

The Hermitage Schools Newsletter



A Message from Mrs Spires

As we reach the end of another wonderful academic year, it is a time to reflect with immense pride on all that our children have achieved. It has been a year filled with learning, laughter, perseverance, creativity and success. There have been far too many memorable moments and accomplishments to mention individually, but what has shone through above all else has been the enthusiasm, kindness and determination of our children, supported so wonderfully by our staff and families.

Our Year 2 children have enjoyed celebrating their achievements during their final days in the Infant School. We wish them every success as they move on to the Junior School and know they are ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Many are already demonstrating the confidence, independence and responsibility that will help them thrive as Year 3 pupils.

This time of year also brings a bittersweet farewell to our Year 6 children as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. They leave us as confident, capable and caring young people, and while we will miss them terribly, I feel reassured knowing they will take our school values with them wherever they go. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and hope they will come back and visit us to share news of their future successes.

We would also like to say farewell to our student teachers, who have helped our children learn and grow throughout the year while completing their studies. As they graduate this month as qualified teachers in their own right, we congratulate them on their achievements and wish them every success in their new schools. We hope they will keep in touch.

A special thank you and farewell goes to Mr Samuel, who will be greatly missed after his years of dedicated service to our school. While he is leaving to gain further experience and embrace new opportunities, we know he will continue to make a positive impact wherever he goes. We have no doubt he will keep in touch and visit whenever he can.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Together, we help our children flourish.

Enjoy the summer, stay safe, and make wonderful memories with your families. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and achievement.

With warmest wishes,
Clare 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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It has been a wonderful and exciting term in EYFS, filled with curiosity, creativity, and memorable learning experiences as Nursery and Reception children explored their summer topics.

EYFS

Nursery and Reception



In Nursery, the children investigated the question “What makes our world wonderful?” and learned about the importance of recycling and caring for the environment. They enjoyed sorting different materials, creating artwork from recycled items, and discovering how small actions can help protect our planet. The term also included a fantastic mini sports day on the playground, where the children developed their teamwork and movement skills while having lots of fun together.



Meanwhile, Reception children explored “What is your favourite place to visit?” and learned all about how animals are different. They were fascinated by the amazing variety found in the animal kingdom and eagerly shared their discoveries. A highlight of the term was a visit from a mobile farm, giving the children the opportunity to meet a range of animals up close. They loved spending time with a goat, pony, ducklings, rabbits, guinea pigs, and even a bearded dragon. This hands-on experience sparked curiosity, encouraged thoughtful questions, and created lasting memories for all.

Year 1



In year 1 this last half term we have been very busy with our Animals topic. We have investigated a range of science questions using our whole years knowledge. We complimented this topic with a wonderful trip to Queen Elizabeth Park. The children had a wonderful day, pond dipping, bug hunting and den building.

We emersed ourselves in dinosaurs, both in fact finding and then a focus on poetry. We have thought about rhyme and rhythm whilst writing acrostic poems with alliteration!

The children showed off their sporting prowess at sports day! This year showcasing a variety of activities from obstacle course to bouncy hoppers.

We embraced our new topic of Mary Anning, a historical figure that made great discoveries as a young girl. We explored non-fiction texts about Mary Anning and wrote our own factsheets.



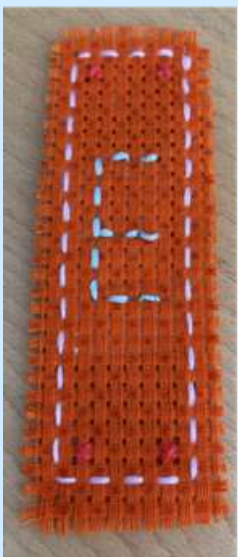
Year 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful end to the year, finishing their topic 'Explorers of the World' by learning about the world's seven continents and exploring the hot and cold regions of our planet. The children enjoyed discovering the different animals that live in these environment. Alongside their topic work, they have been working incredibly hard rehearsing for the end of year production and have thoroughly enjoyed learning all the songs. The children have also met their new teachers and have shown great confidence, resilience and maturity as they prepare for the transition into Year 3.

A particular highlight of the term has been in DT, where the children have developed their sewing skills by practising running stitches and cross stitches before creating their very own bookmarks.

We are also extremely proud of the Year 2 Choir, who have worked hard throughout the term and performed beautifully at both the Summer Fair and the Helpers' Tea Party.

It has been a fantastic term, and we are extremely proud of all they have achieved this year and wish them a happy and successful next chapter.



Year 3



What a busy and exciting final term it has been for Year 3! The children have enjoyed a wide range of learning experiences and have worked incredibly hard across all subjects.

In English, we stepped into the wonderful world of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The story inspired the children to invent their own sweets, create persuasive adverts and practise writing both formal and informal letters, thinking carefully about how language changes for different audiences.

In Science, we continued learning about the life cycle of flowering plants, focusing on seed germination. The children investigated how temperature affects plant growth by growing barley seeds in different conditions. They took great care of their plants, watering them each morning and carefully observing the changes as they grew.

Our Art lessons were inspired by A Midsummer Night's Dream. After reading a child-friendly version of the play, the children created magical enchanted forest scenes using collage, mixed media and shadow techniques. Their creativity really came to life.



A real highlight of the term was our trip to Kew Gardens. We explored the Treetop Walkway, The Hive and the Palm House while bringing our Science learning to life. Although the rain stayed with us for the whole day, it certainly didn't dampen anyone's spirits! The children became excellent tree detectives as they used their Tree Identification Sheets to identify different trees by their leaves and by the end of the trip, we all knew that Year 3 can have fun in absolutely any weather!

Year 4



Earlier this term, Year 4 had a fantastic time at the Rainforest Workshop. The children explored the different layers of the rainforest and discovered a wealth of fascinating facts about the amazing animals that live there. They showed wonderful courage and enthusiasm as they had the chance to see, and even touch, a range of incredible creatures.

The Year 4 Team would like to share how incredibly proud we are of everything the children have achieved throughout the year. They have worked hard, developed their confidence and shown such a positive attitude towards their learning.

We wish them all the very best as they move into Year 5.

Year 5



This half term, Year 5 has thoroughly enjoyed exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Greece. Our learning was brought to life during our exciting Greek Day, where the children arrived in fantastic costumes, immersing themselves in the role of ancient Greeks. They also had the opportunity to taste a variety of traditional Greek foods, with many discovering some new favourites! The excitement continued with our Mini Greek Olympic Sports Day, where the children competed in a range of sporting events inspired by the original Olympic Games. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day.

As part of our Art lessons, the children carefully designed and sculpted their own Greek vases, taking inspiration from authentic ancient pottery and the stories depicted on them. They were incredibly proud of their finished creations.

In English, the children have loved reading and exploring Greek myths before using their creativity to write their own mythical tales. Their myths were full of imaginative characters, exciting adventures and powerful gods and goddesses, showcasing the fantastic progress they have made in their writing.

It has been a wonderful half term of learning, and we are incredibly proud of all that Year 5 has achieved.



Year 6



What a busy half term it has been for our Year 6 children! From production rehearsals to Avon Tyrrell and secondary school transition days, they have been here, there and everywhere.

Despite the hot weather, the children had a wonderful time at Avon Tyrrell, fully immersing themselves in a wide range of exciting activities. Throughout the trip, they consistently demonstrated our school values and represented the school brilliantly, receiving excellent feedback from the activity leaders. The children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, taking to the water for paddleboarding and kayaking, and to the skies for the Leap of Faith and zipline. It was fantastic to see them stepping outside their comfort zones, supporting one another and celebrating each other's achievements. The staff were incredibly impressed by the children's resilience, determination and positive attitudes throughout the trip, especially in the heat.

Avon Tyrrell was a memorable experience for everyone involved, and it was a real pleasure to share it with such an amazing group of children.



The Orchard



This half term has been action packed with our class assembly, swimming and a few trips! We are proud of all the resilience of the children with all the events that have been taking place and the changes to our routine.

We particularly enjoyed our trip to the Woking Rotary Club fun day out, where we took part in face painting, side shows and a few fun fair rides.





Sports

Swimming



On Saturday 20th June the annual WASP's swimming gala, organised by Miss Foster, took place at Guildford Spectrum. It was a fantastic evening of swimming and all the children that took part should be proud of themselves for how they represented the school! For some of the children it was their first experience at the gala. 8 schools participated and this year we finished in 4th place, shy of a few points from coming 3rd. Considering the schools that placed top 3 all have their own swimming pools – we were very pleased with the result. We also won several medals at the event. Well done again to all the children.

Thank you to all the parents and families that came to support. A massive shout out to the Hermitage staff, parents, past pupils and governors who helped to run the event and ensure it was the smoothest one yet!

On Monday 6th July, a few of the Netball club children attended a match at St John's Primary School. It was a very hot afternoon, but the team won 4-3 and played some great netball. Thank you to St John's for hosting. It was also another chance to showcase our new netball kit! We are looking forward to some more matches next year.



Netball

On Sunday 28th June, 10 of the children from Netball club took part in a charity netball tournament for the Bee-lieve foundation. We hadn't had much match experience this year, but all the children played brilliantly and showed fantastic resilience. Thank you to all the parents who gave their Sunday up to watch. Kate and Hils Cardinals Netball is fundraising for Bee-lieve Foundation

In other news

School Calendars

From September, The Hermitage Schools will be using a single shared calendar on our website for all school events. All key dates and events will be recorded in one place to make it easier for families to stay informed.

If there are any changes to these dates, we will notify you through the Friday Post.

You can access the calendar using the link below.

The Hermitage Schools Calendar - The Hermitage School - Inspire, Learn, Achieve

Free School Meals Reform: More Support for Working Families

The Government has announced a major expansion of Free School Meals in England. From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible

Please complete the form via the link below:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Rnex6FOVsU>



Arbor Communication App

A quick reminder that we are moving from ParentMail to Arbor as our new school communication system.

The Arbor app has now launched giving you time to log in, explore the app, and get familiar with its features before it becomes our main communication platform in September. From September, all school communications will be sent through Arbor, and ParentMail will no longer be used.

The Arbor app will allow you to:

Receive school communications

Update your contact details

Report your child's absence

View attendance information

Further features, including payments, reports, and parents' evening bookings, will be introduced later and we will keep you updated.

Thank you for your support as we make this transition.



In other news

Uniform Reminder for September 2026

As we prepare for the new academic year, we would like to remind all families that from September 2026, all children must wear the new logo school uniform.

Please note that uniform items featuring the old logo will no longer be permitted and should not be worn to school from the start of the Autumn Term 2026.

We kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that any new uniform purchased for September displays the current school logo.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in maintaining a consistent school uniform for all pupils.

Medication Kept in School

Please note that all medication held in school must:

- Be prescribed by a healthcare professional.
- Be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Have a completed Administration of Medication in School Form for the new academic year.
- If your child requires an EpiPen or inhaler, please ensure that it is in school on the first day of term, together with an updated Administration of Medication in School Form.
- Please be aware that, for your child's safety, they will not be able to attend school without the required medication and completed paperwork in place.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Stevens at extendedservices@hermitage.surrey.sch.uk.



After-School Clubs at The Hermitage School

We hope that all children have enjoyed the clubs they have attended this year and have benefited from the wide range of opportunities available at The Hermitage School. Information about clubs for the new academic year will be sent out at the beginning of September. For Autumn term, clubs will begin on Monday 14th September and finish on Friday 11th December. We look forward to seeing many children take part in another exciting range of activities.

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.