

The Autumn Issue 1

2025

# The Hermitage Schools Newsletter



## A Message from Mrs Spires

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of the autumn term, I'm delighted to share what a fantastic start it has been across both our infant and junior schools. The children have returned with such enthusiasm and curiosity, diving into their learning with energy and joy. It's been wonderful to see new routines firmly established and our school value of positivity shining through in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds alike.

Our Eco Warriors have been busy leading the way in sustainability, conducting traffic surveys and evaluating road calming measures to help make our school environment safer and greener. Their commitment and leadership are inspiring their peers to think more deeply about the world around them. As the year progresses they will be encouraging more Greener routes to and from school.

Meanwhile, our School Council has been gathering pupil voice to help choose the charities we'll support this year. We're proud to be focusing on Children in Need, Medical Aid, and LinkAble, reflecting the compassion and care our children show for others.

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have also played a key role this term, helping to shape activities for Anti-Bullying Week, which will take place after half term.

Earlier this term, they supported our Feeling Good Week, encouraging everyone to explore and support their emotions using the Wellbeing Wheel –a powerful tool for self-awareness and resilience.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting and purposeful second half of the term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Spires

Executive Headteacher

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

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# EYFS

## Nursery and Reception

In Nursery, our youngest learners have been exploring the theme “Shall I Tell You About Me?”, while Reception children have been thinking about “What Makes Me Marvellous?”. These topics have given the children a wonderful opportunity to learn about themselves and their emotions in creative and engaging ways.

A favourite activity has been creating self-portraits, where the children expressed their individuality through bright and colourful artwork. To deepen their understanding of feelings, both Nursery and Reception enjoyed the much-loved story “The Colour Monster”, which introduces different emotions and helps children recognise and talk about how they feel.

*“It’s been a joyful journey of self-discovery, and we’re excited to see where their curiosity leads next!”*

## The Colour Monster

Reception children also made their own mirrors to practise showing different facial expressions. At home, they worked on a ‘Chatter Box’ project, which encouraged them to share their interests and likes with friends and teachers at school.

As part of this learning journey, we also explored family life. The children talked about who lives in their homes and the special relationships they share with family members.

This topic has been a fantastic way for children to celebrate what makes them unique while appreciating the differences in others. It’s been a joyful journey of self-discovery, and we’re excited to see where their curiosity leads next!





# 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.

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 stories.

As geographers we have found out where we live in the world and how the world is divided into continents and countries. 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 artists we have studied line and how it helps us to create art, with textures and using different medium to taking it outside to make wild art!



**Our topic of “Marvellous Me!” has given us the opportunity to identify how we are all unique, in ourselves and our families.**



# Year 2

Wow! What a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had. The children have settled well into their new classes and have shown the school values. Our topic this term is Castles and the children have explored the Bayeux Tapestry and how William the Conqueror became King of England. The children have also been exploring the book 'Rapunzel' by Bethan Woollvin. This book takes a traditional tale and adds a twist! The children have enjoyed making predictions about what will happen next. In Science the children have been looking at life cycles and how to stay healthy.

*"Wow! What a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had. The children have settled well into their new classes and have shown the school values"*

## A Trip to Windsor Castle

The most exciting part of the half term had to be our trip to Windsor Castle where the children explored the grounds, state apartments and St George's Chapel.





## Year 3

As we approach the end of our first half term in Year 3, it has been a pleasure to witness how smoothly the children have transitioned into life at the Junior School.

They have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity, and we are so proud of the start they have made.

This half term in English, the children have really dived into our cross-curricular learning, with all of their writing closely linked to our History and Science topics.

They've written their own Stone Age stories, researched and created explanation texts about different types of stones, and explored biographies—focusing on Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter. The children have really enjoyed making these connections across subjects, and it's been lovely to see how engaged they have been.

In Science, the children explored the formation of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks using sweets, tested the permeability of different rock types, and created model fossils using plasticine and PVA glue.

We've also examined soils from three different areas, exploring their textures and how well they hold their shape. The children have really enjoyed getting stuck in and applying their knowledge through these practical activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.



**"They have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity, and we are so proud of the start they have made"**





# Year 4

*We have been making felt phone cases in DT - look at the fantastic creations below.*



In Science, Year 4 have been exploring the topic of 'Solids, Liquids, and Gases.' The children took part in an exciting experiment using thermometers, where we placed water at different temperatures, including ice. We made predictions about what the temperature would be and then measured the actual temperature using the thermometers. It was fantastic to see the children discussing their results and comparing them to their predictions.

We are so impressed with the enthusiasm and curiosity displayed and it's clear that we have some budding scientists in Year 4!



# Year 5

What a fantastic start to the year it's been for Year 5!

From exploring Space to leading a fantastic Harvest Assembly, our children have had a busy start to the year.

We kicked off our Space topic with an unforgettable visit to the planetarium, where the children were mesmerised by the immersive star dome, in which they learned about planets, and the wonders of our solar system. Back at school they were excited to create their own model solar systems.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed walking to St John's church and exploring the features of the church.

It has been great to see the children enthralled in learning about the continent Europe. They all chose a country from Europe they were interested in to research.

The children have also loved leading the school's Harvest Assembly sharing poems and reflections on gratitude and their delightful singing made for a fantastic assembly.

Finally, the children have enjoyed learning how to peel and chop when making vegetable soup.

What a busy half term for Year 5!



**"It has been great to see the children enthralled in learning about the continent Europe"**







# Year 6

*Year 6 had a wonderful day visiting Winston Churchill School on their Year 6 Taster Day. Whilst it was a very different Friday than we were used to, we had a lot of fun taking part in so many exciting lessons and getting to grips with what it is like to be a secondary school pupil.*

*As always, our Year 6 pupils were beautifully behaved and were excellent ambassadors for the Hermitage School.*

Year 6 students took a remarkable step back in time during their Victorian Day, immersing themselves in the daily routines and strict discipline of a 19th-century classroom. Dressed in traditional attire, they experienced first hand what school life was like for Victorian children—complete with chalkboards, rote learning, and stern teachers. It was a memorable and eye-opening journey that brought history to life in the most engaging way.

*"We had a lot of fun taking part in so many exciting lessons and getting to grips with what it is like to be a secondary school pupil"*





# The Orchard

*"We're especially proud of the effort they've put into their Writing and Maths – fantastic work all round"*



*The children have settled back into The Centre brilliantly this half term.*

*They've been busy with a variety of fun and engaging learning activities and have shown great focus and enthusiasm.*

*We're especially proud of the effort they've put into their Writing and Maths – fantastic work all round!*

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# Sports

On Sunday 12th November, Miss Foster and three of our Year 6 pupils took part in the Woking Rotary Swimathon to raise money for local charities.

They managed to complete an impressive 120 lengths in 55 minutes as a team! We would appreciate any further sponsorship to help raise more funds for charity!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/b-foster-2?newPage=true>



“They managed to complete an impressive 120 lengths in 55 minutes as a team”

## Year 6 Girls football team

Congratulations to our Year 6 girls' football team on their impressive 4-0 away victory against St Paul's Catholic School in the Surrey County Cup. The team delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing excellent footballing ability and our school values throughout the match. Their win secures a well deserved place in the next round of the competition. Well done, girls!





# Sports

*Four of our Year 5 pupils had the incredible opportunity to attend this year's BMW PGA Championship. The day was packed with excitement, featuring a behind-the-scenes tour, hands-on golf activities, and an inspiring writing workshop*



## Year 5 Boys Football

*The boys played really well but unfortunately came up short in their county cup. Un lucky boys.*

## Year 4 Boys football team

*The boys did amazingly well in their first ever tournament. After loosing the first match to a very dubious decision, the boys got some very good results, including a huge win in the last game scoring 6 goals!*



# Clubs

*A reminder if you are unable to attend a club please contact the office before 3pm on the day of the club*



*This half term has been packed with fun and creativity as the children explored a variety of clubs—from imaginative Lego constructions to hands-on gardening adventures*

**Infants** We hope your children have had a wonderful time participating in the teacher-led clubs this half term. All clubs will continue through to the end of the Autumn term, with the exception of Gardening Club. We anticipate Gardening Club will resume in the Spring term, once the evenings are lighter and the weather more suitable.

**Juniors** We hope your children have enjoyed being part of the teacher-led clubs this half term. These clubs will carry on until the end of the Autumn term, except for Netball Club, which will not be running during this period.





# In other news...

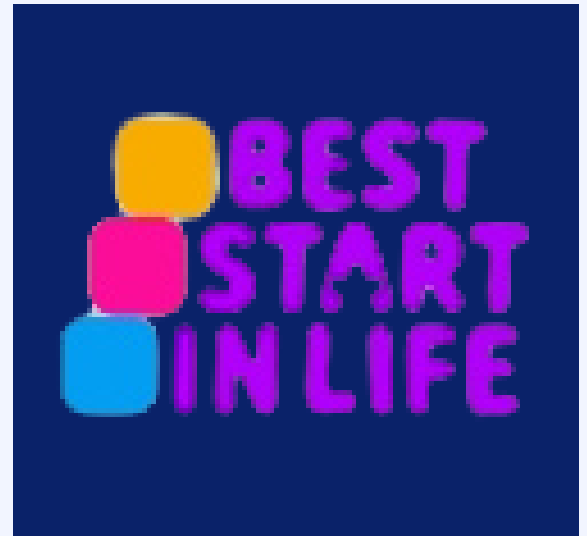
## **'Best Start in Life' website with parents**

On 1 September, the Department for Education (DfE) launched the 'Best Start in Life' website.

The Best Start in Life website has replaced the 'Childcare Choices' website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support – offering a broader range of resources for families, including eligibility for childcare offers, and support on pregnancy through to starting school and beyond.

Although the website has changed, the offers for parents – such as support for working parents and the two-year-old childcare offer – are not affected. Visitors to the current Childcare Choices website will be automatically redirected.

For local information about antenatal classes, stay and plays, Family Centre sites and their programmes and other services based in Surrey parents and practitioners can visit the Surrey Best Start in Life website.



## **Odd Socks Day (Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November) and Anti bullying Week (10th November – 14th November)**

Every November schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. The learning through this special week will focus on what a good friend is and does. This will emphasise the positive relationships and values we promote at our schools as the theme is 'Power for Good'.

Odd Socks Day will take place on the Monday of Anti-Bullying Week, 10th November, to help raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. All the children need to do is wear odd socks to school that day! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week.

Please follow the link to our Children's Anti Bullying Policy on our website – [Childrens-Anti-Bullying-Policy.pdf](#).

Please click on the link to find out further information on how you can support your children – [Parents and Carers](#)



## Harvest Donations

A big thank you to everyone who bought in donations for Harvest. The food bank collected everything on Wednesday and were delighted with the amount and the variety which will be distributed to families in Woking. We collected a massive 130 kgs of items. Thank you for all your support.  
Mrs Kimani



Please be aware that no snacks need to be provided for any staff lead or external club which is held after school.

## In other news

### KS1 PE Days:

Please note that the PE days for children in KS1 are changing after half term. Your child's new days are listed below.

#### Year 1:

Bumblebee: Monday and Thursday  
Dragonfly: Monday and Thursday

#### Year 2:

Owl: Wednesday and Friday  
Rabbit: Wednesday and Friday  
Fox: Wednesday and Thursday



### School Council

Our Infants and Juniors School Council's met last week to finalise the voting for this year's three charities the schools will be supporting and raising awareness for.

Autumn Term - Children in Need

Spring Term - Medical Aid

Summer Term - LinkAble

Children in Need takes place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. On this day children may come into school wearing something yellow and or Pudsey Bear related.

The School Councils will be conducting further voting within their classes for activities, to be carried out during the day, to support this year's Children in Need theme "Challenge Yourself to 25."

Information on how to donate will follow after half term.

Thank you

Mrs Pope and The Junior and Infant School Councils

## Important Dates or Whole school Events

All children return to school: 5<sup>th</sup> November  
Odd Socks Day: 10<sup>th</sup> November  
Flu Vaccinations: 14<sup>th</sup> November  
Whole School Pantomime: 26<sup>th</sup> November  
End of term - 13.30 finish time: 19<sup>th</sup> December





# HSA News

The new HSA email address is:  
[hello@hermitageschoolsassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:hello@hermitageschoolsassociation@hotmail.com)



Hermitage Schools  
Christmas Fair

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025

12pm - 3pm

## **Urgent Plea!**

### **Christmas Fair Stalls**

Our annual Christmas Fair relies on a team effort! Staff, Governors and the HSA Team are on board, but we need our amazing parents to help run the class stalls. Your support is the secret to a truly magical fair. Please speak to your class rep to find out where your help is needed.



## **Non-uniform Day Donations**

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Infants:**

EYFS: Toys and Teddies for the tombola's

Year 1: Tombola prizes

Year 2: Alcohol for the the bottle tombola

#### **Juniors**

£1 donation towards the cost of the Christmas Fair  
and

A Jolly Jar decorated in a Christmas theme, filled with sweets and/or small toys - see instructions on your class WhatsApp group

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **Infants:**

£1 donation towards the cost of the Christmas Fair  
and

A Jolly Jar decorated in a Christmas theme, filled with sweets and/or small toys - see instructions on your class WhatsApp group

#### **Juniors**

Year 3: Small toys for prizes

Year 4: Tombola prizes

Year 5: Cakes and biscuits for refreshments

Year 6: Cans of drinks for the refreshments stall

Please use the  
QR Code to visit the PTA  
website



## **Upcoming Sale Dates**

### **Santa's Grotto:**

**Sales open Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8pm**

### **Christmas Raffle:**

**Sales open Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8pm**