within PE lessons. After half term, they will begin running games and activities at lunchtimes, helping younger pupils to be active, engaged and involved.











### 🏅 Year 6 Sports Crew

Twenty-four Year 6 pupils attended Sports Crew training at the Guildford Spectrum this half term. These pupils now have the important responsibility of helping to increase physical activity across both the Infant and Junior Schools. They will lead games during break and lunchtimes, encourage participation from all children and help ensure equipment is available and used safely. We look forward to seeing them make a positive impact throughout the year.

### 👀 Looking Ahead

The sporting calendar is already filling up for the second half of the autumn term, with opportunities including:
Gymnastics
Basketball
Sports Hall Athletics
Cross Country Club
Further football and netball competitions
Additional leadership opportunities for Sports Leaders and Sports Crew



### 🏐 Netball

Our netball club has been extremely popular this term, with pupils developing their passing, footwork and shooting skills each week. It has been wonderful to see players grow in confidence and begin to apply tactics and teamwork during match situations. We look forward to building on these skills and providing opportunities for pupils to represent the school in fixtures and festivals later in the year. On Friday 3rd October a few of the school netball team took part in a series of matches at St Dunstans School. The girls demonstrated what they have been working on in netball club and we managed to win 3, draw 2 and lose one match. A very successful afternoon to the start of the netball school year.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship shown by our pupils so far this year and look forward to another exciting half term of sport at The Hermitage Schools! 🏆🏃⚽🤸🏀🏐

# Attendance

***Attendance, Registration & Punctuality***

*Arriving at school on time is essential. Being late disrupts learning for both the child and the class. Please ensure your child arrives promptly each day.*

***Hermitage Infant School***

- *Gates open **8:30am** and close **8:45am**.*
- *Classroom doors open **8:40am; registration is at 8:45am.***
- *Arrival after **8:45am = Late (L code).***
- *Arrival after **9:00am = Unauthorised Late (U code).***
- *Persistent lateness may be referred to the Surrey Attendance Service.*
- *School finishes at **3:10pm.***

***Hermitage Junior School***

- *School opens **8:30am; registration is at 8:40am.***
- *Arrival after **8:40am = late (L Code).***
- *Arrival after **8:55am = Unauthorised Late (U code).***
- *Persistent lateness may be referred to the Surrey Attendance Service.*
- *School finishes at **3:20pm.***

***Attendance & Leave of Absence***

- *Term dates are published a year in advance—please book holidays outside term time.*
- *Leave of absence during term time is **not normally authorised**. Exceptional circumstances may be considered.*
- *Unauthorised leave may result in a **penalty notice** issued by Surrey County Council.*

***Penalty notices may be issued where:***

- *A child has **10 sessions (5 days)** of unauthorised absence in 10 school weeks.*
- *Absence patterns do not improve after support.*
- *A child is in a public place during the first 5 days of a suspension without valid reason.*

*Thank you for your continued support in ensuring excellent attendance and punctuality. Working together helps give every child the best possible start to their day and their learning.*

