

Headlines

8th November 2024



Dear Parents

What a very busy week at Ongar!

Year 5 and 6 have been away at High Ashurst and we are looking forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return today.

Across the school, children have been learning about the many celebrations that happen around this time of year. In Nursery children have been making Diwali lamps and Year 2 children have sewn some beautiful poppies to wear on Remembrance Day.

However, it was a stark reminder of how quickly the year is going when the children began singing Christmas songs this week as preparations began for the Nativity and Carol concert later this term. This is always a very exciting half term in school and there will be lots of activities happening for families to be involved in. There will be further details of these sent out over the next few weeks. Have a lovely weekend.

The Eikon Charity's Christmas Star Appeal

The Eikon Charity aims to help young people in Surrey feel safe, heard, and supported. They have worked with some of our children this year and at Christmas will be offering beautiful wooden stars, hand-decorated by young people they support. Some stars also feature their personal mental health tips on the back. By donating to Eikon and receiving a star, you can:

- Gift it to someone special, spreading joy this festive season.
- Hang it on your tree as a symbol of hope.

When it is darkest, remember you can be that light for a child this Christmas.

To make a donation to The Eikon Charity and receive a star, use this link: <https://eikon.org.uk/eikon-christmas-star/>

Thank you!

A huge 'Thank you' to Ottershaw Christmas Tree Farm who are donating our Christmas trees this year. They will be open daily from 27th November and stock a wide range of trees.



New dates added in bold:

Description	Date	Time
Prospective Parents	12/11/24	09:15 - 10:00
Governors Meeting	12/11/24	18:30 - 20:30
Football Match vs St James	12/11/24	15.00 - 17.00
U-11 Football tournament	14/11/24	11:00 - 16:00
Junior Citizen Thorpe Park	19/11/24	13:00 - 15:00
Football Match vs St James	20/11/24	14.30 - 17.00
PTFA Bags 2 School	25/11/24	all day
Girls Football Tournament	28/11/24	11:00 - 16:00
Prospective parent's eve	28/11/24	19:00 - 20:00
Flu immunisations	02/12/24	all day
Rocksteady Concert	05/12/24	14:30 - 15:00
PTFA School Shopping Event	06/12/24	all day
Y6 Bikeability	Wb 09/12/24	all day
Nativity YR and KS1	12/12/24	14:15 - 15:00
Nativity YR and KS1	13/12/24	14:15 - 15:00
Panto	17/12/24	all day
KS2 Carol concert	18/12/24	18.00 - 21.00
Term finishes 1.30pm	20/12/24	
Back to school 08.50	06/01/25	

Staffing

I am really sorry to have to have to tell you that following a fantastic 35 years teaching and an amazing 15 years at Ongar, Mr Knott has decided to hang up his teaching waistcoat and retire from teaching at the end of this term. The school will not be the same without Mr Knott's presence and we will all miss him very much.

It is always very disappointing when a teacher has to leave midway through the year and I am currently making plans to ensure the Year 5 class continue the successful year they have started. I will keep the Y5 parents informed.

Job opportunity

We are looking for either an Early Years practitioner or a Teaching Assistant to join us. This could potentially be in the Nursery or the main school. Ideally, we are seeking someone with a level 3 qualification in Early childcare or education. However, we could provide training for the right person.

If you are interested in working with us in one of these roles, please feel free to come and have an informal chat with Mrs Good or Mrs Pirie.

Bags 2 School

The PTFA have organised a 'Bags 2 School' collection for Monday 25th November. Children will be bringing home a collection bag today – a good chance for a sort out before Christmas!