

— The Summer Issue 1 —

2026

The Hermitage Schools Newsletter



A Message from Mrs Spires

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

As we reach the end of a very eventful half term, I would like to reflect on the resilience shown by our whole school community.

From the many wet playtimes earlier this term to this week's sudden sunshine and warmer temperatures, the children have adapted brilliantly. Their flexibility, positivity and ability to embrace change have been wonderful to see.

Our Year 6 pupils deserve special recognition for the determination they have shown in the lead-up to their SATs. They approached the week with calmness and maturity, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

Year 5 also demonstrated fantastic resilience during their Bushcraft residential this week. They embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, working together in a range of activities. The bushcraft bracelet making proved particularly tricky, but their perseverance and teamwork shone through.

We have also been delighted with the success of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) during lunchtimes. It has been a joy to see infant and junior children mixing so well, showing creativity, cooperation and strong teamwork in their play.

Resilience is clearly embedded across our schools, and we are very proud of the way our children support one another and rise to challenges each day.

As we head into the break, I would like to wish all our families a restful and enjoyable two-week May half term. See you back at school on Monday 8th June.

With best wishes,

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

This term in EYFS has been filled with curiosity, creativity, and adventure as our youngest learners explored the themes “What makes our world wonderful?” in Nursery and “What is your favourite place to visit?” in Reception.



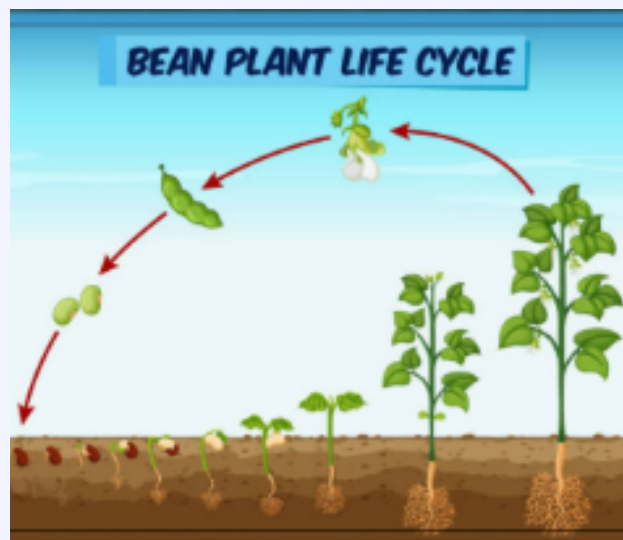
In Nursery, children developed a growing awareness of the world around them by learning about the importance of recycling and how even small actions can make a big difference. From sorting different materials to creating imaginative artwork from reused items, our little environmentalists showed great enthusiasm, responsibility, and care for their surroundings. Through hands-on activities and discussions, they began to understand how we can all help to look after our planet.

In Reception, children embarked on an exciting journey discovering the theme “What is your favourite place to visit?”

They explored both cold and warm places around the world, learning about appropriate clothing to wear in different climates. The children also investigated different types of transport and how we travel to various destinations. Their learning extended to maps, where they discovered how we use them and created their own imaginative versions, including maps of the woods to help Little Red Riding Hood find her way, pirate treasure maps, and even theme park maps..

The children showed great interest in sea creatures and learned how to care for our oceans and environment, linking their learning to David Attenborough’s 100th birthday and his important message about protecting our planet. Their creativity, curiosity, and enthusiasm have truly shone throughout the term

Year 1



In Year 1 this half term, we have been finding out about our wonderful world with a focus on plants. We have observed the growth of our own beans and seen the different stages from bean to root to shoot!

We have looked at what makes a balanced diet and have designed, made and enjoyed our own fruit smoothies!

We have brought Geography closer to home with a look at our local area. We walked to our village on our trip to St John's and have drawn maps to our homes and have identified and located our local landmarks whilst making our own 3D maps.

Year 2

This term, Year 2 have been really enjoying their topic, Explorers of the World.

The children have been excited to learn about famous explorers such as the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart, Bessie Coleman and Neil Armstrong, and have enjoyed discovering how they made history. During English lessons, the class has been reading *Bob, the Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram, which has inspired them to imagine and write their own fun space adventures.

In Science, we have been learning about how plants grow. The children planted their own seeds and have been watching them closely, recording their observations in plant diaries. In Art, we have been exploring the work of Andy Goldsworthy and creating our own mandalas using natural objects – thank you very much for all your kind donations to support this activity.

Meanwhile, Maths lessons have been very busy, with the children learning about fractions including halves, quarters and thirds, and practising how to find these in shapes and amounts. They have also been building their confidence in telling the time, focusing on o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. Overall, it has been a busy and exciting time in Year 2!



Year 3

"It has been lovely to see the children's enthusiasm and curiosity continue to grow this term, and we are looking forward to another exciting half term ahead!"

What a wonderfully busy and hands-on term it has been in Year 3! It is hard to believe we are already heading into our final term of the school year. In English, we have loved reading *Varmints* and *The Lost Happy Endings*, which have inspired some fantastic writing this term. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of the imaginative and thoughtful pieces they have produced.

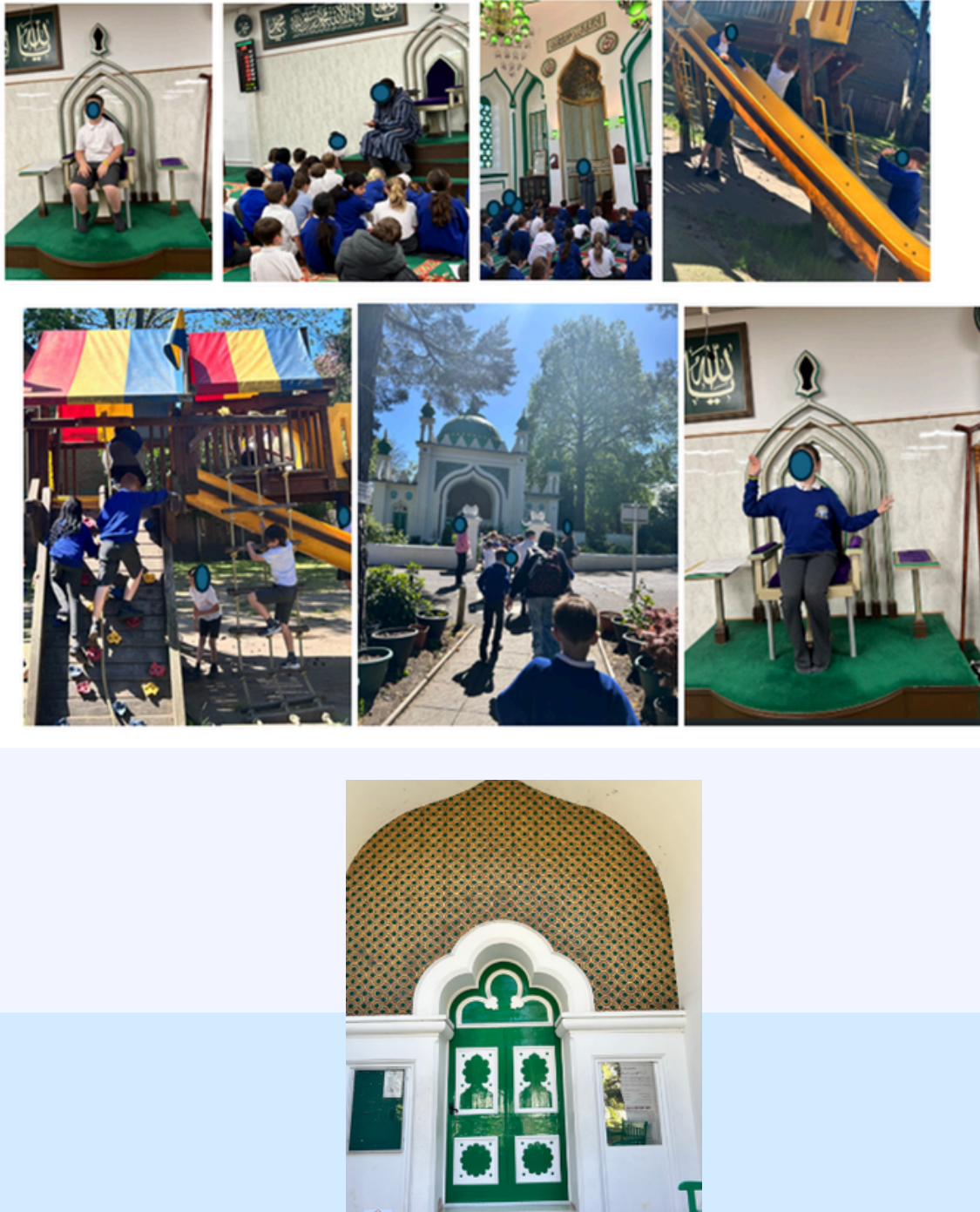
In Geography, we have been developing our map skills by using atlases to locate countries, cities, rivers, seas and mountains across the UK. The children have really enjoyed exploring the atlases and discovering more about our country.

In Science, we have been learning about flowering plants and carrying out lots of practical investigations. The children explored the different parts of plants around the school grounds and learnt how to set up a fair test. They especially enjoyed our experiments with carnations and celery, where we observed how coloured water travels through stems and roots.

More recently, we planted mung beans in clear cups with cotton wool to investigate how light affects growth. The children chose different places for their beans - from dark cupboards to sunny windowsills and have loved watching and comparing the results.



Year 4



Year 4 had a fantastic time visiting the Shah Jahan Mosque. Both the children and adults thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Five Pillars of Islam, as well as the rich history of the mosque.

We discovered that the mosque is 137 years old and was designed, built, and funded by three different individuals from different religious backgrounds. This was a powerful reminder that something truly beautiful can be created when people work together in harmony, regardless of their different beliefs.

Year 5



What an exciting and fun-filled half term it has been for Year 5. The children have thrown themselves into every challenge with curiosity, creativity, and confidence, and we couldn't be prouder of all they've achieved. The children have been enthusiastic geographers as they explored the fascinating world of rivers. They investigated how rivers are formed, why they are important, and where some of the world's major rivers can be found. Some children got to create fantastic river models. The children also produced fantastic presentations about famous scientists. From groundbreaking discoveries to life-changing inventions, Year 5 spoke with clarity, confidence, and enthusiasm. We were genuinely impressed by the way they presented their ideas so professionally to their classmates. One of the most memorable projects this half term was designing and building marble mazes. Using saws, glue guns, and plenty of imagination, the children created inventive and beautifully constructed mazes. Their teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance were wonderful to see.



Year 6



After a long week of SATs tests, Year 6 were rewarded with a Pizza Party! They spent the afternoon dancing, playing frisbee, learning skipping games and of course, eating pizza. They were delighted to be able to wear their Leavers' Hoodies for the afternoon. A special thank you to Mrs Casey and Mrs Wakefield for spending the afternoon cooking and delivering pizzas onto the playground and keeping the fun fuelled.

Congratulations Year 6 on not only completing SATs week but for all of the hard work and resilience you have shown this school year.



The Orchard



We have had a wonderfully busy half term, filled with exciting learning experiences. Some of the children enjoyed a special trip to the Polka Theatre, where we watched *The Tortoise and the Hare*. The performance highlighted the importance of teamwork and working together, which the children engaged with enthusiastically.



We also took a visit to the local post box, linking our learning to the story *Mouse by the Sea*. The children created their own postcards and posted them as if they were Mouse, bringing the story to life in a meaningful and creative way.

In addition, the children have taken part in a range of activities, including Forest School sessions, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. They are already looking forward to spending even more time outdoors as we move into the next half term.

Sports



A huge congratulations to both our girls' and Year 6 boys' football teams on their outstanding achievements. Both teams were crowned winners of their local school groups, earning a well-deserved place at the Woking Schools Finals Day, where they competed against the other group winners. Throughout the competition, both teams demonstrated excellent football, showcasing their skill, teamwork, and determination. The Year 6 boys put in a fantastic performance to secure an impressive third place finish, while the girls narrowly missed out on first place by goal difference after an afternoon of brilliant matches. Well done all!



“We had some footballing superstars representing us at the Cranleigh Football Tournament last weekend. Rosie, playing for Cranleigh, helped her team win the Trophy competition, while Hermione, Maisie and Millie, representing GPR, finished as runners-up in the Bowl competition. All the girls did an amazing job and should be very proud of their performances!”



In other news

A group of staff from The Hermitage Schools will be taking on a 30-mile walk on 13th June to raise money for the Bee-lieve Foundation.

This is a cause that means a lot to the schools. The Bee-lieve Foundation does incredible work supporting young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing across Woking and Surrey. Through partnerships with schools, families, and community organisations, they provide vital programmes, training, and early support to help young people thrive. It's going to be a big challenge, but we're proud to be doing it together and raising money for such an important charity.

If you're able to support us, any donation—big or small—would be hugely appreciated and will help make a real difference.

Thank you so much for your support

https://www.justgiving.com/team/hermitage?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=FB



A reminder that packed lunches should follow the healthy lunchbox guidance. This includes not sending chocolate bars or sweets. You can find the full guidance on our website using the link below.

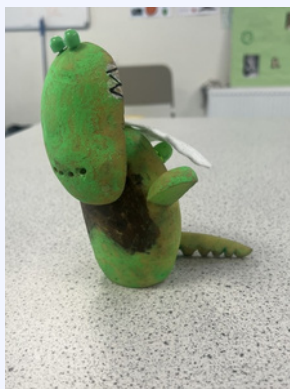
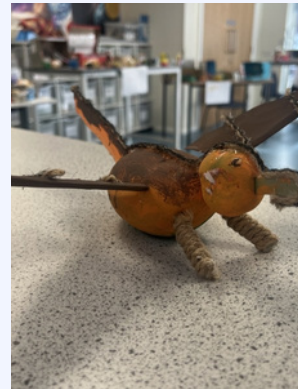
<https://www.hermitageschools.com/assets/The-Hermitage-Schools-guide-to-healthy-lunchboxes.docx>

Alongside this, if your children bring their own cutlery, please ensure it is suitable for school and kept in a container inside their lunchbox.

Congratulations to the Red Team for earning the most house points this half term! As a reward, they will enjoy a mufti day on Friday 12th of June.



In other news



We had a fantastic Book Week! The children loved every moment—especially the sponsored bounce for books event, which was a huge hit. They also enjoyed reading in lots of different places, making stories feel extra magical. The highlight of each day was definitely the surprise teacher reader. The excitement of guessing who it would be made story time even more special.

Our potato-decorating Booktato competition was incredible this year. The creativity was outstanding, and it was so difficult to choose a winner. Congratulations to our winners, and well done to all the children for their brilliant entries.

A big thank you for your generous donations! The total amount raised across the schools was over £1200!!

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.