



School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Thank you so much for coming along to the climax of 2026's Arts and Culture Week, our song and dance extravaganza. I hope you enjoyed our show which the children and staff have worked so hard to perfect. All week we have been praying to the weather gods so you can imagine our relief when we saw dry conditions this morning after the rather unsettled week we've had. We lost out on our tech rehearsal yesterday because of the rain but, in true Holy Trinity style, we all pulled together today to ensure we were performance ready. We are all terribly proud of the children who have again excelled and had enormous fun doing so. However, Arts and Culture Week isn't just about today. Do read on to find out what else we have been up to.

Arts and Culture Week:

The whole week has been spectacular with a huge number of activities taking place. We have worked closely with Norden Farm and a couple of outreach artists who have been in to school to run workshops for the children. They have enjoyed a cloth printing workshop and had a 'chihuly sculpture' experience. Mrs Hyslop organised a paper cloud hanging mobile activity and Mrs Lucas' band, 'The Material Girls' performed to the whole school on Wednesday afternoon. It was like being at the O2! The weather has allowed almost every class to visit the Stanley Spencer Gallery and find a scenic spot in the village to sketch. We have been to the churchyard, the Odney Club, the War Memorial and the river bank.

Several of you have been kind enough to give up your time in order to provide the children with varied and interesting experiences. The week began with a concert by Mrs Wood who then visited a couple of classes giving the children an opportunity to play the violin. Mr Xenopoulos also came in with a number of wind instruments as did Mr Milburn with his guitar. We were just as impressed as the children by their musical talent. Mr Owen showed a different kind of art work during his brand logo session and Ms Castell gave a fabulous voice over workshop. We even had Arlo and Samuel's grandmother deliver a lesson on Vincent Van Gogh during which the children learnt no end of facts about him. This was followed by a flower arranging class delivered by Adam from Devine Flowers in the village. He brought in a picture of Vincent Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' which he then pulled from the page when he created it in a vase using flowers he had brought along. Perhaps you saw his handy work in reception when you arrived earlier. He very kindly gave every child who took part a packet of sunflower seeds to plant.

The collaborative work across the school has been phenomenal, none more so that the project Year 4 and Year 6 did together when they researched artists of their choice to produce fact files. There really has been an enormous cross-curricular theme to the week which everyone seems to have enjoyed.

Thank you for your support in coming along this afternoon and for being a part of our celebrations.

Sports Fortnight:

We end the academic year with one final themed event, Sports Fortnight. Perhaps you saw the email from Mr Whittle on Monday asking if you might be able to inspire our children and help them learn about the many opportunities that sport and physical activity can offer. If you have a particular skill, expertise, or experience related to sport, health, fitness, or wellbeing and would be willing to come into school, we would love to hear from you. As his email said, this could include:

- Playing or coaching a sport;
- Working in the sports, fitness, or leisure industry;
- Physiotherapy, sports medicine, or nutrition;
- Refereeing or officiating;
- Outdoor and adventure activities;
- Personal fitness or wellbeing expertise;
- Experiences of participating in sporting events or competitions.

Do get in touch via email if you think you can help. Thank you.

Transition:

Our transition programme has continued this week with our Year 6 children who are going to Newlands Girls School in September meeting with staff. They had an opportunity to ask questions as well as learn about the changes they can expect all within a very busy week. It was a good session.

Devon Trip:

No doubt, if you have a child in Year 6, you will have seen my email and the two attachments I sent out about our residential trip coming up very soon. Please refer to the document outlining essential information you need to be aware of before the off. There it explains the process for providing me with medication for your child if they require anything while we are away. You have until Thursday (18th June) to complete the 'Administration of Medication Form' and hand in anything you wish me to take.

School Photographs:

As a reminder, class photographs are available for sale. The link to see them and place an order is:

<https://mariaashbygiles.gotphoto.co.uk/gc/kLmlYO7fzM3zLohlogpE>

The access code is HTClass26 and the QR code has previously been sent to you as an attachment. There is a discount of 10% on all orders over £25 and the batch delivery deadline is 21st June. The link to the Year 6 individual photos which were also taken on Monday have been emailed out too. Any queries, please contact Maria Ashby Giles directly.

Borough Wide School Travel Survey:

The Council is currently undertaking a borough-wide survey to gain a better understanding of the impact of school-related traffic, as well as the barriers that parents and guardians may face during the school run. This information will help inform future initiatives aimed at improving safety, accessibility, and travel experiences around all schools in the borough.

To support this work, the council have developed a short survey for parents and guardians. The details, including a QR code to access the survey, has been sent to you today or alternatively you could use the link below.

[BWM School Travel Survey - Primary Years – Fill in form](#)

The survey invites parents to share their views on traffic conditions outside their child's school and along their journey, as well as any challenges they experience. Feedback is incredibly valuable in helping to identify practical and effective improvements across the borough so they hope for your support in completing it. The survey only takes a few minutes and all responses will contribute to shaping future plans.

UK Ekiden Relay:

Finally, you may have seen runners on the Ekiden Relay running through Cookham this morning. The event, now in its third year brings together university and corporate teams from across the UK and Japan, celebrating teamwork, endurance and international spirit. The Ekiden run reflects the power of teamwork and we are excited that our school will also be joining in the spirit of the event with our own Ekiden-style relay during Sports Fortnight which runs from 22 June to 3 July. This morning you may have seen runners pass a tasuki sash to the next teammate, symbolising trust, shared effort and collective success and if you missed it, be quick leaving today as they will be passing through Cookham again later. Our thanks go to Mrs. Leclercq for drawing our attention to it.

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.**

16 th June	Rotary Mighty Maths Competition (selected Y2 children invited to attend)
17 th June	Arthur Burgin Exhibition (Year 6) pm
17 th June	Water Safety Workshop at Braywick for Y5 (please refer to letter previously sent)
19 th June	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal & Concert for Year 3 (please refer to letter previously sent)
22 nd – 26 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
22 nd – 2 nd July	Sports Fortnight
3 rd July	Sports Day (no after school clubs operating)
4 th July	HT Fest
8 th July	Steel Pan Afternoon Concert for parents of Y5 & Y6 2:45pm tbc
8 th July	Berkshire School Games at Braywick Leisure Centre – Qualifying Y3 Golf Team to attend (letter to follow)
10 th July	Spanish Assembly am
14 th July	Year 5 trip to the Swan Upping pm
16 th July	Last Day of Term – Leavers' Assembly (details tbc)