



### Our Guiding Light

Jesus said ....

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my Disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13-34-35)

## KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

I hope you have had a wonderful week enjoying the sunshine. We certainly have in school; Book Week has been fabulous so we do hope your child has come home each day excited to tell you what they have been doing.

We have met a number of authors including Tamsyn Murray, Marielle Bayliss and Haroon Khan who have all led interesting workshops. In addition, local author and parent of Isobel in Year 5, Mrs Amanda Boulding, came in to read from her published books and our very own author, Mr Redjeb, led a session for Year 3 and Year 6. Mrs Scott-Russell, mum of Alexandra and Tabitha, spoke about ghost writing and Mrs Montanari, mum of Emily and Jamie gave Year 5 some top tips on speech writing. We are also grateful every year that Aurelia Young, grandmother of Teddy and Jessie, is able to come in and share the fascinating story of her father who she has written about in her book 'Finding Nemon'. We have enjoyed live lessons, one with poet Simon Mole, and our 'Big Book Take-Away' in the middle of the week gave everyone a terrific diet of reading. The children shared the books they chose with their friends in other classes during two buddy reading sessions and they have also enjoyed visits to the library to search for specific books.

Perhaps the highlight for many were our trips to the Little Bookshop where everyone met author of 'Stay', Fran Harlow and her sister Eloise McKenna who illustrated the book. They were very kind in signing all the copies the children bought. We have one for school too. We are enormously grateful to Emma and her team for making us so welcome. As a thank you Year 6 have written book reviews that you will see on shelves when you next pop into the shop.

Equally special was the production of 'The Wizard of Oz' which the M & M Travelling Theatre Company brought to us on Wednesday. The children were enthralled as the story unfolded before their eyes. It helped reinforce the message that we have explored throughout the week, that of 'belonging'. With the picture book, 'The Comet' by Joe Todd-Stanton as inspiration, the children have created art work which has helped them appreciate the importance of home, friendship and imagination.

Today we ended on a high with everyone dressed up. It was a spectacular sight!

The celebration of this National Year of Reading continues. Over the next fortnight Maidenhead's Big Read is also taking place. The team are putting on a range of events locally so to see what is happening and learn how to get involved, go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/821e82ba0f08/mbr-newsletter-18099162>

### Parents' Evening:

I trust you found the opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher this week useful in helping you understand how he/she is progressing. We recognise how important the partnership between home and school is so we are grateful to you for finding time to join us.

### PTA Ball:

With just over a week to go before the PTA Ball, I trust you have got your ticket. Do take a look at the prizes in the silent auction too. There are some wonderful things on offer!

### Cookham Festival:

Tickets for events running during the Cookham Festival have gone on sale including tickets for the schools' Cantata, *The Commons of Cookham*, which our choirs will be performing at. There are two performances on 8<sup>th</sup> May both lasting an hour, one at 1:30pm and the second at 3pm. Tickets are limited so don't delay: [Schools' Cantata | Cookham Festival](#)

### Musical Evening:

As well as in the Cookham Festival, children will have an opportunity to perform in our Musical Evening which is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Mrs Brown is holding auditions on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, so if your child plays a musical instrument or is a talented singer, they are welcome to put themselves forward. They should speak to their music teacher to decide on a suitable piece and keep practicing to ensure they hit the required standard!

### Sound Lab at the Maidenhead Festival:

Once again the team organizing the Maidenhead Festival will be setting up a Sound Lab event at the Nicholson's Shopping Centre on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April. It's an opportunity for young pianists to perform on a stage. If your child is interested in taking part, contact Joyce Delasalle on 07917 876145. The Berkshire Music Trust will also be there giving people the chance to try out other instruments. Please see the flyer sent out today for details.

### Extra-Curricular Activities:

For news of clubs running again this term, please see last week's newsletter where they are all listed.

### Caterlink Competition:

We have been invited to take part in a competition organised by our catering team to design some vibrant foodie wall art. Any child wishing to take part should let their imagination run wild, think broccoli trees, baguette fences, or even carrot chimneys, in order to create an A4 page of colourful foodie-inspired landscapes. Entries should be posted to **Caterlink Competition, Hop House, Lower Green Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4HS** or scanned and emailed to [info@caterlinkltd.co.uk](mailto:info@caterlinkltd.co.uk). Your child's name, age and our school name should be written on the back of the design, or as the title of the picture file and entries must be received by 5pm on **31<sup>st</sup> March 2026** with winners notified at the end of May. The winner will receive a £20 book token. Good luck!

### Head Lice:

We have received confirmed cases of head lice today in Year 3 and Year 6. Regardless of whether your child is in these classes, please can we ask you to carry out thorough checks this weekend and treat if necessary to prevent any spread. Thank you.

### News from Tibase M School, Ethiopia:

Finally, you will recall that for many years we have supported the charity 'Partners for Change, Ethiopia'. Recently, letters that the children here wrote to the children there were taken to Tibase M School by former trustee Sarah Parfitt. She has since returned with lots of pictures that will be shared with the children in assembly next week.

Enjoy the weekend and if you are coming along to this evening's Guided Meditation Evening, I hope you have a lovely time.

Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

While some key dates appear below, please continue to refer to this section in our newsletter throughout the year as new dates will be added on a regular basis as events come up. **Any new additions (or any changes and deadlines) are highlighted in blue.**

6 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Guided Meditation Evening 7:30pm – 9pm (ladies only) See details and booking link sent out today in an email
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Parents Evening only (after school clubs meeting as usual)
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Netball match v Holyport CE Primary School (home), selected children informed by letter.
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Home Football Matches vs Lowbrook Boys and Girls, (selected children informed by letter)
14 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Ball
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Ascot Bake-Off Finals (Year 5 participating)
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Girls A and Boys B team home football matches vs Waltham St Lawrence (selected children informed by letter)
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert, school hall 9:30am

### 30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April

#### EASTER HOLIDAY

23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Auditions for the Musical Evening Concert
27 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA meeting 8pm Kings Arms
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Window for Applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests Opens
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal for Year 3 (please refer to letter)
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 trip to 'The Lion King' (details to follow)
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Cookham Festival Schools' Event (tbc)
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Musical Evening Concert
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Mufti Day (non-uniform day in exchange for an HT Fest tombola prize)

### 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May

#### HALF TERM BREAK

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Window for Applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests Closes
5 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Disco
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week Performance pm
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Arthur Burgin Exhibition (Year 6)
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal & Concert for Year 3 (please refer to letter)
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential Trip
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Sports Fortnight
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day
4 <sup>th</sup> July	HT Fest
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Spanish Assembly
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day of Term – Leavers' Assembly (details tbc)