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## Headteacher's Message

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful half term break and enjoyed any celebrations that you may have participated in, particularly Diwali, Halloween or Bonfire Night.

Our thoughts remain with those affected by recent global events. It has been heart-breaking to witness the devastation caused by the hurricane Melissa across Jamaica and we sincerely hope that all members of our school community and their families have remained safe and unaffected. Please remember that we are here to offer support to any child or family who may need it; do not hesitate to reach out.



You may have already noticed the beautiful new display of poppies blooming on our front gates this week. Every single child contributed to this touching display as part of their class learning about



Remembrance and we've even extended the display to the flowerbeds in the amphitheatre! It's been a lovely sight watching children and parents try to spot their own unique poppy in the sea of red. Next week, we will share some of the beautiful poems that children have written to commemorate this important day.

To honour those who serve to defend our freedoms and way of life, especially those in the armed forces who have lost their lives in war and conflict, we will observe a two-minute silence at 11am on Tuesday, November 11th. Children are also invited to wear the uniforms from any outside organisations they attend, such as Cubs, Brownies, or cadets etc on this day. For the benefit of our local community, our gates will be closed for most of this weekend to allow public viewing of this poignant display.



Next week is a crucial one in our school calendar as we also observe Anti-Bullying Week, themed 'Power for Good'. We are kicking things off with an "Odd Socks Day" on Monday (10<sup>th</sup> November) to celebrate our individuality and uniqueness.

Throughout the week, children will engage in vital learning about identifying bullying, understanding how to stand up to it and effective prevention strategies. We encourage you to continue these important conversations at home and if any questions or concerns arise, please speak directly with your child's class teacher.

We also warmly invite all parents and carers to join us on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November for an opportunity visit your child's classroom and view their art work and learning from the week.

We will soon be sharing details of all our Christmas events - keep your eyes peeled so you can book tickets and save dates.

Siân McCarthy





## General Information

### Southfield Park

We are thrilled to announce that Southfield Park Primary School, found a short drive from Epsom town centre, has joined the Lumen Learning Trust family of schools. With a relentless approach to providing the very best educational opportunities within a nurturing environment for primary pupils in the Surrey area, this important step marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our school communities. Bringing expertise, strong collaboration and high-quality practitioners to all of our schools, this new addition will further enrich our pupils' learning experience.



While we embark on this journey with Southfield Park, we want to reassure you that our unwavering commitment to creating a warm, inclusive and supportive environment for every child remains stronger than ever. Our core values and our dedication to your child's growth, wellbeing and success will continue to guide everything we do.

We will keep you updated on developments and we welcome any questions or feedback you may have. Thank you for your continued support as we embrace these new opportunities together.

### Breakfast Club Drop off

Parents are reminded that breakfast club opens at **7.30am**. The vehicle gates to the school will open for access at 7.30am. Please do not queue or block the entrance to the gates before this time.

### Anti-bullying Week - 10th-14th November

This year's Anti-bullying Week will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November. The theme for this year is 'Power for Good'. The children will be immersing themselves in learning and activities around this theme throughout the week. On **Monday 10th November**, the children are invited to wear odd socks to school; this is to celebrate everyone's individuality. On **Friday 14th November**, the children will be presenting their artwork to you via open classrooms from 3pm.

### Children in Need - Friday 14th November

Children in Need falls at the end of our Anti-bullying Week this year. To raise money for this fantastic cause, we will be hosting a number of fundraisers throughout the day - these are detailed below:

- **Spotty/Pudsey Themed Own Clothes** - children are invited to wear spotty/Pudsey themed non-uniform clothes to school on Friday 14th November in return for a voluntary £1 donation.
- **'Challenge to 25'** - all classes will be coming up with their own personal 'Challenge to 25' to take part in that day. This could be a physical challenge (such as 25 star jumps) or a kindness challenge (such as 25 acts of kindness).
- **Anti-bullying Art Gallery** - During Anti-Bullying Week 2025 the children will be creating special artwork that reflects kindness, strength and standing up for one another. Parents and carers are warmly invited to come into school *at 3:00 pm on Friday 14 November* to view the artwork. If you'd like to, you may purchase your child's piece through a *voluntary donation* in aid of Children in Need.

### Harvest Foodbank Donations – Thank You

A big thank you to everyone for their harvest donations for the Walton & Hersham Foodbank.

**THANK YOU**

Walton Oak School  
For donating:  
155.45 kgs of food, Harvest '25  
Your donations make a **BIG** difference to local people in crisis.

Walton & Hersham Foodbank  
Together with Trussell

waltoncharity



### Remembrance Day Uniforms - Tuesday 11th November

Children are invited to wear their rainbow/brownie/cubs/cadets etc uniforms to school on 11th November to mark Remembrance Day.

If your child has PE on that day, please bring their PE kit in a bag to change into.

### Parent Learning Conference - Have you booked your place?

It is now less than two weeks until this year's Parent Learning Conference - Wednesday 19th November.

We are excited to share that this year, we will be joined by our school lunch catering company - AIP - who will be putting on a selection of tasters during the evening. This means parents/carers who are attending the evening will be able to enjoy some delicious food whilst browsing the all important stands in the hall where they can receive some guidance/advice on a range of key areas (including Inclusion, Anti-bullying, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Online Safety and many more).

Mrs. Bourne spoke with a number of parents/carers during our Parent-Teacher Consultations at the end of last term, sharing information about this important event and its many benefits. We know how important it is for your children to feel represented at these events and how valuable the stands and workshops are for parents/carers. The workshop sessions will be interactive and are therefore best attended in person to get the most from them.



If you are yet to sign up to attend the evening, please book your place using the Google Form (via the link or QR code). Link: <https://forms.gle/sQAcFoKCs9aJiSwP6>

## Transition

Prospective Reception Open Morning/Afternoon Tours: Various dates – see our website [here](#)

Is your child due to start school in September 2026? Please come and have a look around our school. You can book [here](#) to join a tour - You are welcome to bring your child along.



### Reception - school applications

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 you will need to apply for a school place between **3 November 2025 and 15 January 2026**.

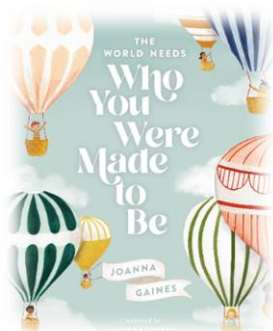
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant>

Contact the office if you need support with this.

Please note: you will still need apply even if your child is our nursery.

## Reading

### Reading recommendations



Mrs. Brace would love to recommend 'The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be' by *Joanna Gaines*, a beautifully written and illustrated picture book that shares an important message for young children.



This heart-warming story follows a group of friends who work together to build hot air balloons. Each balloon turns out differently, reflecting the personalities, ideas and creativity of its maker. Through this simple but powerful idea, the book celebrates how everyone is unique, special and needed in the world. It reminds children that it's okay to think differently, to do things your own way and to be proud of who you are, because the world truly needs each person's uniqueness.



### Tips for reading with early readers

- Ask your child to tell you what is happening in the picture before they begin to read.
- Encourage children to sound out words (segment and blend).
- Point under the words as you read together.
- Celebrate small successes - remember, progress takes time!

### What is segmenting and blending?

Segmenting is when children break a word into sounds. For example, 'cat' becomes c / a / t.

Blending is when children put sounds together to read a word. For example, c / a / t becomes 'cat'.

These skills help children read new words and spell more accurately. You can support your child by practising short, fun sound games at home - try sounding out words you see around you and blending the sounds together!

## Tiny Happy People

### Building Blocks



This week is an activity aimed at 3-4 year olds but can be played by children of all ages and parents/carers too.



This activity is a great example of using your building blocks in a new way to expand your child's vocabulary and teach patience and resilience.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/games-with-building-blocks/zpg9kty>

Have a go and let us know how it goes. We'd love to hear from you.

## Oracy

### Take Home Focus – Let's Talk!



TAKEHOME

20th - 26th October

Should everyone have an identity card?

### In the news this week

The UK government is planning to bring in digital identity cards, which people could keep on their phones or have as a physical card. The idea is that these new IDs would make it easier to prove who you are for things like work, travel, or applying for services. Supporters say they could improve safety and convenience, while others worry about privacy, fairness, and people without access to smartphones.

**Things to talk about at home ...**

- Can you make a list of some of the pros and cons of identity cards? Discuss these with someone at home.
- Do you think a digital card is better than having an actual card? Why?
- What do you think makes up your identity? Ask and share your response with someone at home.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

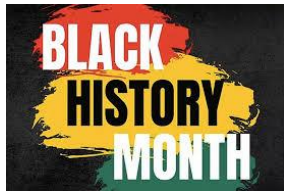
[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

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### Enrichment Activities

#### Black History Month: Standing Firm in Power and Pride



Throughout October, our school celebrated Black History Month under the inspiring theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride."

Across the school, children explored the lives of influential Black individuals who have made a lasting impact on history. Using specially designed posters, children scanned QR codes to listen to the powerful stories behind each person's achievements. They then created their own fact files, celebrating the courage and determination shown by these inspiring figures. In PSHE lessons, children reflected on the importance of standing up for what you believe in. They discussed how strength and pride can come from using your voice and taking action to make a difference.

#### PRIDE IN OUR ROOTS



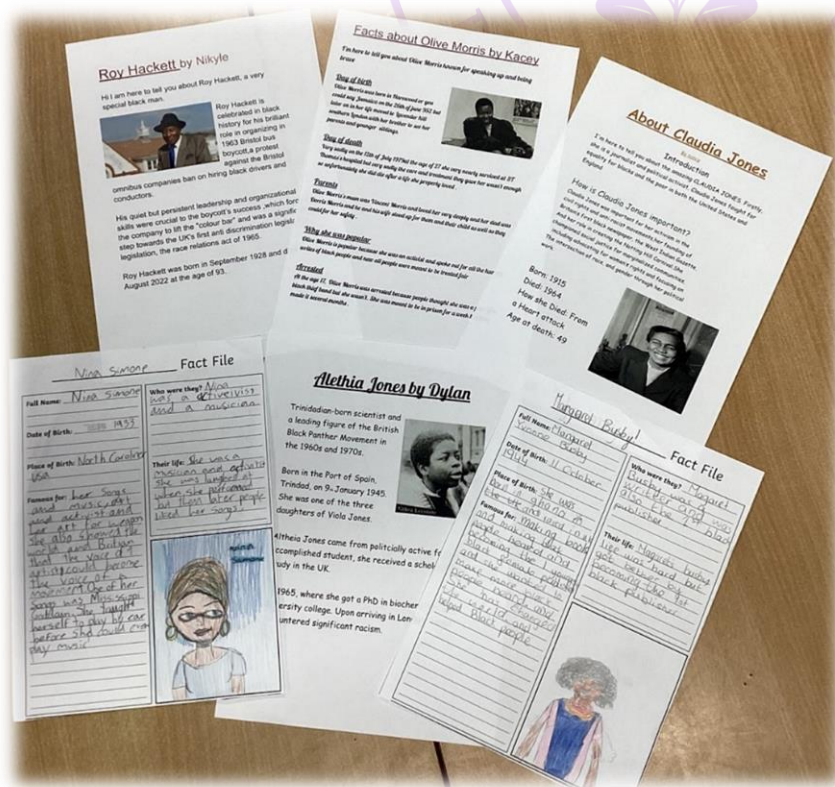
Black presence in Britain spans centuries. Some were born here, others arrived through empire, building lives in towns and cities. They created culture, shaped society, and challenged prejudice. The six lives honoured here are part of that deeper legacy—a reminder that Black history has always been at the heart of Britain's story.

Our assemblies, both in key stages and as a whole school, brought these messages together. Through stories and discussion, we learned how the actions of a few can inspire positive change for many.

October was a thoughtful and empowering month, reminding us all of the importance of courage, pride and unity in shaping a fair and inclusive world.

#### THEIR SERVICE, OUR HISTORY

For generations, Black men and women have stood at Britain's frontlines — on land, at sea, and in the air — serving with skill, discipline, and pride. The six lives remembered here reflect a far greater story: one of courage, loyalty, and service that strengthened Britain and earned a lasting place in its history.



Try scanning this QR code to find out about Mary Seacole.



### Pastoral News



Answering BIG questions and raising Inclusive Children:

*"Why does that boy use a wheelchair? Can he not walk at all?"*

*"Why does her hair look different than mine?"*

*"Why is my friend's skin darker than mine?"*

Managing these "big questions" and raising inclusive children is both a challenge and an exciting opportunity. Children's questions can be direct and sometimes uncomfortable, touching on deep-seated societal issues and your own potential biases. It requires you to navigate complex topics like ability, race, identity and socioeconomic status with honesty and sensitivity, often without having all the answers yourself.

However, embracing these conversations is an incredible opportunity to shape the future. By guiding children to ask these questions in the spirit of curiosity rather than judgment, you are:

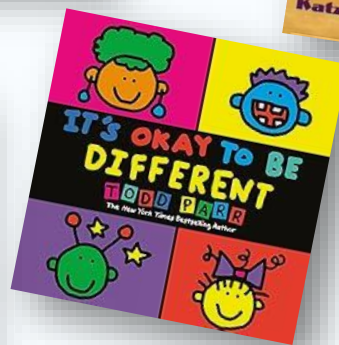
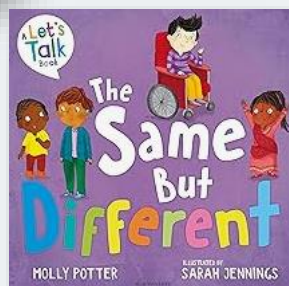
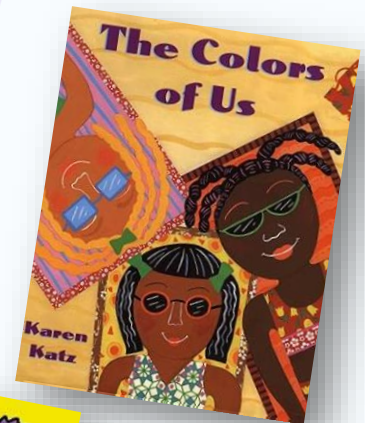
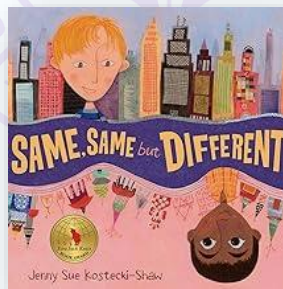
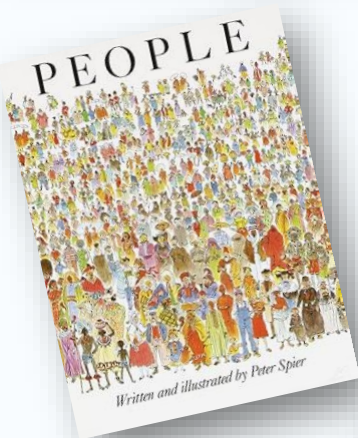
- **Benefiting your child:** You are fostering empathy, critical thinking and social skills that will help them build stronger, more meaningful relationships throughout their lives. They develop a richer understanding of the world around them, making them more resilient and adaptable citizens.
- **Benefiting the world:** You are raising a new generation of open-minded, compassionate individuals who are more likely to challenge injustice and advocate for positive change. Inclusive children grow into inclusive adults who contribute to a more equitable, understanding and peaceful society.

It is through these seemingly simple questions that the most profound learning takes place, laying the foundation for a more inclusive future for everyone.



The Big Life Journal provides '7 Key steps to Raising Inclusive Kids'. You can explore this simple and useful guide [here](#).

There are also many recommended books that you can share with your children to teach them about race and diversity





### Job opportunities across Lumen Learning Trust and its schools

The Echelford Primary School in Ashford is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a Wrap Around Care Manager who wants to create a provision that is stimulating, safe, caring and creative. The right candidate will be organised and able to lead and work as part of a team and use their own initiative. For more information **click on the link on page 1.**

The Echelford Primary School in Ashford is recruiting: We are looking to appoint a talented teaching assistant on a fixed term contract with a proven record of providing high quality support to children of all abilities, including those with additional educational needs. The right candidate will be joining a strong, professional team of enthusiastic staff who will work alongside you in a supportive and constructive way. Full or part time considered for the role. For more information **click on the link on page 1.**

### Diversity and Equality

#### Accepting that Everyone is Different



This week's assembly helped children think about what makes each of us special and unique. We talked about how our families, languages, interests and personalities all shape who we are and how these differences make our school a kinder and more interesting place to be. We linked this to our Walton Oak Way of being Respectful.



The children learned about Sir Mo Farah, one of Britain's greatest runners, who was born in Somalia and moved to the UK as a child. We learned how Mo's journey began far from the UK and how he faced many challenges before becoming a celebrated Olympian. His story reminds us that it doesn't matter where you come from, what matters is where you feel safe, loved and accepted. Mo once said,



**"You don't have to be born somewhere to belong there. Home is where you feel loved and safe."**

Children shared wonderful ideas about belonging and kindness. One said, *"Being different makes our school more exciting,"* while another added, *"If someone joins our class from another country, we should help them feel welcome."*

We also connected our theme to current news about electronic identity cards, a new idea being discussed by the government. Some people think they could make life easier and encourage people who move to the UK to do so safely, while others worry they might make some groups feel left out. This helped us see that identity isn't just about what's written on paper - it's about our actions, kindness and how we include others every day.

We ended by agreeing that our school should always be a place where everyone feels proud of who they are and where differences are celebrated, not hidden.

**Protected Characteristics**

Everyone's identity is part of what makes our world interesting. As ID cards are discussed, it's important to remember that we should all be recognised and valued for who we are, whatever our background or heritage.

**British Values**

**Rule of Law**

New Laws can sometimes mean changes for everyone. If digital ID cards become law, people will need to follow the new rules. It's important that laws are fair and help everyone feel safe and supported.

**UN Rights of the Child**

Children have the right to privacy and to feel safe when information is shared about them. Adults should make sure personal details are used responsibly and kept safe.

**16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**



FOWO

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2025 - FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER - 3.30pm - 6pm

Sponsored by



Your PTA Needs You! Volunteers needed for the Christmas Fair

Get ready! We're deep into planning our annual **Christmas Fair**, which is happening on **Friday, November 28, 2025**. We'll be completely transforming the school into a spectacular, festive feast for the eyes!

To make this year's Fair a massive success, **we're calling on our fantastic school community for support!** Could you help on the day of the Christmas fair? These events rely entirely on volunteers to happen and for the fair we need around 60 – 70 people to help set up, run stalls and clear up. So, if you can spare 30 - 60 minutes on the day it is hugely appreciated. Your children are always welcome to help alongside you, and where that is the case, we try to put you on a games stall that is more interactive for them!

Timings as follows:

- **1.30 – 3.15pm:** Set up. We will need help putting out tables, setting up the tombola and the other games stalls.
- **3.30pm – 6.00pm:** can you do a 30 minute slot on a stall?
- **6.00 – 7.00pm:** can you help take down stalls, pack away the grotto, clear up rubbish etc?

Please email sign up using the following [volunteer form](#) (or QR Code at the end of The Wire) if you can help. If you have any questions, please email [fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk)

We also need your help in the following key areas:

- **Teddy Tombola Donations:** We are currently seeking donations of new or gently used soft toys and teddy bears for this popular stall at the Fair. If you have any cuddly friends looking for a new home, please bring them into school and drop them bagged, by the uniform rail and we will collect them and store them until the fair. Thank you for your support!
- **Cake Donations:** We need your help to stock our cake stand! Who can resist a tasty **mince pie** or other festive treat? Your delicious donations will help keep our volunteers and visitors going throughout the Fair. Please drop off your contributions at the school on the day of the Fair.

**Reminder: Our school is strictly nut-free. Thank you for ensuring all donated treats adhere to this rule.**

If you can help out in any way—big or small—please reach out to FOWO by [signing up](#) or emailing us at [fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:fowo@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk). Thank you!

Mufti in exchange for donations

All students are encouraged to come to school in mufti on **28 November (26 November for Nursery)**, in exchange for donations of Raffle prizes for the Christmas Fair

Those of you with children in the Lower School (KS1), we are asking for donations of **unopened and in date sweets, and chocolates**, including boxes of chocolates, biscuits and sweets

Those of you in the Upper School (KS2), it's bring a bottle to school day! Examples include **unopened and in date bottles ANYTHING** - Pop, Wine food and even toiletries!

Fiendishly good support for Break the Ghouls

We can now officially announce that you all raised **£598.05** at Break the Ghouls!! This is a fantastic total, and will go straight back into supporting the school

Support the local football team with a 50% discount from FOWO

Many of you may well be aware of our fantastic local club Walton & Hersham FC, based near the Xcel. They are an incredible team and provide a fabulous family day out when they are playing at home. So much so that **they have offered Walton Oak families 50% off all adult & Senior tickets at this weekends home game** against Weymouth. Just use the code **WALTONOAK50** to receive your discount. Tickets can be booked [here](#)



### Celebrations

#### Achievements outside of School



Last Thursday, Lewis, Elliott and Dylan spent several hours walking up and down the main area of Waterloo Station to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. They kept morale up by distributing sweets and they looked super smart in their uniforms. Whilst they don't yet have the official funds total, early calculations indicate that they were instrumental in raising £120,000 in one day at one station! They were a very popular addition to the day. This is an amazing achievement and another example of the community spirit and care for others that children at Walton Oak demonstrate. How special to have been part of something so important. We are very proud of them.



#### Gold Leaves

Well done to the following children who all received a gold leaf this week for following our Walton Oak Way Values:



<b>Ladybirds</b>	Richard & Ronnie
<b>Squirrels</b>	Lizzie, Theo & Zak
<b>1B</b>	Alfie, Ariyaana & Albie P
<b>3B</b>	Amelia & Harley
<b>3G</b>	Sofia M & Fionn
<b>4C</b>	Elizabeth
<b>4A</b>	Hayden, Maddi, Jazib, Eliza & Ruby
<b>5C</b>	Tommy, Daisy, Fraser, Noah, Jackson Summer & Brody
<b>5M</b>	Sophie, Felipe, Kiri-Mai, Suraiya, Henry & Ruben
<b>6BD</b>	Bianka
<b>6J</b>	Dino, Kiara, Freddy & Ronnie

On behalf of the Walton Oak staff team we wish you a pleasant weekend.



Upcoming dates for the diary

New dates in red

Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Odd Socks day
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Day – children can wear uniforms
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Children in Need Day – wears spots
	Open classrooms from 3pm to showcase anti-bullying learning
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Individual/Sibling photos
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Year 6 Bikeability
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Parent Learning Conference 5-7.30pm
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 1-6 Flu Vaccinations
	Year 6 Height and Weight checks
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Nursery Mufti - donations for Christmas Fair
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christmas Fair 3.30-6pm
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mufti - donations for Christmas Fair
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	End of Term 1.45pm
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children return to school
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Children return to school





easyfundraising

Do we need your support?  
**App-solutely!**

3<sup>rd</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> November

The **Free £2** App-eal

Limited £2s available

Download > Register > Get £2

**50% OFF WITH CODE WALTONOAK50**

Exclusive offer for Walton Oak Primary families!

Join us this Saturday, 8th November, as the Swans take on Weymouth in a bid to stay top of the league.

Bring the kids, invite the grandparents, and enjoy a great day out supporting your local club.

**SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
3PM KICK OFF  
ELMBRIDGE XCEL SPORTS HUB  
KT12 2JP**

PROUD SPONSORS OF WALTON OAK'S

**CHRISTMAS Fair**

**FREE ENTRY**

Friday 28th November  
3.30pm - 6pm

SANTA'S GROTTO | TOMBOLA | CRAFTS  
GAMES STALLS | REFRESHMENTS

**CHRISTMAS Fair**

**Volunteer Sign-Up**

SCAN ME