



# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #77.14



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



### Christmas Concert

A huge thank you to all our guests who supported the concert on Wednesday. It was a terrific show, and I would like to congratulate all students who participated. From heavy rock to soulful ballads, instrumental solos to Christmas classics there were a wonderful array of performances that showed the immense talents of FPSS students.



### Christmas Jumper Days and Fundraising

Festivities continue next week not least with our Christmas Jumper days next Thursday and Friday supporting fundraising at school.

At this time of year, it has been great to see our community giving back via Christmas Gift Sales, Maidenhead Foodshare and Tree of Hope donations. Many thanks to staff, students and their families for thinking of others.

### Year 13 Consultation Evening

It was good to see our Year 13 students and their parents and carers on Thursday evening. Following recent PPEs this was a great chance to review strengths and areas for development while looking forwards to the exams next summer and applications for employment, apprenticeships and university. I look forward to seeing Year 13 even more focused in the weeks ahead.

### Progress Reports

While Year 12 and 13 parents, carers and students have recently met their teachers in person, other year groups are receiving their Progress Reports. Please do take time to review progress with your children celebrating achievements but also setting objectives for the new term.



## Term 2 (Week A)

ALL EVENTS

THU 18  
DECEMBER

Christmas Jumper Day (1)  
& Break-time Bonanza

FRI 19  
DECEMBER

Christmas Jumper Day (2)  
End of Term 2



12.30pm finish

MON 5  
JANUARY

INSET DAY - School closed for all year groups

TUE 6  
JANUARY

Start of Term 3 (Week B)

8.40am - 3.15pm

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

### Reward Events

Finally, next week sees a whole series of activities designed to recognise the fantastic work of students since September. I hope that students enjoy the events.

Take care,

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

## YEAR 7 AND YEAR 13 REPORTS

YEAR  
7

YEAR  
13



Reports for Years 7 and 13 have been published on Go 4 Schools. Staying up to date is a great way to support your child throughout the year and celebrate their successes.

Please find the links below to help you access your child's report. If you have any issues please contact [reports@furzeplatt.net](mailto:reports@furzeplatt.net)

VIEW REPORTS

GUIDANCE TO GRADING

HOW TO ACCESS GO4SCHOOLS

Mrs K Avery, Data Manager

## SPARX MATHS – TERM 2 WINNERS

Congratulations to our Sparx Maths Term 2 Winners! These students have shown outstanding commitment to their maths learning, completing their Sparx homework consistently and demonstrating excellent determination and progress.

We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the positive attitude they bring to their studies. Well done to all of our Term 2 winners in Years 7, 8 and 9 - keep up the brilliant effort! (Upper school results will be published in next week's newsletter.)

Miss R Lake (Deputy Headteacher)

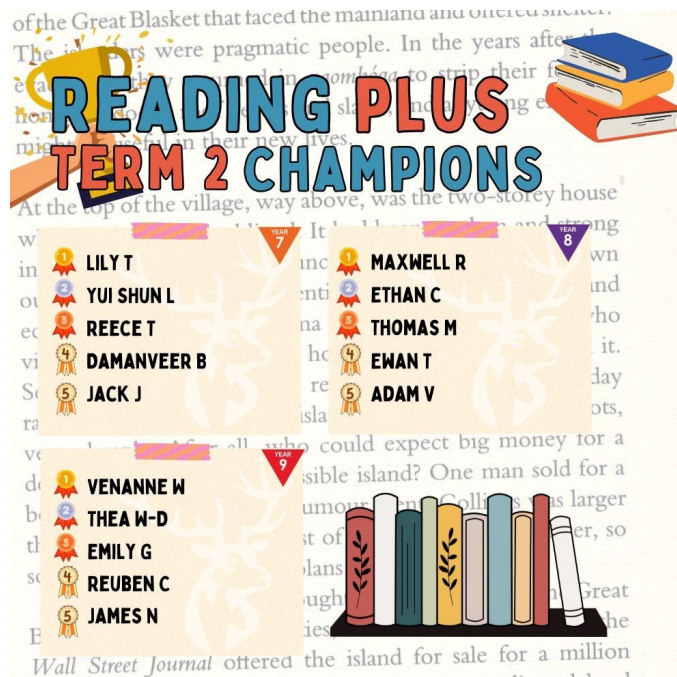


## READING PLUS – TERM 2 WINNERS

Congratulations to our Reading Plus Term 2 Winners! These students have shown exceptional dedication to improving their reading skills, demonstrating consistency, resilience, and a real enthusiasm for learning.

We are incredibly proud of their progress and commitment. Well done to all of our Term 2 winners, keep up the fantastic work!

Miss R Lake (Deputy Headteacher)



## TERM 2 KEY STAGE 3 STAR STUDENTS

We are delighted to celebrate our Key Stage 3 Star Students for Term 2.

These students have consistently demonstrated our school values and have shown outstanding commitment to their learning and to the school community.

We are extremely proud of their achievements and the positive example they set for others. Well done to all of our Star Students!

Miss R Lake (Deputy Headteacher)





**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL** *Star Students* **YEAR 8**

James C 8CMT	James B 8DAB	Mya B 8ELF	Maxwell N 8GCD
Grace C 8JHL	Noah M 8JNS	Lily H 8KEB	Mrs Ridgley Head of Progress
Beatrice P 8NAA	Theo H 8TEA	James B HoP	



## TREE OF LIFE

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our recent Tree of Life appeal. We had a fantastic response and your generous donations will make a significant difference.



**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL** *Star Students* **YEAR 9**

Lindiwe M 9CHP	William W-O 9RAM	Mohammed-Moosah A 9MAM	Zach T 9NJC
Aimal A 9OSB	Tiegan G 9RJW	Amber P 9SH	Mr Corbett Head of Progress
Fifi W 9TAS	Theo T 9TJC	Charley S HoP	




## CLUBS FOR NEXT TERM



Clubs for January to February half term will be sent out next Friday, 19th December.

Emails will be marked Furze Platt Senior School and will be from evolve notifications at edufocus.

We encourage students to make the most of the numerous opportunities to develop old and new interests and skills.

By participating in a wide range of extracurricular activities, students will contribute to the long-standing tradition of learning beyond the classroom.

[CLICK HERE FOR NEXT WEEK'S CLUBS LIST](#)

## Careers Fair Feedback!

"Always a great event and looking forward to coming back!"

- Careers Fair Attendee



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAYS

THURSDAY 18TH AND FRIDAY 19TH  
DECEMBER

### Plus Break-time Bonanza on Thursday!

Dear students and parents/carers,

Christmas is fast approaching, which can only mean one thing – you've guessed it, it's time for some festive fun and frolicking to raise a bit of money for those in need!

This year, the Sixth Form Raise-and-Give team want to support the Save The Children charity in their Christmas Jumper Day initiative. We know the actual Save The Children Jumper Day was the 11th December, but we want to do a little bit more this year so here is some information on the FPPS Christmas Jumper Day and Break-Time Bonanza!

#### Christmas Jumpers

Students will be able to wear Christmas Jumpers on the 18th and 19th December if they would like to. Students must make sure they are wearing their regular uniform as standard (shirt, tie, blazer, school skirt/trousers), with any Christmas Jumpers only being worn in place of the school jumper.

We would appreciate a donation of £2 for this in support of Save The Children and we have set up a direct link to the charity's website for parents/carers to use as this will allow all donations to have Gift Aid added to it. Parents/carers can access this link here:

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO SAVE THE CHILDREN](#)

#### Break-Time Bonanza

Our Break-Time Bonanza which will take place next Thursday 18th December during both breaks in the Theatre.

As you will see from the poster below, there will be stalls and games for students to have a go at, as well as festive snacks and lots of Christmas music – what better way to round off the Christmas term?!

We would love to see as many students as possible coming to the Bonanza in support of Save The Children and would be very grateful if students could bring with them some spare change to take part. There will be card machines at the event if students would like to take part in any games and would prefer to pay via electronic means.

Thank you as ever to our wonderful FPSS community for supporting the school's fundraising initiatives throughout the year. We hope this one provides a little bit of Christmas sparkle as we head into the holidays!

Merry Christmas everyone!

The Sixth Form Raise-and-Give team



## THE DANIEL SPARGO-MABBS FOUNDATION



On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, a drugs educator from the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation will be speaking to all pupils at Furze Platt. These assemblies form part of our ongoing personal development and PSHE curriculums.



The DSM Foundation is a drug and alcohol education charity that was set up by Fiona and Tim Spargo-Mabbs in 2014, after their 16-year-old son Daniel died following an accidental overdose of ecstasy which contained a lethal amount of MDMA.

The aim of the charity is to support young people to make safer choices about drugs, and since its inception the Foundation has worked with students, teachers, parents/caregivers and professionals in hundreds of schools, colleges and community organisations, mostly in London and the South East of England where the charity is based, but also more broadly across the UK and beyond.

The Foundation speaker will be telling Dan's story and covering the following:

- The effects and risks of drugs and alcohol
- Factors that affect decision making about drugs and alcohol
- Drugs and the law

Practical strategies to help young people stay safe. To find out more about the DSM Foundation, please visit its website and/or its social media channels via the link below. The website has a designated area for parents and caregivers which includes specially written content covering all of the topics that are included in workshops for young people, and additional materials on specific substances and other related topics such as parties, festivals, healthy coping strategies and more. Please do ask your child about the talk and what they heard and learned. It's a great opportunity to start or continue conversations about this important topic – and if it feels awkward or tricky, there is advice on how to broach the subject of alcohol and drugs.

[CLICK HERE FOR DSM FOUNDATION WEBSITE](#)

Miss L Lewis, Deputy Headteacher - Interventions and Safeguarding

## SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILDREN ONLINE

This year Furze Platt has purchased access to an online safeguarding information platform for all parents. Our Online Safety Hub provides parents with a wealth of information including in the following areas:

- How to keep your child safe online
- How to ensure best safety features are implemented on social media platforms
- Understanding different social media platforms and their potential risks
- How to manage screen time with your child
- How to safeguard your child from online predators
- How to monitor your child's online activity

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE SAFETY HUB](#)

As part of this platform parents also all have free access to parental controls on 2 devices within your home. These devices are advised to be mobile phones and/or home laptops, the company advise against placing on laptops brought into school as it may conflict with the filtering and monitoring systems used on the school network.

This can be accessed via the link below and will enable parents to:

- Filter content
- Monitor your child's online activity
- Set time limits for online use

[CLICK HERE FOR FREE ACCESS TO CONTROLS](#)

We hope you find these resources useful for supporting your child with their use of the internet.

Miss L Lewis, Deputy Headteacher - Interventions and Safeguarding



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT



We enjoyed a brilliantly festive evening at our Christmas Concert on Wednesday!

Our Junior and Senior Rockstars groups, soloists (some with their debut performance), duets, musicians, bands and choirs alike performed a range of genres from musicals to rock to classics, including a moving tribute.

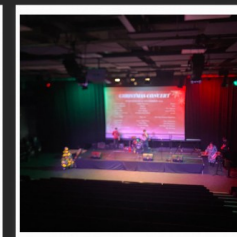
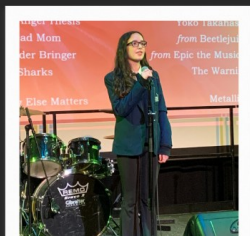
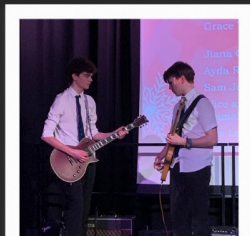
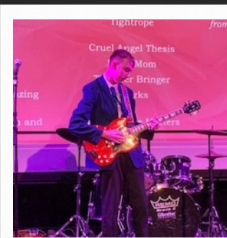
A huge thank you to our PTFA for the delicious refreshments, and to our Senior Students Ed and Sophie for their masterful compering throughout.

As ever, our Christmas Concert could not have taken place without our entire Performing Arts team led by Mrs Kalinowski (Head of Performing Arts) and Mrs Barraclough (Head of Music), our Theatre Manager Mrs Bartram, our superb tech team with Mr Hand and to our fantastic audience, for their very Christmassy participation.

Thank you all!

## GARDENING CLUB

We had a lovely time making our lavender bags! Next week we are having our Christmas Extravaganza Wreath Making event.









Well done to our top ten Sparx Science students this week!

# SPARX SCIENCE CHAMPIONS

1. ALICE REES
2. MEYORA DE SOUSA
3. HEND ALJARAH
4. ANNA BONY
5. LOIS SELLMAN
6. MUSTAFA ALI
7. EISA ALI
8. KHADIJA EL HARRAK
9. MAXWELL NOPAL
10. NATHAN TEKEBA

## Furze Platt School Science Fair: Igniting Curiosity and Competition!

**Deadline for entries: Friday 19th December**

Get ready for an explosive display of creativity and innovation at this year's FP Science Fair, scheduled to dazzle us this March! Our young scientists in Years 7,8&9 are gearing up to showcase projects that not only stretch their imagination but also sharpen essential academic and life skills.

### Why a Science Fair?

Participating in the science fair allows students to engage deeply with scientific inquiry and engineering design processes. It nurtures curiosity, encourages methodical research, and fosters an understanding of scientific principles. Beyond the science, students develop invaluable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and public speaking, as they prepare to present their projects to an audience of peers, parents, and teachers.

### Exciting Prizes Await!

All participants will get the chance to go on a school trip to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham.

Winners will be entered into the Big Bang Fair with the chance to win £500.

Winners will receive trophies and rosettes.

There will be lots of house points for all participants!

### Mark Your Calendars!

This March, join us in celebrating the hard work and success of our students. The Science Fair isn't just a day for competition; it's a festive gathering of minds eager to learn and grow. Let's cheer for our young scientists as they make their mark, one discovery at a time!

Prepare to be amazed by the wonders of science and the brilliance of our students. We can't wait to see you there!

**FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL**

# SECONDARY SCIENCE FAIR

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March,  
5pm - 7pm**

**OPEN TO YEARS 7, 8 & 9**

We want you to come up with your own amazing projects! Once you have your idea please email them to [katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net](mailto:katie.mcelligott@furzeplatt.net) before the Christmas half term with confirmation of your attendance.

You can work in groups of no more than 3 people or if you'd rather, on your own. Should you want to discuss your idea, please either email Mrs McElligott or drop into Science Club which happens every Tuesday at 3:15 in S10 to discuss with Mr Wright & Mr Barrett.

### ELEVATE WEBINARS

#### HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD ALLEVIATE STRESS

Parents and carers can register for the above webinar via the link below..



**REGISTER HERE FOR FREE WEBINAR**



## HOUSE POINT WINNERS THIS WEEK...

### IT'S OSPREY HOUSE!

Great work to all the Ospreys!



## BAUBLE COMPETITION

What a brilliant response to our Bauble Competition! We were blown away by the number of fantastic entries; below are a selection of the many we received. Well done to our top three designers Nate, Rebeca and our overall winner Hirun whose bauble is at the top of the tree!



## CHESS CHALLENGE

Students showing lots of concentration as they aim to ensure they belong to the winning House in our recent House Chess Competition!

Full details of the victorious House this term - and all our end of term student nominations, plus the new clubs list for January - will be published in our bumper End of Term Newsletter next Friday.



Spread a little festive joy...



Design a Christmas card to send to your friends and teachers

1. Draw a design on the front of your card
2. Clearly state on the card who it is for
  - Please include your friend's tutor group!
3. House Captains will collect the cards on Monday



## Christmas Card delivery

- In the last week of term, the House Captains will be helping to deliver the cards.
- Keep an eye out for them!
- Merry Christmas and happy holidays!



CHRISTMAS TREES & GIFTS ★ FESTIVE EVENTS ★ SEASONAL DISHES

# CHRISTMAS TREE BUYING GUIDE



  
**Stubbings**

STUBBINGS LANE, MAIDENHEAD, SL4 4QL

SUSTAINABLY  
SOURCED

LOCAL  
DELIVERY

INSTORE &  
ONLINE

[www.stubbingsnursery.co.uk](http://www.stubbingsnursery.co.uk)

See overleaf  
for our  
Christmas  
Offer

A fantastic array of shapes and sizes to suit your home...

## FIR



Our most popular tree, offered in Nordman, Fraser, Noble, Turkish & Lasiocarpa varieties. Soft needles with excellent retention.

## SPRUCE



The classic traditional tree, offered in these varieties: Norway, Blue & Serbian. A value tree with medium needle retention.

## PINE



A more unique option, our Lodgepole Pine have long, lush needles with good retention.



Bring your tree back to Stubbings in early January for recycling by our local council



## DINE & SAVE THIS XMAS

SPEND £30+ from our Café menu  
in a single transaction to enjoy

**20% OFF**

baubles, hanging decorations & festive lights.

offer runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> November - 31<sup>st</sup> December. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Voucher valid for one time use. See website for more details.

**GARDEN CENTRE & CAFÉ - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM-5PM**

FIND US JUST OFF THE A404M TO THE WEST OF MAIDENHEAD

## CHRISTMAS TREE CARE



**PREPARATION** - Make sure you unwrap your tree outside and bang firmly on the ground to remove any debris and loose needles before bringing into your home.

**A FRESH CUT** - Make sure you take a fresh cut off the base of the trunk (at least 1 inch) before bringing the tree indoors. We can cut this for you if required.

**WATER, WATER, WATER** - your tree stand should have a water reservoir. You'll be amazed how much a tree will drink in the first few weeks indoors. Keep watering but note that the tree will drink less and less as the season progresses.

**STANDS** - Alongside the ability to provide sufficient water, you should also check your stand is suitable for the size of tree you wish to buy. Ensuring you have a solid stand is especially important if you have young children and/or pets.

**NEEDLE DROP** - As a fresh product, grown outdoors, trees will inevitably drop needles, the extent of which will depend on many factors.

**AVOID HEAT** - Don't forget that Christmas Trees are grown outdoors. Radiators are their worst enemy, so if possible turn off (or down) any radiators in close proximity to your tree.

# Adult Dyslexia Centre

ADVISING • DEVELOPING • CONNECTING

## Understanding Dyslexia and Dyscalculia

An online course for parents, carers and teachers of dyslexic children



Our popular online course is starting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
3 sessions on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 - 9.00 pm

The course will give an understanding of dyslexia and dyscalculia, including many strategies for supporting your child in their learning.

Places limited so that the course can be interactive. Plenty of time for questions.

All sessions delivered by experienced professionals.

January 7th - Understanding your child with dyslexia – Katrina Cochrane  
January 14th - Reading and Spelling strategies – Donna Stevenson  
January 21st - Maths and dyscalculia – Amanda Keen

The fee is £60 for all 3 sessions.

To reserve a place on this course email [courses@adc.org.uk](mailto:courses@adc.org.uk)  
or Tel: **07774 846657**

Website – [www.adc.org.uk](http://www.adc.org.uk)

# SPACE TO THRIVE

## COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTRE

A BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST AND SLOUGH MUSIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP



## Calling all Young Musicians!

### Let's Play Orchestra

Saturday 10.15–11.00am

Open to any instrument from beginner up to Grade 1. Explore making music with others through easy parts, beat & melody games, and ensemble fun.

Fees: £70.00 per term

HALF PRICE THIS TERM for new members:  
£35.00 for TEN SESSIONS

### Initial Orchestra

Saturday 9.00–10.00am

Open to any instrument Grades 1–3. A more adventurous orchestral experience focusing on holding your own part, reading rhythms, and collaborating as a musical team.

Fees: £79.50 per term

HALF PRICE THIS TERM for new members:  
£39.75 for TEN SESSIONS

**Click here** for a free trial orchestra session on Saturday 17 January

**Click here** to attend the launch event on Saturday 10 January

**Any Questions?** contact [laurabridger@berksmusictrust.org.uk](mailto:laurabridger@berksmusictrust.org.uk)