Title: Arsenal stars impressed by work of club's foundation

Since The Arsenal Foundation was launched in 2012, more than £1 million has been committed to fund projects reaching over 100,000 young people in the United Kingdom and overseas and the day will feature a number of other fund-raising events, including people taking photos of themselves in Christmas jumpers.

"We are always very proud to support the work of The Arsenal Foundation, helping young people to fulfill their potential and achieve great things in their lives," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "It's a big tradition for us and we hope the supporters join in, share their best Christmas jumper selfies and give what they can too."

Several first-team players have been getting a first-hand view as to what their wages will be going towards by visiting projects that the Foundation is involved in.

On Monday, forward Olivier Giroud and goalkeeper David Ospina visited St Mark's School in Islington to lead a football session for the students on the school's new 3G pitch. The pitch was refurbished with the support of the Arsenal Foundation last year and is home to a number of Arsenal in the Community projects.

Football sessions for boys and girls are held there each week, along with regular hockey lessons, while the Arsenal Double Club – a football and education programme which teaches a range of subjects combined with football coaching – also runs holiday and weekend programmes from the school.

It is one of 13 pitches that the Arsenal Foundation has helped to upgrade across the local boroughs of Islington, Camden and Hackney since 2008, with Arsenal in the Community running sessions across each site.

The week before Alexis Sanchez and Santi Cazorla joined forces to open a state-of-the-art health and wellbeing facility for homeless young people in Soho, with funds from the Arsenal Foundation. The refurbishment was for Centrepoint, the leading youth homelessness charity, and it created space to include new counselling rooms, a recording studio, main hall, kitchen facilities as well as office space for the Centrepoint Health and Wellbeing team.

"I'm not in Chile this Christmas to help the poor, but this year, the Club is helping me keep up the tradition of giving and today's visit is about just that," Sanchez said. "This centre will give people a chance at a better life. A chance to get back on their feet which is such an important start on life's journey."