



School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

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

It was lovely to see so many of you attending our Open House event this week. We do hope you enjoyed the opportunity to visit your child's class, walk through their books and speak to their teacher(s). Thank you for taking the time.

It was also good to see several of you at Wednesday's PTA meeting. With a number of events coming up: the kids disco, the quiz night and of course HT Fest, discussion centered around logistics. We do hope you have the dates for all these in your diary; they promise to be great occasions.

Cookham Festival Concert:

The week ended on a high with thirty-two of our pupils taking part in the Cookham Festival. Our two choirs sang with children from the three other Cookham schools in a concert at the Odney Club. Each school performed individually on the stage before we all joined forces to sing a magnificent version of 'Wind in the Willows' written and composed by one of our highly talented parents, Rob Castell. Mrs. Brown did a tremendous job on the run up to the event rehearsing the children so we are enormously grateful to her for her hard work. It was a magnificent occasion attended by many including Father Steve who had fine things to say about the concert. We were immensely proud to be part of the spectacle.

Seeking Singers:

If your child enjoyed performing on Friday or would like to start singing on a more regular basis, Holy Trinity Church in the village are looking for young people aged 8-18 to come and join their Children's Choir. The choir meets in term time for a weekly rehearsal in the church on Tuesdays from 6.30pm—7.05pm when they sing a variety of music for services. The choir usually sing at one morning service (11am) a month and occasional evening services (6.30pm).

No audition and no previous singing experience is required; the team are simply looking for children with a wish to sing and who would like to be a part of the existing friendly and enthusiastic group.

To find out more, contact Sara, the Choir Director, for more information: 01628 522593, sarawood44@hotmail.com

The School is Alive with the Sound of Music:

By now your child will have heard whether they have been invited to perform a solo at our Musical Evening on Wednesday, 22nd of May at 6.30pm. With the date not far away, if your child is taking part, please remind them to continue practising.

Mrs Brown has asked me to pass on a 'well done' to all the children who auditioned. There were lots of lovely performances and we are sorry there isn't enough time in the evening to include everyone! However, she is already thinking ahead to next year so if your child would like another go at auditioning then, there is plenty of time to perfect their piece. More details about this year's concert will follow.

Touch Rugby Festival at Desborough School:

On Thursday afternoon eight children from Year 5 attended a touch rugby festival at Desborough College. Led by the schools' sports leaders they developed their passing, handling, evading and running skills and then applied these to some friendly matches against three other schools.

Congratulations to Jack Keegan for being awarded our most valuable player. He also showed fantastic teamwork, respect and sportsmanship and was keen to thank the young leaders at every opportunity.

Football Fixtures:

On Thursday, after Year 5 had been busy on the rugby field, our Year 4 footballers, girls and boys, took on Oldfield in matches down on the field. They faced a tough opposition so they weren't too disheartened when no wins came their way. The defeat was certainly softened by the fantastic treats organised by some of our mums which the children were happy to share with the victors. Thank you, Mrs. Winrow-Davies, Mrs. Al-Amin and Mrs. Brooker who instigated this.

House Assemblies with a Focus on Walk to School Week:

On Wednesday we enjoyed assemblies led by our House Captains who spoke about a subject which so many of the children feel passionate about; looking after our planet. Inspired by our Year 6 litter pickers who recently walked from Cookham to Henley, the discussion focused on what we can continue to do to make a positive impact on our world. One of the things we have all been encouraged to get involved in is Walk to School Week. This is a national campaign which runs from 20th May to 2nd June. Next week, House Captains will be distributing resources for your child to bring home ahead of starting the campaign on 20th. Do help them to get involved.

Nature Lessons:

Cygnets have been doing lots of work recently learning about nature so they were excited when two local wildlife experts came in to talk to them specifically about the life cycle of frogs among other things. The chance to see frogs spawn and tadpoles was thrilling!

WildCookham Pond Dipping - 1st and 29th June 2024:

WildCookham to offer the opportunity to children in years 5 and 6 to participate in pond-dipping on two Saturdays 1st June and 29th June. This will take place at the Marsh Meadow Pond next to Cookham Village Moor. We will meet at the National Trust car park at 09:45 and we should finish by 12 – 12:30.

The pond-dipping will be managed by members of WildCookham, but each two children must be accompanied by one parent or guardian, who will be responsible for those children at all times. All equipment will be provided by WildCookham.

The dates are:

Saturday 1st June 2024 10:00 – Meet in NT car park on Cookham Moor 09:45

Saturday 29th June 2024 10:00 – Meet in NT car park on Cookham Moor 09:45

We would appreciate it if you would publicise this on the School's Parent communications for the next couple of weeks and encourage children/parents to sign up. I attach a flyer for you to use so that parents can apply direct to WildCookham to join one of these sessions.

Interested Parents/Guardians should email their interest to malcolm@talkstork.co.uk stating the names of all wishing to come, their preferred date and giving a contact email address and Tel number. We will be limiting the numbers to 10 children only and spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served, basis.

Parking Update:

Thank you for the positive messages which keep coming in about the parking situation. It would seem that many of you are frustrated by the inconsiderate and dangerous actions of a minority. The simplest solution is for us all to work together to support one another and our neighbours, but I will continue to speak to our local councillors in the hope that they too can help.

In the meantime if you would be kind enough to take a moment to complete our short survey, it will ensure the relevant information is captured.

Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTTCSGH>

And Finally, Key Stage 2 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs):

If you have a child in Year 6, you have received a letter outlining the arrangements for SATs next week. If you have any questions, do get in touch with the team. In the meantime, I am sure you will all join me in wishing our Year 6 students the very best of luck as they embark on these important test which mark a milestone in their educational journey.

Have a lovely weekend.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

Please note, new dates added to the calendar this week have been highlighted in blue to help you see any changes.

13 th May	EYFS Health Screening
13 th – 16 th May	KS2 SATs
16 th May	Y4 Busy Buttons Trip
20 th May	National Walk to School Week
20 th May	Year 4 Tri-Golf Festival, Winter Hill Golf Club, 10am-12:30pm (selected children informed by letter)
21 st May	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
21 st May	Year 5/6 Quadkids Festival (Outdoor Athletics), Newlands Girls School, 3:45-5:45pm (selected children informed by letter).
21 st May – 24 th May	Book Fair in school
22 nd May	Musical Evening at school 6:30pm
23 rd May	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
23 rd May	Girls Football match v Oldfield (home) - selected children informed by letter
24 th May	Non-Uniform Day (in exchange, please donate an item to our PTA ahead of our HT Fest – more details to follow) Term ends for half term break (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
27 th – 31 st May	Half Term break
3 rd June	Term starts
3 rd June – 14 th June	Window for completion of Year 4 Multiplication Check
5 th June	Year 4 Trip to the West End (details yet to be confirmed in letter)
7 th June	PTA Disco (details tbc)
8 th June	Royal Windsor Flower Show
10 th – 14 th June	Arts and Culture Week
11 th June	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
13 th June	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
14 th June	Arts and Culture Week performance pm (tbc)
10 th – 14 th June	Window for completion of Year 1 Phonics Screening
19 th June	Year 6 Arthur Burgin Science Exhibition (tbc)
21 st June	PTA Quiz Night tbc
22 nd – 23 rd June	The Big Cookham Wildlife Weekend
24 th – 28 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
26 th June	Junior Music Festival Year 3
24 th – 4 th July	Sports Weeks
5 th July	Sports Day
6 th July	HT Fest
9 th July	Spanish Assembly – 9:30am
10 th July	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
19 th July	Leavers Service (tbc)
19 th July	End of Term – Summer Holiday begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)