



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

Cookham Festival:

It was wonderful to see so many of you in the audience for our joint performance with the other Cookham schools at the Odney Club this afternoon. We are thrilled to be part of the Cookham Festival again this year. Our thanks go to Mrs Brown for working so hard with our choirs to prepare them for the event. The team of thirty-five sang a medley of songs from Paddington before all four schools entertained with the cantata, written by Cookham musician, composer and parent of HT, Rob Castell. This is the fourth cantata commissioned by the Cookham Festival and written by Rob which this time was inspired by the true story of the locals who fought to protect the Commons of Cookham hundreds of years ago. Through the story the children were encouraged to think about their village and to learn from its past, celebrate the present and think about how they can protect its future. It was a magnificent occasion!

Our next musical event is the Summer Music Concert which will take place on 20th May in our school hall.

Junior Music Festival Rehearsal:

With the Junior Music Festival also fast approaching, on Tuesday Year 3 went off to Courthouse School for another rehearsal. It went well so we are now one step closer to the big concert in June.

Trip to The Lion King:

On Wednesday Year 4 were entertained by the London cast of The Lion King when they travelled to the Lyceum Theatre to see the show. It was spectacular! The children returned to school full of excitement having experienced such a lovely day out.

Sporting Success:

On Tuesday Mr Whittle accompanied the netball team to All Saints Junior School for their latest league match. The team of ten played with tremendous determination but they needed to, it was a closely fought match. Up until moments before the final whistle when the score was 9 all but then, with just seconds to go, we scored! The final score of 10-9 made the win all the more special.

Open The Book Assembly:

Yesterday we were thrilled to receive another visit from the Open the Book team who led us in collective worship. The Bible story they told, with the help of Year 6 and with audience participation from all, kept everyone engaged. We look forward to their next visit.

In other assemblies this week we have celebrated the life of Sir David Attenborough who marks his 100th birthday today. This has helped us remain focused in our drive to look after the planet. Spurred on by our Eco-Council, our planters which I wrote about recently are now starting to show signs of life! We hope that they add interest and colour to our site.

Transition Visits:

The move from one class to another is daunting for some so we work hard to ensure our transition programme eases any anxiety. Perhaps even more unnerving for the children is the transition from primary to secondary school so we liaise closely with our secondary colleagues, inviting them in to meet the children and speak to us before the year is out. This week staff from Sir William Borlase's Grammar School have been in. Over the coming weeks colleagues from the other secondary schools will be making visits which we are sure our Year 6 pupils will find useful.

Year 6 Standard Attainment Tests:

Next week is SATs week when our Year 6 pupils, like others across the country, will be taking important examinations. If you have a child in Year 6 you are already in receipt of a letter outlining the arrangements for the week (it has been sent again today as an attachment). Do refer to it for details of when the tests are and the breakfast your child is invited to attend each day.

The Gantry Barn Exhibition – Cookham Festival:

Next week our Year 5 children will be stepping across the road to visit the Gantry Barn to work with resident artist Philippa Shire Oudekerk <https://philippa-shire.oudekerk.net/work> on a topic which will introduce them to cyanotype photography. Their work will be on display from Monday 11th May to Wednesday 13th May between 1pm to 7pm so do pop over to take a look.

School Uniform:

As a reminder a sample PE kit is on display in our reception. If you are yet to see it, do pop in. At this stage we are in the early stages of considering changing our PE kit so we welcome your comments. If you are yet to have your say, please do not hesitate to catch me at the gate or email in.

11+ Transfer Tests:

If you missed the date on the calendar below, the window for applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests (11+) is now open. Please note, while we are a partner schools with Buckinghamshire which allows us to invigilate the transfer tests here, we are not able to do so unless you have registered your child beforehand. This is relevant for those of you who have a child in Year 5 if you are considering putting them in for the tests. Please find a link to the relevant web page [Register for the Secondary Transfer Test | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

PTA Disco:

On Friday 5th June the PTA will be holding a disco for the children, 4:45pm – 6pm EYFS & KS1, 6:15pm – 7:30pm KS2. Tickets must be booked in advance. To make a booking, go to: <https://forms.gle/ojJVCAb1eQQpHZ2y8>
A flyer has been sent out today as an attachment.

PTA Netball Tournament:

This Saturday (9th May) our mums' netball team will be playing in the annual PTA Netball Tournament at Braywick Leisure Centre. The event runs from 2pm – 5:30pm so if you're able, do go along and support them. Last year, against many teams, they were victorious and as winners came away with £500 for our PTA. I am sure you will join me in wishing them luck as they take on the challenge again this weekend.

All Things Bright and Beautiful:

If you receive the parish magazine, you may have seen on page 5 of the May edition a competition that your child might be interested in entering. Primary school aged children are invited to create a piece of art work based on the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful* using whatever materials they choose. The closing date is 14th May so there isn't much time left. Entries should be delivered to the parish office next to the church or emailed to Charlotte.nel@cofe-thecookhams.org.uk Entries will be displayed in the June edition of the magazine.

Enjoy the weekend and any Cookham Festival events you attend; we shall look forward to seeing you on Monday.

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.**

1 st May	Window for Applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests Opens
11 th – 14 th May	KS2 SATs (please refer to email and letter)
12 th May	Year 3 out at cricket event at Pinkney's Green Cricket Club (please refer to letter)
19 th May	Start of 'Walk to School Week'
19 th May	EYFS out at Waltham Place Biodynamic Farm (details to follow)
19 th May	Year 6 Quadkids (outdoor athletics) event, Newlands Girls School, 3:45pm start (selected children informed by letter)
20 th May	Musical Evening Concert 6pm school hall
21 st May	Boys A and Girls home football matches vs All Saints CE Junior School (selected children informed by letter)
22 nd May	Mufti Day (non-uniform day in exchange for an HT Fest tombola prize)
22 nd May	EVENT CANCELLED BY THE ORGANISERS - Active 60 event for Y2 at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre

25th – 29th May

HALF TERM BREAK

1 st June	School photographer in – regardless of PE lessons, children should wear full school uniform
2 nd June	Window for Applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests Closes
5 th June	PTA Disco
8 th – 12 th June	Arts and Culture Week
12 th June	Arts and Culture Week Performance pm
17 th June	Arthur Burgin Exhibition (Year 6)
19 th June	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal & Concert for Year 3 (please refer to letter)
22 nd – 26 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
22 nd – 2 nd July	Sports Fortnight
3 rd July	Sports Day
4 th July	HT Fest
10 th July	Spanish Assembly
16 th July	Last Day of Term – Leavers' Assembly (details tbc)