

# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #74.14



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Dear Parents and Carers,

### Christmas Concert

Thank you to all our musicians for a fabulously uplifting and entertaining evening on Thursday. Our students impressed with a range of performances as well as their infectious energy and enthusiasm. The large audience added to the energy clapping and singing along with our students. Such talent takes considerable practice to achieve excellence and I would like to congratulate all involved for staging such a enjoyable evening.



### Year 13 Parent and Student Consultation Evening

It was a pleasure to meet parents and carers again on Thursday to focus on Year 13 progress on the lead up to PPEs in the New Year and examinations next summer. We are pleased with our Year 13s approach to their studies, but now they must use the next few weeks to turn potential into grades. Good luck to them with their revision.

Take care,

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Week (Week 1)

ALL EVENTS

MON 16 DECEMBER	Year 8 Geography Trip	
FRI 20 DECEMBER	End of Term 2 - Early finish	12.30pm finish

## Forthcoming Events

MON 23 - FRI 3 DECEMBER - JANUARY	Christmas Holidays	
MON 6 JANUARY	Start of Term 3	8.40am start

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

RAISING MONEY FOR  
Thames hospice

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

# CHRISTMAS FUN-RUN

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2024  
P4 & P5

We are raising all funds via Just Giving:  
[justgiving.com/page/fpss-thames-hospice](https://justgiving.com/page/fpss-thames-hospice)

**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Concert on Wednesday, we had a brilliant night of music to start the festive season off with a bang!

Thank you also to our fantastic staff who worked together to make it all happen, especially our Music and Performing Arts teams, Theatre team (front and back of house) and Design team; in addition, thank you as ever to our Furze Platt Senior School PTFA for their ongoing support with our events.



We are so lucky to have such talented musical performers here, whether as soloists, part of a group, or playing instruments, they were all wonderful to hear. The concert was a result of many hours' practice and dedication to learning by our students.





### KOOTH WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

Dear parent/carer,

With the winter break fast approaching, at Kooth Digital Health we appreciate there will be some young people who may struggle during the holidays without the access to the daily pastoral support, teaching staff and friends that the school community provides. Seasonal illness and the closure of many services at this time of year can also lead to extended wait times for support across both adult and young people's NHS and community services.

#### WE ARE STILL HERE.

Kooth Digital Health offers free, therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people in East Berkshire aged between [11-17]. Funded and endorsed by the [NHS East Berkshire Integrated Care Board], our services remain available over the winter period, offering wellbeing support from the comfort of your own home, via any web-enabled device via the following referral form:

**AGES [11-17 EAST BERKSHIRE] REFERRAL FORM**

Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from our non-judgemental, safe and moderated peer:peer communities.

With no threshold, waiting list processes, young people in East Berkshire can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include; body image, self-esteem, loneliness, bereavement, academic pressures, stress, anxiety, friendships, sexuality, life changes etc.

The registration process is quick and safe, simply by registering with the referral form on the link above.

Kooth delivers 1000's of online wellbeing sessions each year in Local Authorities across the UK. As 50% of referrals to CAMHS are unfortunately deemed inappropriate to their criteria, Kooth gives schools, professionals and families an alternative way of ensuring children and young people can access free support when they need it, in a way that they find comfortable to access, via any web-enabled device.

If you have any questions regarding the service, please contact Kooth directly. Simply email [parents@kooth.com](mailto:parents@kooth.com).



### MESSAGE FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE: USE OF E-SCOOTERS BY STUDENTS



It is important to note that the use of privately owned e-scooters is illegal on public roads, pavements and cycle lanes, they are only legally allowed to be used on private land with the landowners' permission.

If young people are found riding a privately owned e-scooter in public they are committing road traffic offences. Therefore they could receive a warning, fine, penalty points on their licence (which would be created in the absence of one) their e-scooter may be seized and this could result in the e-scooter being destroyed.

The only e-scooters which can be lawfully used in public, are those which are part of an approved local authority scheme. These schemes require users to register through an App and ensure the user has the appropriate licence and insurance.

**E-SCOOTERS**  
What you need to know

Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?

That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.

It's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter in public

E-scooters have become a popular mode of transport amongst young people. However, their use poses

significant safety risks, particularly in school environments. E-scooters can reach high speeds and there have been a number of recent reports of accidents which have led to serious injuries in the Thames Valley. The lack of protective gear further exacerbates the risk of injury.



Storing e-scooters can also present other risks. The batteries in e-scooters can catch fire very quickly and therefore pose a fire risk when stored, which could have devastating consequences in an indoor setting.

Yours sincerely

Superintendent John Batty

Head of Community Policing Command

# E-BIKES

**What you need to know**

**!** You can only ride an e-bike if it (and you!) meet certain requirements.

Did you know you can only ride an e-bike if it meets certain requirements and you are 14 years or over?

Electric bikes are also known as 'electronically assisted pedal cycles (EAPC)' or e-bikes. E-bikes must have pedals that can be used to propel it, and it must show either the power output, or manufacturer of the motor and either the batteries voltage, or maximum speed of the bike.

The electric motor must have a maximum power output of 250W, and should not be able to propel the bike when it is travelling more than 15.5mph.

If an e-bike does not meet these requirements then it is classed as a motorcycle or moped, and needs to be registered, taxed and insured, you also need a driving licence and to wear a helmet.

If you are riding an e-bike which does not meet these requirements and it is not registered, taxed or insured, your e-bike could be seized.



## FREE PARENT WEBINAR: HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD ALLEVIATE STRESS

We were delighted to see over **189 parents** from Furze Platt Senior School on our resilience webinar last Tuesday night!

Elevate Education will be hosting their next parent **stress and wellbeing** on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Elevate works with our students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn some **effective stress-management techniques you can use with your child straight away.**

**How to Help Your Child Alleviate Stress**  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6:00-7:00pm**  
**(GMT)**

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- How you can identify early signs of stress in your child
- Practical techniques to help your child manage their stress levels
- How you can maintain a dialogue with your child about their mental wellbeing

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE**

**FUEL**  
 Feed Ur Everyday Lives

## WINTER FUEL CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

We are pleased to announce that we still have spaces remaining in our winter camps ready for bookings this Christmas - please book through the Eeequ booking platform as normal. **HURRY!!** Spaces are selling fast, see the link below for full details.

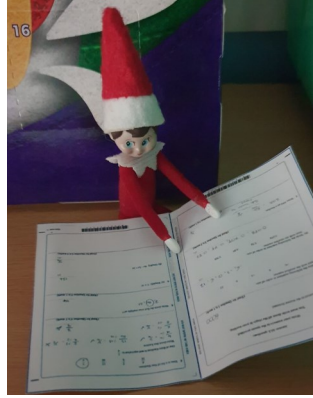
**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**

# THE WEEK AT FURZE PLATT

## NAUGHTY ELF IN THE SHELF

The naughty Elf in the Shelf has been busy in the Raising Achievement department this week.

Here we can see him revising for his Maths PPE in January, we suspect he is trying to get onto Santa's good list!



## SCIENCE CLUB BIRD FEEDERS

This week, our Science Club students showcased their creativity and environmental awareness with a fantastic hands-on project: biodegradable bird feeders. Using natural materials like pinecones, lard, birdseed, and mealworms, the students crafted feeders designed to support local wildlife while minimizing waste. The feeders were placed around the school grounds, creating a haven for birds over the winter and giving a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to observe and appreciate nature up close. It's a great example of how our young scientists are combining innovation and care for the environment to make a positive impact!



## HEDGEHOG RESCUE

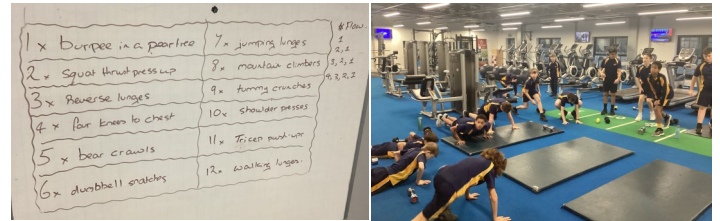
Thanks to the quick thinking actions of our students this poorly hedgehog was rescued outside of the English department and has now gone off to a rescue.

We are lucky to still have hedgehogs on site so we are teaching the students the importance of respecting the environment by not dropping litter which can harm them!



## FITNESS CLUB

Our Fitness Club is jingle-belling into the holiday season with a 12 Days of Christmas inspired workout extravaganza! The students brought their A-game, showing off some serious grit and determination while exercising in our fitness suite on Wednesday morning.



## GARDENING CLUB

This week the Gardening Club filled some planters by Learning Support with Spring-flowering bulbs and plants.

Next week we will be inside working on some seasonal masterpieces!



# CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Join us for Christmas lunch with all the trimmings!

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Roast turkey with Seasonal Vegetables, Rosemary & Garlic, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Roast Gravy

or

Quorn, Mushrooms & Herb Wellington Served with Seasonal Vegetables, Rosemary & Garlic Roast Potatoes and Gravy

**(G,Mk,So,E)**

### Desserts

Christmas Pudding with Orange Custard

**(Mk,G,E)**

Chocolate Bundit Cake

**(Mk,E,G)**

Christmas Spice Orange Sponge

**(G,E,Mk)**



**The Santa Show**

SONGS & STORIES | FREE GIFT | SEE SANTA | CHILDREN AGED 3+

SATURDAY 21 & MONDAY 23 DECEMBER | AT 11 AM  
BAYLIS THEATRE, BRAYWICK LEISURE CENTRE, MAIDENHEAD

**ORDER NOW**

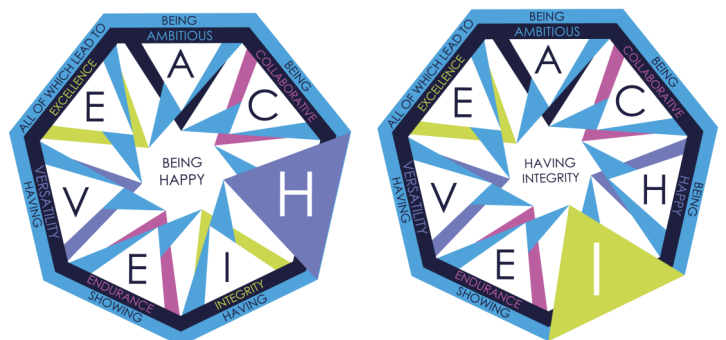
Turkey Cashback: 5% of order donated to PTA.  
Furze Platt Senior School

CODE: FPSPTA24

COPASFARMSHOP.CO.UK T: 01628 499 980

**SAVE THE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Our next PTFA AGM: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025



# CYBER PROTECT



## The Digital Dilemma

Keeping Your Kids Safe Online

December 4th, 11th, 18th



**FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS**

**Thames Valley Police**

Hints and tips to secure your family online, covering:

**Gaming**



**Social Media**



**Email**

**BOOK YOUR SPACE:**

Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber

**DON'T LET IT BE GAME OVER**  
**LEVEL UP YOUR ONLINE SECURITY**



Elevate Education's Autumn Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### ***How to Help Your Child Make the Right University Decision***

12th November 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory***

19th November 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child***

3rd December 6:00pm

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Alleviate Stress***

17th December 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>



LEISURE FOCUS

# SANTA QR QUEST SCAN & WIN

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN AN EXCITING FESTIVE PRIZE

