

# Headlines

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021



## Dear Parents

Another week of lockdown but some glimmers of hope as the sun shone occasionally and we are beginning to see signs of spring.

We hope you enjoyed your second screen free Friday and it has set you up ready for half term. I would hope everyone will keep up with their reading and being active but no work will be set or marked during half term week.

## OUR TREE!

We have had some sad news about the magnificent cedar tree on our field.

Over the past year, various experts have completed tests on the trunk of the tree. Last week the experts concluded that the fungal infection and rot detected in the trunk of the tree has spread. This makes the tree unsafe. Therefore, the cedar has got to be removed as soon as possible for safety reasons.

The school will be paying for its removal and we have contracted Churchwell Tree Services to complete the work. This will take place when the school is shut for half term. We also had some professional photos taken by Ian Hunter. The raw shots look amazing!

We are sad that such an iconic tree, which appears on our badge and logo, has reached the end of its safe life. We will endeavour to create a habitat out of some of the trunk and make use of the wood.

If you would like to visit the tree before it is felled, as part of your daily exercise, the pedestrian school gates will be open from 10am – 3pm on Saturday. You will be able to cross the front playground and see the tree in all its glory. No staff will be on site and school will be locked. Please make sure you maintain social distancing and follow the current lockdown guidelines by staying in your family groups.



## Support with Lunch

Those parents who receive free support from the school for lunches should receive a voucher today from Wonde. This covers half term. I am unable to send any vouchers out until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. Therefore you will receive a voucher for two weeks' worth on about Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, after half term. Hebrews at St Paul's Church are once again distributing lunches during half term with collection at Longden Road and St Paul's.

## Remote Learning

Well done to everyone who is keeping up with the remote learning and Seesaw lessons. I know it's hard to be motivated sometimes but try your best! It is more important than ever, that after half term, you take part as much as possible so that teachers know where you are up to when we return – hopefully the 8<sup>th</sup> March!

## Children at school

I have sent emails to all the parents who returned the critical worker form. If you did not receive an email, were given days you weren't expecting or if you now don't need the place please let me know on [closure@ongar-place.surrey.sch](mailto:closure@ongar-place.surrey.sch)

We loved Evelyn's opera singing this week and quite a few mummies liked Mrs Brill handing over the story reading to Tom Hardy on CBeebies!

Happy big birthday Mrs Brown!

Congratulations to the Street Family on the birth of Abigail, a little sister for Anthony, Thomas and Oliver.

## Learning

At school this week we were treated to a showcase of Stop Animation Films that the children had been working on over the last few weeks. They were all amazing; many with great sound tracks and backgrounds. Mrs Bullett organised an award ceremony and there were some very worthy winners. Well done everyone.

