THE ECHELFORD ECHO

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Co-Headteachers' Message

Welcome back! The second half of the Autumn term is officially underway, and we have wasted no time diving straight into the wonderful events and learning experiences that make this time of year so special.

We began our week on Monday with a fantastic whole-school assembly for Diwali, led by some of our Key Stage 2 pupils who shared their personal experiences of celebrating both Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas. Our Reception children continued the celebrations during their workshop with Don Rae, where they brought the story of Rama and Sita to life through movement. A few of our prospective parents were even treated to an impromptu performance during their school tour. To all our families celebrating over the coming days, we wish you a very happy, bright, and peaceful Diwali.

On Wednesday, Year 6 wrapped up warm for a blustery walk to Bedfont Lakes. Once there, they put their geography fieldwork skills into practice, navigating with maps and collecting data to analyse and present back in the classroom. Year 1 stepped back in time with an interactive workshop hosted by Chertsey Museum, exploring how toys have changed across the decades.

As always, this half of the term is exceptionally busy for everyone. Please make sure to regularly check the school calendar and 'Key Dates' section at the end of each newsletter to keep track of upcoming performances, trips, and school events. As a quick reminder, prior to the break we published our academic term dates for the next school year, which will once again include a two-week autumn half-term in October.

Looking ahead to next week, our poppy display in the entrance hall is growing in preparation for Remembrance Day on Wednesday. Then on Friday, we will be supporting Children in Need; pupils and staff are invited to come to school in their favourite pyjamas in exchange for a small donation to help us raise money for a very worthy cause.

Mrs . Bugembe & Miss Oakley

Parent Governor Vacancy

You will have received an email regarding the parent governor vacancy. Please take the time to read this and consider if the role is something you would like to apply for.

Reminder of School Meal Orders

Please ensure you order your child their meals for next week on the Schoolgrid website. If you do not order a meal, your child will only be given a plain jacket potato and if they do not want that offer, you may be called to provide a packed lunch from home. Also, if your child is absent or you provide them with a packed lunch, please ensure you cancel their meal by 8.55am. If you do not cancel and your child is entitled to a free school meal, the school will get charged for this meal.

Inclusion Insights

This weekend, lots of us will be enjoying fireworks. This can be a challenging time for neurodivergent children and many autistic adults and parents of autistic children choose not to celebrate with fireworks because it is too noisy, unpredictable and unsettling, particularly for those with sensory sensitivities. Below is some information on how to best enjoy this time of year.

- **Use Social Stories & Videos:** Explain what to expect using short stories, pictures, or online videos (including low-sensory options with soothing music).
- **Prepare for Sparklers:** Show children how sparklers look and sound beforehand, ensuring they understand how to hold them safely.
- **Plan for Outings:** If attending a display, bring ear defenders, warm layers, snacks, and a comfort item. Agree on a signal if your child feels overwhelmed and needs a quiet break or to leave.
- **Create a Home Safe-Space:** Enjoy low-noise home options like Catherine wheels, or watch local displays from a window or car. If preferred, close the curtains and relax with headphones or a film.

The Family Action website has more information that you might find useful.

Inclusion Parent/Carer forum

Our next Parent/Carer forum will be on Wednesday 18th November at 2-3pm.

We are lucky to have our Outreach worker from Freemantles, a school for autistic children, to come and speak with us, with a focus on ***Supporting Children Who Mask – Strategies for Home.***

Everyone is welcome. Please come along - come to the school office at 2pm on Wednesday 18th November.

Procedure for children arriving late

From last Monday the below procedure has been put in place for all children who arrive after the expected time of 8.45am:

- 8:45 am - the morning bell rings and all children are expected to be in school by this time
- All children arriving after 8:45 am must enter via the KS2 gate
- A member of staff will be waiting at the blue gates (past the bike shed) to greet you and sign your child in
- Parents/carers must wait with their child at the gate until a member of staff walks them safely into the school
- Parents/carers will then exit back through the KS2 gates

Any pre-arranged agreement to enter through the Main Office will continue as normal. Please ring the bell and the Office Team will let you in, we are hopeful that the reduction in people at the office will enable a calmer, smoother transition to school for these children.

If you need to speak to the office in the morning (e.g., to drop off medication), please ring the Main Office bell as usual. We are confident this new process will allow our Office Team to assist you much more efficiently.

Plea for Tights

Now we are coming into the colder months we are in need of tights. If you are having a clear out over the half term and you find some tights you no longer need please bring them to the school office. All sizes will be gratefully received.

Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child,** if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will not receive a third penalty notice, however, where there is a third occurrence within the 3 year period, Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Advice and support is available from an Inclusion Office by contacting your local Education office as follows:
North West – Tel: 01483 518130
South West – Tel: 01483 517179
North East – Tel: 01372 833588
South East – Tel: 01737 737777



North East Surrey School Nursing Team

We have the North East School Nursing Team coming into Echelford on the following dates:

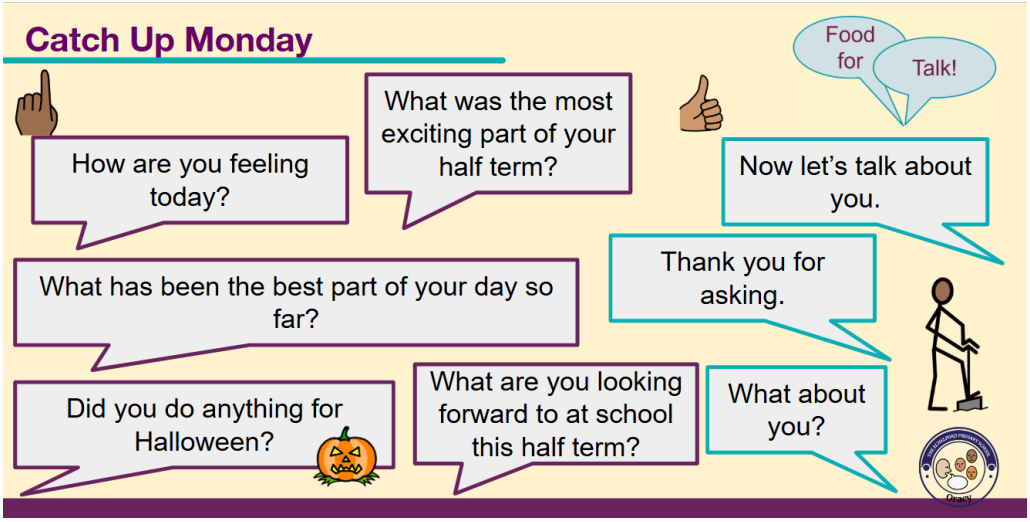
Thursday 26th November 2026 - 11am to 1pm
Thursday 7th January 2027 - 11am to 1pm

They will be providing 1-2-1 sessions to any parent/carer looking for advice on toileting, eating or sleeping which we know can be a challenge in family life.

If you would like to take advantage of this service, please ensure you make contact with Miss Munro via the office to book a suitable time.

Oracy - Food For Talk

This is one of our Food For Talk topics that children have been discussing at lunchtime this week.



Advice from Surrey County Council

As we move through autumn and into winter, it is normal to see an increase in illnesses circulating among children and young people. Coughs and colds, flu, diarrhoea and vomiting illnesses, scarlet fever and other infections can spread particularly easily where children are mixing closely together in indoor areas.

We are also seeing an increase in hand, foot and mouth disease in Surrey, particularly among younger children. Hand, foot and mouth disease is a common viral infection which is usually mild and gets better by itself. Children may develop a high temperature, reduced appetite, mouth ulcers and a rash or blisters on their hands and feet. UKHSA guidance advises that the illness usually clears within 7 to 10 days and that younger children aged 1 to 4 years are particularly at risk because of close contact with their peers. National research also shows that hand, foot and mouth disease has a seasonal pattern, with GP consultation rates typically starting in September and peaking around October/November, so increased activity at this time of year is not unexpected.

Does a child with hand, foot and mouth need to stay off school or nursery?

Usually, **no**. A child with hand, foot and mouth disease does not routinely need to stay away from school or nursery if they are otherwise well enough to attend. Parents and carers should let their setting know about the infection and encourage regular handwashing.

Trying to exclude children until all blisters have disappeared does not generally stop the spread of the infection. For straightforward advice about whether a child should attend, see the NHS guidance: Is my child too ill for school? The NHS advises that children with hand, foot and mouth disease can usually continue attending if they are well enough.
Settings can also use the latest UKHSA public health exclusion periods for children and young people's settings, which explains when children with different infections should remain away from their setting.

Group A Strep and Scarlet Fever

Schools, early years settings and families should also remain aware of group A Streptococcus (group A Strep or GAS). Group A Strep is a common bacterium that can live on the skin or in the throat without causing illness. It can also cause infections including scarlet fever, strep throat, tonsillitis and impetigo. It spreads through close contact, including coughs and sneezes, or through contact with an infected wound. A recent UKHSA blog provides a useful explanation for parents, carers and staff: What is group A strep, and how do you catch it? – UK Health Security Agency

Most group A Strep infections are mild and can be successfully treated. In rare cases, however, the bacteria can cause a more serious infection known as invasive group A Strep (iGAS). UKHSA advises parents and carers to remain alert if a child has chickenpox, or has had chickenpox within the previous two weeks, and then becomes more unwell.

Vacancies Within the Trust

No vacancies at present.

Achievements outside of School

If your child would like to celebrate success within the school community, please inform your class teacher or the office staff of your news. Along with the Newsletter, we will display any sports achievement photos and information on our 'Sports Shout Outs' board in the gym.

Zack - 6W

On Sunday Zack played his second match for Laleham FC and was awarded Player Of The Match. The whole team played brilliantly together but he was chosen to take the trophy home and was very pleased. Well done Zack on this amazing achievement.

Naylin – 5C

Congratulations to Naylin who finished 2nd place in the U11 Bexley Squash Bronze Open.
Naylin also challenged himself by competing in the U13 tournament, where he achieved an impressive 3rd place finish.

Well done Naylin on this fantastic achievement. Keep enjoying your squash, working hard and continuing to develop your skills. Your dedication and progress are paying off.

Green Values Award

Every week, an award is presented to a child in each class for embodying one of our Green Values. Congratulations to those children who have represented one of our values so brilliantly this week.

RA	Ava N	RC	Hudson	RG	Amla
1B	Ovin	1CJ	Asher	1I	Consent to publish name not given
2A	Consent to publish name not given	2B	Consent to publish name not given	2DT	Cody
3A	Amber S	3B	Isaac	3D	Aahana O
4A	Leo	4H	Florence G	4L	Luca
5A	Hassan A	5B	Consent to publish name not given	5C	Elvy L
6GB	Jesse	6R	Nova	6W	Daria

Gold Leaf Achievers

Every week, we celebrate those children awarded a Gold Leaf this week for their effort and achievement in their learning.

Ivy T, Hugo J, Isa O, Ovin D, Joyce D, Rafi B, Cassie R, Layla H, Jude B, Miles B, Jacob P, Benjamin B, Miguel A, Banreet J, Harrison D, Aila E, Daya K, Holly T, Elijah B, Yuna M, Safa M, Jovan G, Jude T, Shiloh M, Frankie H, Helina M, Aekambeer S, Jess B, Heidi D, Arjun P, Luca I, Max T, Tia T, Owen J, Hassan A, Zach H, Reggie C, Alfie A, Teeyan B, Erin M, Erin L, Elvy L, Jaxon Bo, Rehanuddin M, Elia D, Victoria N, Sahara S, Elias Me, Oliver G, Aidan B and Ashreet K.

Images used provided by Canva, Widgit, Times Table Rock Stars & Numbots.

On behalf of the Echelford Primary staff team, we wish you a pleasant week.

Important Dates

A full list of this year's dates can be found on the school website

November		
Wednesday 11th		4H Class Assembly
Thursday 12th	3.00pm	Year 1 PTFA Bake Sale
Friday 13th		World Kindness Day
Friday 13th		BBC Children in Need – Wear your pyjamas to school
Monday 16th – Friday 20th		Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th		Odd Socks Day – Anti Bullying Alliance
Wednesday 18th	9.00am	4L Class Assembly
Wednesday 25th		Individual and Sibling Photo Day
Friday 27th		Santa Fun Run
Friday 27th		PTFA Mufti for Christmas Fair
December		
Wednesday 2nd	2.00pm	Reception Nativity
Thursday 3rd	9.15am	Reception Nativity
Friday 4th		PTFA Christmas Fair
Wednesday 9th	2.00pm	KS1 Nativity
Thursday 10th	9.15am	KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 15th	9.15am & 2.30pm	UKS2 Christmas Performance
Thursday 17th	9.15am & 2.30pm	LKS2 Christmas Performance
Friday 18th	**1.45pm**	**End of Term**


Is your child starting school in September 2027?
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 you will need to apply for a school place. You can apply between 2 November 2026 and 15 January 2027.
If you live in Surrey, you can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online at surreycc.gov.uk/admissions or you can call us on 0300 200 1004.
Applying on time will give your child the best chance of getting one of your preferred schools.
Apply online between 2 November 2026 and 15 January 2027


Victorian Christmas
A Family Activity Day
Create some decorations
Make Christmas crackers
Make a Christmas card
Play Victorian games
Send a Christmas telegram
Find our teddies
Help decorate our tree
Spelthorne Museum
Library Hub Staines
Saturday 21st November
11am until 4pm
Entry free


St Hilda's Entertainers presents,
a fun-filled family
PANTOMIME
ST. HILDA'S ENTERTAINERS
Award-winning local drama group
TREASURE ISLAND
St Hilda's Church Hall
Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, TW15 3QL
Friday 4th, Saturday 5th
Friday 11th, Saturday 12th
December 2026
Friday performances start at 7.45pm
Saturday performances start at 2.30pm & 7.00pm
TICKETS: Adults £12 Concessions £10
Book online via our website:
www.sthildasentertainers.com
or scan the QR code
Alternatively, please call box office: 0333 666 3366
NODA


DANCESTARS
Enrolling Now in Sunbury
• FREE Trial Classes
• Classes from £11.50
• Spelthorne Gym Club
• ISTD & RAD Qualified
• 100% Pass Rate for Exams
• From Ages 2.5 yrs+
www.dance-stars.com
officemanager@dance-stars.com
dancestars79
DANCE MAD CERTIFIED
ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE
ISTD

On **Saturday 12th December**, **Sandown Park Racecourse** will be transformed into a magical Christmas wonderland as we host our **5K Elf Fun Run**, a fun-filled morning designed to bring families, friends and the local community together in support of a wonderful cause.



Whether you're running, walking, cheering from the sidelines or simply joining us to enjoy the festive activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Sandown Park's 5K Elf Fun Run 2026
Saturday 12th December | 9:30am - 1:30pm
Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher
In partnership with **The FIT Partnership Esher**

What Can Families Look Forward To?

- Meet Santa Claus
- **FREE Elf Hat** for every participant
- Complimentary Elf face painting
- A special alternative Christmas grotto experience for children
- Add your Christmas wish to our magical Wish Tree
- Meet our Xmas Cuddle Pony
- Delicious hot drinks courtesy of Pipps Beans
- Tasty food and festive tipples from Cento Uno
- Festive treats, pocket-money toys and seasonal surprises
- FREE parking throughout the day
- There may even be a festive tipple or two available for the grown-ups!

More Than Just a Fun Run…

The 5K route is suitable for all abilities and is all about taking part, having fun, and enjoying the festive atmosphere with family and friends.

After crossing the finish line, participants can collect their **complimentary tickets to a future race day at one of our three London racecourses**, before continuing the festive adventure along the local High Street. Families will be invited to visit participating shops and businesses to collect a fantastic selection of **treats, prizes, special offers and festive giveaways**, helping to celebrate and support our wonderful local community while making the most of a magical Christmas day out.

And what better way to finish a Christmas morning than heading home, putting on your favorite festive film, putting your feet up and enjoying a well-earned afternoon snooze!

Exciting Prizes
Participants will receive:

- Two complimentary tickets to a future race day at one of our racecourses
- Fantastic prizes from local businesses and partners

Supporting Local Families This Christmas

Every ticket purchased will directly support our **Community Fund**, with **100% of proceeds reinvested into local community projects, initiatives and groups**.

Children can attend **FREE** by bringing along a **new, unwrapped gift** for the **Lower Green Community Centre Gift Drive**, helping to make Christmas brighter for local families.

Alternatively, children's admission is just **£5**.

Adult tickets are £20.

We hope you'll join us for a morning filled with laughter, festive magic, community spirit, and lots of Christmas cheer, and help us make this a truly memorable community celebration.

Simply follow the booking link below and don't forget to spread the word amongst family, friends, and fellow school families.

https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/elf-fun-run/

We can't wait to welcome you to Sandown Park this Christmas!

The Sandown Park Racecourse Team, The FIT Partnership Esher, Experience Esher & Lower Green Community Centre

Book now and join the festive fun!

