

### This issue:

#### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful celebrations that have brought our school community together during this season of Advent.

#### School Drama Production

Our recent Christmas Drama Production was a true highlight. The talent, creativity, and teamwork displayed by our pupils were inspiring. Thank you to everyone who supported the event—whether through rehearsals, costumes, or cheering from the audience. It was a joy to see our students shine on stage.

#### Christmas Service – The Theme of Joy

This year's Christmas Service focused on the theme of Joy. In a world that often feels fast-paced and uncertain, joy reminds us to pause and appreciate the simple blessings around us – family, friendship, and community. In the service, Reverend Andreas reminded us of the light we can share with one another. We held our first evening service at Churchmead and would like to thank the students and parents who supported this evening.

#### A Message of Hope for the Year Ahead

As we look forward to the new year, let us carry with us a message of hope. Hope for continued growth, kindness, and resilience in our children. Hope for a community that supports and uplifts one another. And hope for a year filled with opportunities to learn, celebrate, and flourish together.

#### Important Reminder for Year 11 and Year 13

As we enjoy the festive break, we encourage our Year 11 and Year 13 students to make time for revision. Preparing now will make a big difference in the months ahead.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a peaceful, hopeful New Year.

Warm regards

Chris Tomes  
Headteacher



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## Key Dates

### **Start of Term 3**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Kinship Carers Coffee Morning**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Business Studies Trip - Cyrus One**

Friday 16th January 2026

### **Year 10 Student Progress Evening**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

### **Business Studies Trip - Bett Show**

Friday 23rd January 2026

### **Whole School Careers Fair**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Year 11 Revision Fair**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Year 10 Ascot Supporters Community Challenge**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **SEND Coffee Morning**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Art/Photography Trip - Oxford Museums**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **A-Level Film Studies Grade Booster Trip**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **Year 11 & Year 13 PPE's**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **National Apprenticeship Week**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **PTA Meeting**

Wednesday 11th February 2026

### **Year 9 Immunisations**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **Ski Trip**

Sunday 15th - Saturday 21st February 2026

### **Start of Term 4**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

## **"Christmas Returns to Earth"**

"Christmas Returns to Earth" delighted audiences as the heartwarming sequel to "Christmas on Earth". Once again, the aliens returned to Earth, this time with new recruits, on a special mission to remind the HoneyPot family of the true meaning of Christmas. As the children had grown up and life had pulled them in different directions, the visitors helped each family member rediscover the values they once shared, love, family, belonging, courage, compassion and commitment. Filled with laughter, warmth and touching moments, the production was a joyful celebration of togetherness and the perfect way to begin the Christmas season.



A huge thanks to our talented students, supportive PTA, Mrs Jones and Miss Tomes for their hard work and dedication, all the parents and friends who came to watch and of course, our very own Miss Harrington for another fantastic script. These school productions take a huge amount of commitment and time so we're incredibly proud of everyone that took part.

## **Christmas Church Services**



Our annual student Christmas services were a beautiful reminder of what the festive season is all about, with students from Years 7-10 enjoying performances from the school choir, and Performing Arts department retelling the story of Christmas. Years 11-13, their families and friends of the school, were invited to join us at an additional service that evening. We had a wonderful time and were delighted to see so many familiar faces join us for an evening of reflection, song and worship.

## **Pantomime Trip**

The Music Department took a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students to see the Windsor Pantomime, Cinderella. It was enjoyed by all! The students loved the references to 6-7 and the Jet2Holiday, whilst Mrs Jones loved the iconic lift from Dirty Dancing, aided by three stage managers!



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## Sports Fixtures

Our sports teams have been smashing it out of the park this term!

The Year 8 Girls Netball team won 3-1 in their Slough & Maidenhead Schools tournament.

The Girls U15 Football team won 3-1, and 3-2 in their National Schools Cup games. Special mentions to Evie, Lulu, Charlotte and Arizona for their contribution to the matches.

Our Year 7 Girls Netball team made school history by winning against Newlands School for the first time ever!

Our 7 Boys Football team didn't quite have the result they wanted playing away against Burnham Grammar, however all players gave everything they had considering the weather on the day.



## Fitness Centre Fundraiser

As you know our Fitness and Learning Centre underwent a huge amount of work over the summer to provide us with some much needed new classroom and learning spaces. We are now fundraising to upgrade the new Fitness Suite and it's equipment.

We'd like to say a **HUGE** thank you to the Englefield Estate Charitable Trust for donating a massive £2500 towards our gym and fitness suite refurbishment project.

We'd also like to say a massive thanks to parent, Chris Johnson of Frontline Solutions, for a very generous donation of £100 towards our gym equipment fund. Frontline Solutions, who cover most of Berkshire for domestic and commercial removals, also kindly moved our school pianos up to the new music room in our Fitness and Learning block free of charge.



These extremely generous contributions go a long way to helping us reach our target of £15,000, which Sport England will then match, giving us a potential £30,000 to spend on replacing equipment.

But we can't do this without you. Please consider contributing, no matter how big or small, using the link below. Providing up to date sports equipment and technology will benefit so many local children.

[bit.ly/4niGRX](https://bit.ly/4niGRX)

## GCSE & Duke of Edinburgh Award Certificates Evening

We'd like to thank Reverend Andreas Sistig, (Priest in charge of Eton with Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney) for being our special guest at this years GCSE Certificate Evening, where all students were celebrated for their hardwork and exceptional grades.



We also celebrated those who took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Students were presented with their certificates by our Guest Speaker.

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## Sixth Form Taster Day



Our Year 11 students stepped into the world of Sixth Form for our Taster Day this term, and it was nothing short of inspiring! From hands-on subject experiences and Sixth Form lessons, to hearing from our Royal Holloway University motivational speaker and our Sixth Form alumni students delivering heartfelt speeches about their Churchmead journey from Year 7 to University. A huge congratulations to all Year 11s who have already secured their provisional Sixth Form place with us. We're so excited for your next chapter!

Open Tours are still available for external candidates so come and see what makes our Sixth Form so special.



## Christmas Jumper Day



It was our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 12th December to raise money for Save the Children. Students were asked to make a donation of £2 to wear their Christmas jumper with their uniform. TheEco Club and EBE Club (Baking) also hosted a bake sale at lunchtime. All profits will be shared between the two clubs and Save the Children. We look forward to sharing the amount raised with you soon.

## Christmas Lunch

We had so much fun watching our students enjoy our annual Christmas Lunch service. It was a lovely way to celebrate everyone's hard work this term, and celebrate the start of the festive season. A massive thanks to our kitchen team and support staff for all their help in making this happen.



## Wraysbury Players Pantomime - Alice in Wonderland



If you're looking for some festive fun after the Christmas break, go support our Churchmead students in the Wraysbury Players Pantomime "Alice in Wonderland".

With students past and present in the cast, crew and this year taking on the roles of Producer and Director, we couldn't be more proud of their achievements, and embracing our school moto of "Life in all it's Fullness".

Tickets are available from [www.WraysburyPlayers.co.uk](http://www.WraysburyPlayers.co.uk)



## St. Mary's, Datchet Christmas Activities and Nativity



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## Children in Need

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November we supported BBC Children in Need, raising a grand total of £641.81!

Children in Need is a fantastic cause that helps improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. There were lots of activities throughout the day with students swapping part of their uniform for something yellow or spotty, a bake sale full of delicious treats, a raffle with some fantastic prizes, and a penny line which our student council diligently counted for us.

All money raised will go directly to Children in Need to support their incredible work. Together, we can make a real difference.



## St. Mary's Datchet Church Fayre

A selection of our Gold Tie Prefects and Student Leaders volunteered at St. Mary's Church, Datchet for their St. Nicholas Fayre earlier this month. They helped set up stalls, sell tea, coffee and cakes and took part at the Christmas on the Green celebration afterwards.

Thanks to those students for giving back to our local community and representing the school so well.



## Remembrance Day

We are proud as always of our Year 11 Gold Tie students who represented Churchmead School at Datchet's Remembrance Day Service. With thanks to our new vicar, Reverend Andreas, who gave an inspirational sermon.



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**Churchmead Datchet Kinship group**

Wednesday 14th January '26  
10:30am to 12:00pm  
Churchmead School, Priory Way, Datchet, SL3 9JQ  
Free parking in the school's car park

A brand new peer support group for kinship carers in Datchet and surrounding area

- a chance for kinship carers to meet, listen and support those in similar circumstances
- free to join for anyone who is raising someone else's child - a group for adults only
- tea and coffee provided

We'd love to see you there!  
Please contact Keren if you have any questions and to let us know you would like to come along  
email: [keren.beddow@kinship.org.uk](mailto:keren.beddow@kinship.org.uk)  
or call/text: 07961 049807

Charity Registration: 1093915

## New Kinship Support Group

We are delighted to be hosting a new Kinship Support Group for anyone who is raising someone else's child, as a carer.

If this is you, please join us on:

Wednesday 14th January 2026

10.30am

Tea and coffee provided

A wonderful opportunity to meet, listen and support others in similar circumstances.

This is an adult only peer support group, which will be run regularly until the spring.

We look forward to welcoming you, however if you have any questions you can reach out to Keren from Kinship -  
[keren.beddow@kinship.org](mailto:keren.beddow@kinship.org)  
07961 049 807

## Keeping Children Safe Online This Christmas

As we head into the festive season, children often receive new devices and spend more time online. To help them enjoy the internet safely, here are some practical tips and tools—especially relevant in the UK—to support healthy digital habits throughout the holidays.

### Set Up Devices Together

Parental controls: Activate built-in settings on smartphones and tablets to manage screen time, block inappropriate content, and disable in-app purchases.

- **Apple Screen Time Guide:** <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208982>
- **Google Family Link:** <https://families.google.com/familylink/>

### Establish Family Rules

Agree on daily usage limits and keep devices out of bedrooms at night. Use apple or google family controls to set daily limits on apps for children to help monitor the time spent online. This can also be easily done on games consoles. Create a communal charging station for overnight use.

### Keep Communication Open

Ask children what they enjoy online and encourage them to share if something makes them uncomfortable. Reassure them they won't be punished for speaking up.



### Understand Online Risks

Children may encounter:

- Inappropriate content
- Cyberbullying
- Contact from strangers
- Risky trends or misinformation

### Useful UK Guides & Resources

- **NSPCC Online Safety:** <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- **Internet Matters:** <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- **UK Safer Internet Centre:** <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>



### Recommended Parental Control Apps

- **Qustodio** <https://www.qustodio.com/en/>
- **Kidslox** <https://kidslox.com/>
- **Net Nanny** <https://www.netnanny.com/>
- **Google Family Link** <https://families.google.com/familylink/>
- **Apple Screen Time** <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT208982>
- **Kaspersky Safe Kids** <https://www.kaspersky.co.uk/safe-kids>

### Quick Tips to Start This Week

- Set up and review device settings together- remember you are allowed to monitor and review what's on their phones!
- Install your chosen parental control app, if wanted.
- Create a written 'family tech agreement' for the holidays – boost your social communication.
- Schedule a chat about online safety

Thank you for partnering in keeping our children safe online this holiday season. Let's help them enjoy the festive break—and the internet—confidently and securely!

Warm wishes and a Merry Christmas,  
Mrs Rachel Jenkins  
Assistant Headteacher

## Important Reminders



- If you need to collect your child during the school day for an appointment, please remember to email the school at [office@churchmead.org](mailto:office@churchmead.org) with evidence of the appointment, and what time you will be collecting beforehand.
- A reminder that if a student feels unwell while at school, they must come to the school medical office to be assessed. We will then decide the most appropriate next steps, including calling home if necessary. A gentle reminder that we are a no mobile phone school.
- Please also be reminded that we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. This is to protect our students and staff who have nut allergies. Please do not send your child to school with any food that contains nuts.



### Links to advice and help

#### Online Safety

[Safer Internet Day Top Tips and Advice Pages | Childnet](#)

[11-18s | CEOP Education](#)

#### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Young Minds – [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

[Shout: the UK's free, confidential and 24/7 mental health text service for crisis support | Shout 85258](#)

You can also contact Kooth [Home – Kooth](#) - Free online counselling support



#### Support and Advice for Parents

[Support & advice for parents | NSPCC](#)

[11-18s | CEOP Education](#)



### Half Term Safeguarding Notices

Safeguarding you all continues throughout the half term.

If you have any safeguarding worries or concerns you can email:

[safeguard@churchmead.org](mailto:safeguard@churchmead.org)

If you feel as though you need someone to talk to, remember you can contact

Childline: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Or

Kooth: [Home - Kooth](#)



If a crime is being committed or you feel like you are in immediate danger, you must contact the police on **999**



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## PTA News

If you'd like to know more about what Churchmead's PTA do and how you can support or join us, why not come along to the next meeting? We're always looking for volunteers and members of the community to get involved.  
Email [pta@churchmead.org](mailto:pta@churchmead.org) to find out more.

Churchmead School PTA are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!  
These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us and the school so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us.  
It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.  
You can find our easyfundraising page by following this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchmeadpta>



## Uniform Donations



The school office are looking for any donations of pre loved school uniform still in good condition. We currently have a shortage of skirts of all sizes and small blazers. If you have anything you'd like to donate, please drop it to main reception.



## Lockers

We currently have a limited numbers of lockers available for hire across all year groups. Please contact [finance@churchmead.org](mailto:finance@churchmead.org) to register interest/get more information for your child.

## Free School Meals Applications

It's quick and easy to apply for Free School Meals.

Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://apply.cloud-foredu.org.uk/ofsm.rbw>



Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related Employment & Support Allowance
- Support under V1 of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of state pension credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,900
- Working Tax Credit "run on" - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credits

Please contact Heidi David if you need any help applying - [hdavid@churchmead.org](mailto:hdavid@churchmead.org)

## Keeping in Touch

01753 211 330



[office@churchmead.org](mailto:office@churchmead.org)

[@ChurchmeadChurchOfEnglandvaSchool](https://www.twitter.com/@ChurchmeadSch)

[@Churchmead\\_insta](https://www.instagram.com/@Churchmead_insta)

[@ChurchmeadSch](https://www.twitter.com/@ChurchmeadSch)

[www.Churchmead.org](http://www.Churchmead.org)

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## Christmas Services at St. Mary's Church Datchet

Rooted in Christ, reaching out to his world

Sunday 30th November	3:30pm	Christingle Service
Sunday 14th December	6:30pm	Churches Together in Datchet Carol Service
Saturday 20th December	2:00pm - 4:30pm	Messy Christmas Fun, crafts, storytelling, simple meal

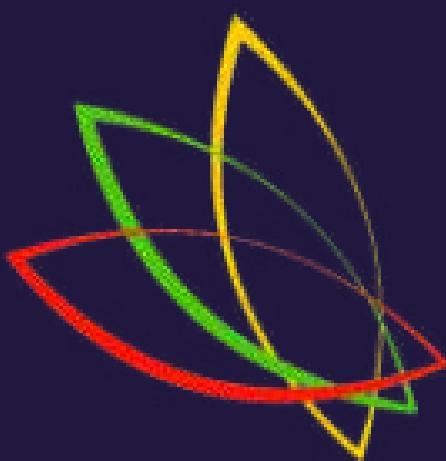
### CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24th December	4:30pm	Nativity and Crib Service
	11:30pm	Midnight Mass

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25th December	9:30am	Sung Eucharist
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CHURCHMEAD SCHOOL