



**HOLME GRANGE SCHOOL**

GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 3-13 YEARS

# at holme

Our school and highlights of 2009/2010



**Little Grange**  
Pets Corner  
Mini dentists  
Firemen's visit

**Pre-Prep**  
"It's a Baby!"  
Our own Forest School  
Portsmouth outing

**Preparatory**  
Inter-house competitions  
Awards 2009/2010  
School's Council



WORK HARD • PLAY FAIR

## Welcome to Holme Grange – the perfect choice for an all-round education

We are a happy and successful school and are proud of our traditional values. We firmly believe that honesty, integrity, kindness and courtesy develops self-reliance, self-discipline and self-confidence in our pupils. We encourage self-expression and practical, creative and performance skills as well as leadership.

Set in more than 20 acres of beautiful Wokingham countryside, Holme Grange is an independent preparatory day school for girls and boys aged 3-13 years.

We want every child to thrive within a culture of pastoral care, challenge and encouragement to succeed and we deliver a balanced education by providing opportunities in sports, the arts, languages, technology and a wide choice of clubs and activities.

At Holme Grange our children gain characteristics and interests that give them a head start for life, so do come and visit us to meet the children and their teachers, you'll find us very welcoming.



Claire Robinson – Headteacher



### School fete

This year's fete had a World Cup theme and much fun was had by all with lots to eat and drink – strawberries and cream, a BBQ, cakes and a very busy PIMMS tent! Year 6 danced in the Show Ring and

music was by the school's Swing Band. We made over £5,500 which will be used for pupils' facilities, e.g. a Storyteller's Chair – an outdoor performing arts facility to be installed on the Show Lawn.

# Little Grange Nursery – an individual learning journey

Little Grange Nursery is located in a bright and spacious building within the school grounds. It is a stimulating environment aiming to develop every child's interpersonal skills to gain independence and confidence at a pace to suit each individual.

The learning experience follows the "Early Years Foundation Stage 1" which is designed to inspire every child both inside and outside the classroom within 6 learning areas:

- 1 Personal, social and emotional development
- 2 Communication, language and literacy
- 3 Problem solving, reasoning and literacy
- 4 Knowledge and understanding of the world
- 5 Creative development
- 6 Physical development

Each child is allocated a key worker and observations are recorded to create an individual learning journey which is shared with parents at regular intervals. Children receive specialist teaching in ICT, music, gymnastics and dance and have full access to the main school's facilities. A variety of options, including morning, afternoon, all day, extended and holiday care are available. Little Grange children enjoy lunch in the dining room of the main school with the Pre-Prep Reception classes.



## A visit from the dentist

Reception and Nursery had a visit from a local dentist and learnt all about teeth! This term the Nursery and Reception classes at Holme Grange School have been learning all about "staying healthy". Staff from Bean Oak Dental Care, Wokingham showed the children all about the importance of clean teeth and healthy gums. The dentist showed the children how to brush using some model teeth, after which they had a chance to become mini dentists, complete with mask and gloves. All the boys and girls received a goody bag complete with a new toothbrush and toothpaste to take home.



## Sports Day

Little Grange children love to take part in the Pre-Prep Sports Day. Running and obstacle races are a fun introduction to sport and many parents attended to cheer on the children. Afterwards there was a picnic lunch for all on the Show Lawn.



## Would you like to stay for tea?

Our after school care is available each day until 5.50pm. Tea is provided and the children can choose to take part in organised activities or simply play with friends!

“She has made lots of friends and loves the animals.”

Nursery parent

## Pets corner

Keeping pets is an excellent way for children to learn about responsibility, as well as helping them to develop a kind, caring attitude towards both animals and people.

Our pets are a constant source of delight. We have two hamsters, a guinea pig and a rabbit. The children enjoy learning to care for their every day needs and become aware of how to handle and feed them. The rabbit loves to be taken for walks and to join in activities with the children.



## The great outdoors

The outdoor environment provides a wealth of opportunities for fun and learning, and with 22 acres of grounds to explore, a nature walk is always a popular activity. Two enclosed play areas are directly accessible from the nursery building. The children enjoy playing on the bikes and ride on toys in the front area and the climbing frame in the back garden, whatever the weather!



### Cooking

The children at Little Grange put on aprons and take turns at cooking each week. Working in small groups with a teacher, the children have learnt to mix, roll and stir up some delicious treats. To date they have made oat biscuits, jelly, ginger bread, muffins and a special feast to celebrate Chinese New Year.



### Part of the community

The children learnt all about the different people who help us. Little Grange and Reception enjoyed a visit by firemen and their engine as well as a policeman.

# Holme Grange Pre-Prep – a happy and structured environment

Children enter full-time education when they join the Pre-Prep in purpose built Reception classes with an outdoor classroom. This provides an environment where children can learn in a range of situations and apply their learning in different ways.

Each year group (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) has two classes each managed by a qualified teacher and a teaching assistant with a strong emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic. This is supported by a broad range of activities and subjects within the curriculum which help build skills to support future learning within the school.

Every pupil's progress through the Pre-Prep is monitored and reviewed on a half-termly basis and target setting is used to plan their progress with great effect.

An extended day facility is available until 5.50pm, Reception and Year 1 join the nursery for tea and play – while Year 2 are able to take part in a wide range of after school clubs.



## A successful performance

There wasn't a dry eye in the house as Little Grange and the Pre-Prep joined together to perform the annual nativity play, "It's a Baby!" The children put on a fabulous production of the re-telling of the Christmas story as they sang and danced beautifully with energy and enthusiasm. Nursery shimmered as snowflakes, while Reception twinkled as stars. Year 1 provided a fabulous chorus and as the lead roles Year 2 gave some stunning and confident performances.



## Grandparents Day

In recognition of the importance of family, we held a "Grandparents Day" in March. Over 130 grandparents joined us to see the school in action and visit the classrooms. All followed by a roast lunch in the school dining room with their grandchildren. Highlights of the day included a performance by the choir and solo musicians.

## Junior Swimming Gala

Trent House continued their winning streak at the Junior Gala. The children took part in individual and team races, which all went toward the final score. Well done to Paige from Y2 who set a new school record in the breast stroke.



## Need a lift?

We have two school minibuses that run morning and evening to provide our pupils with transport to and from school.

“The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hand of man.”

## Forest School at Holme Grange

We started our own Forest School this year, the first in our area. Forest School is a unique educational experience using the outdoor environment of the forest as a classroom. The philosophy of a Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. Children play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self motivated.



## Outings

Throughout the school year we take the children on outings which help bring learning to life; they are able to feel and see what life was like in the past. It is also an opportunity to ask questions of an expert in that field. As well as historical sites we have visited the National Gallery – the children love to see real paintings and experience the grandeur of these buildings. Before the trip, the children are excited at the prospect of a special day out with their peers and on their return the children complete project work.

“You don’t get the chance to wear armour at school.”

Samuel, Y2



“When we went to Portsmouth we could see how big HMS Victory was.”

Alex, Y2



## Pastoral care

We place strong emphasis on the pastoral aspect of a child’s development and our school operates within a warm and caring environment where children are encouraged to live their lives as good citizens, valuing each other and themselves. Older children are encouraged to look out for younger ones during the day.

# Prep – Years 3 – 8

The school day starts with a traditional assembly. In the main school Years 3 and 4 are taught science, French, ICT, design, music and sport by specialist teachers. From Year 5 every subject is taught as a specialism with mathematics and english taught in sets.

There are regular educational trips which enhance the curriculum, day trips for all and residential trips from Year 5. Girls and boys are prepared for Common Entrance at 11+ and 13+ and many children achieve scholarships and awards to top rate secondary schools. There is a full inter-school sports calendar, including rugby, football, cricket, hockey, netball, rounders, swimming, athletics together with inter-house competitions throughout the year.

First class facilities include a fully equipped science laboratory, ICT suite with roaming laptops and an arts studio. After school, pupils can attend an extensive range of activities and clubs such as mountain biking, sports, chess and dance – or they may stay for supervised prep until 6pm.

## Performing arts

Performing arts is timetabled into our curriculum; we have seen the joy and confidence that children gain from working as a group to put on a performance. Choral speaking and poetry competitions, music festivals and house music are some of the events that the pupils have taken part in this year.



The senior school performed “Alice, the musical” to packed audiences over two nights, a stunning set and colourful costumes made the whole event something for each child to remember. Years 3 and 4 perform their own production in the spring term.



## In the holidays

The extension of our holiday camps this year has ensured we can offer year round care for our pupils and their friends throughout the school holidays. The many activities on offer include team games, swimming, cooking and arts and crafts.



### School's Council

Children from Reception to Year 8 elect a representative to sit on the School's Council. This pupil-led committee meet every fortnight to discuss ways to improve their school.



### Medal haul for musicians

Prep school pupils showed off their musical talents at the Maidenhead Festival of Music in November. In total, 18 pupils scooped four individual gold medals, six silver and four bronze for singing and a further two silver and two bronze for piano playing. The ensemble group also won gold.



## Holme Grange awards 2009/2010

Our commitment to personalised learning provides our pupils with an invaluable advantage as they move on to senior school at 13.

Applications are invited from parents who would like to apply for an award for their child moving into Years 7 and 8. In addition to the scholarships for our current pupils, two awards are available for external candidates joining us for Years 7 and 8.

### 1st Class Scholarships:

Rubie Mai Barnby  
(sport and academic)  
William Gubby  
(music and academic)

### Academic Scholarship:

Daniaal Chaudhry

### Headteacher's Exhibition:

Yasmine Easton  
Evelyn Macken  
Rebecca Hadleigh  
(sporting achievement)

## A community of learners

Over the last academic year, pupils have taken part in a varied programme of events including Study Skills and Mind Mapping workshops. These activities have helped them to identify their own learning styles and also empower them to become self directed learners. Ensuring knowledge is shared in a way that understands and responds to individual pupils needs is of key importance. Our school strives to ensure everyone, irrespective of ability, reaches their full learning potential.



## Sporting success

As a school we encourage healthy competition and reward successes which our pupils have worked hard to achieve. Well done to our swimmers, Josh and Olivia who reached the finals at the IAPS swimming competition, competing against over 150 prep schools nationwide. Our U11 girl's hockey team reached the regional finals of the Southern Counties Hockey Tournament. Other individual successes include selections for county and district rugby, football, cricket and hockey.

## House System

From Reception age children are placed in one of four houses – Kennet, Severn, Thames or Trent. House points are awarded for good behaviour, hard work and excellent manners, and at the end of each term a cup is awarded to the house with the most points. There are also inter-house competitions for sports and music.



### HOUSE RESULTS 2009/2010

TRENT	KENNET	THAMES	SEVERN
Senior House Netball	Junior House Netball	Senior House Rugby	Junior House Rugby
Senior House Hockey	Junior House Hockey		
Junior House Rugby			
Senior House Rugby			
Senior Swimming			
Junior Swimming			
House Music			
Senior Sports Day			



### The school assembly

The school day starts with a traditional assembly. On four days a week there are separate assemblies for Pre-Prep and Prep, on Fridays the whole school joins together so that each form can take its turn to lead. We also use this time to celebrate individual and collective successes and parents are encouraged to join us.



### After school...

After school clubs have always been popular, however, this year we tried some new activities such as street dance, mountain biking, podcasting and Junior Master Chef.

# Preparing for senior school – life after Holme Grange

We work alongside parents to help them decide about the next stage of their child's education.

Holme Grange has a strong commitment to Years 7 and 8, underpinned by our belief that during these two years pupils develop into adolescence in a familiar and nurturing environment. This results in confident individuals who are ready to take on life's challenges.

At this stage in the pupils education the work ethic is truly developed as they move towards the Common Entrance exams at 13. An ability to work independently and master study skills ensures that pupils are well prepared for the opportunities at senior school. Many are pleased to find they are academically ahead of peers at their next school.

Year 7 and 8 pupils embrace the responsibilities and leadership skills that come with being at the top of the school, and can earn positions such as Head Boy or Girl, Head Boy or Girl of Sport and Prefects. Privileges, such as a common room, further develop a sense of self worth and moral responsibility.



## Kids Can Cook!

Pupils take part in cooking sessions at school, learning an essential life skill and bringing a practical element to geography, maths and science. During these sessions the children make and sample dishes such as tortillas, fresh pasta and smoothies. The lessons also develop team building skills, facing food fears, likes/dislikes and the impact of the food we eat on the world around us.



## An important decision for your child

Would your child benefit from another two years of focused tuition before senior school? We can help your child develop academically and grow in confidence before secondary school. Whatever your choice of school at Year 9 you can be assured that your child will benefit from the excellent pupil/staff ratio and pastoral care delivered by Holme Grange.



## Hot off the press – Adventure Service Challenge!

In September 2010 – Years 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to complete the ASC programme. This two year course is endorsed by the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and children who successfully complete all the components gain an award at the end of Year 8. This is a great bonus for pupils as they prepare to move on to secondary education at 13+, confident in a range of both leadership and practical skills.

## What is unique about Holme Grange?

At Holme Grange we have a proven history of teaching Years 7 and 8 with excellent results. Year on year our pupils have successfully secured places at top flight secondary schools often gaining Scholarships and Awards.

A high pupil/staff ratio ensures we are able to offer personalised learning and each individual is able to reach their full potential. Pupils are challenged at appropriate levels, in preparation for the GCSE syllabus and leave Year 8 confident about the demands this will bring.

Essential skills for life such as creativity, critical thinking, leadership and the ability to be self directed learners are further developed over these two years.



## After Holme Grange – where do our children go?

Our pupils move on to a variety of secondary schools and are often successful in gaining scholarship places.

### Destination schools

#### 2009/2010 include:

Bearwood College, The Abbey, The Reading School, Reading Blue Coat, Luckley Oakfield, Emmbrook Senior School, The Holt, Ranelagh, St George's Ascot, Leighton Park, Bradfield College, Forest, St Joseph's Convent, Pangbourne College

### Scholarships awarded:

Academic: Bethany Pritchard, Laura Jewitt – The Abbey, Mollie Robinson – St George's Ascot  
Music: Katie Chatfield – Lord Wandsworth  
Drama: Alisha Ladva – The Abbey

### Year 8 Leavers:

Matthew Chatfield – Lord Wandsworth  
Gregory Clarke – Bearwood College (Academic Scholarship)  
Lucas Gibert – Forest School  
Iona Halliday – Bradfield  
Darshika Maharaj – St. Joseph's Convent  
William Robbins – Pangbourne College (Sports Exhibition)  
Stephen Stanton – Reading School



### Common room

“When you reach Years 7 and 8 you get the privilege of having a common room. We all like the common room because we can play ping pong, and board games or we can just sit and relax. We have some new furniture – comfy chairs and a few big bean bags. At the moment we are taking great pleasure decorating the notice boards. We each have our own section of board and we are finding this a good way to express our personalities.” [Iona Halliday 8S \(Head Girl\)](#)



## HOLME GRANGE SCHOOL

GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 3-13 YEARS

Headteacher Mrs Claire Robinson BA PGCE NPQH

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