



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

I start this week with a note of congratulations for all our Year 6 children who have worked incredibly hard during their Standard Attainment Tests (SATs). Throughout the week, they have completed six papers which have test their skill in reading, writing and maths. They have kept their cool and survived! Examination papers have now been sent off to be marked externally so we await results which will be with us at the beginning of July. Regardless of the outcome, we are immensely impressed by the children's resilience, their determination and the way they have supported each other. We couldn't have asked for more.

Next week Year 2 will be taking tests. Unlike KS2 SATs, these tests are part of a series of assessments that help staff arrive at judgements about what pupils know and what they can do in relation to national expectations before they move into KS2. Previously, you have been sent a letter outlining the national testing programme which explains KS1 SATs but it has been sent to you again today just for your convenience.

Netball Champions:

On Saturday our PTA netball team made up of mums from pupils across the school took part in the annual PTA Netball Tournament at Braywick. Of the seven games they played, they convincingly won six and only just lost out by one goal in the seventh. This phenomenal achievement meant they were declared overall winners and were presented with a trophy plus £350 for our PTA. Please join with me in congratulating them, not just for this win but for being champions now for three years in a row! Our thanks also go to Kate Winrow-Davis, Team Manager!

Anyone for Cricket?:

On Tuesday Year 3 went to Pinkney's Green Cricket Club for a Year 3/4 Dynamos Cricket Skills Festival organised by the Ascot and Maidenhead Sports Partnership which we are part of. They had a wonderful morning learning the skills of the game with children from other local schools. If you were able to go along to help and support, thank you.

Cookham Festival:

This time last week, our choirs were performing at the Odney Club as part of the Cookham Festival. This week Year 5 have taken part in an art workshop also in connection with the Festival. They have been learning the technique of Cyanotype, one of the oldest ways to make photographs using sunlight. In 1842, an English scientist called Sir John Herschel discovered that two special chemicals, when mixed together and spread onto paper, would react to ultraviolet (UV) light. When you place objects — like leaves, flowers, feathers or ferns — onto the coated paper and put it in the sun, magic happens. Wherever the sunlight hits the paper, it turns bright blue; wherever an object blocks the light, the paper stays white. After washing the print in water, beautiful blue and white image are revealed. The work produced by the children has been on display in the Lower Gantry Barn on School Lane. I do hope some of you have been able to pop in and see their creations. We are enormously grateful to artist Philippa Shire Oudekerk and Wendy Mercer for making this happen.

Working with the National Archive Team:

On Wednesday Year 4 enjoyed an online session learning more about the Ancient Egyptians when they spoke directly with the team from The National Archives. During the lesson they were presented with a number of primary and secondary sources which they had to analyse and answer questions about. It really helped to deepen their understanding.

A Summer Music Concert:

On Wednesday (20th May) we have our annual music concert, organised by Mrs Brown. This will be in our school hall starting at 6pm. Performers are asked to arrive at 5:45pm. This is a concert for all, regardless of whether your child is performing. All are welcome, it really is a wonderfully uplifting event.

Arts and Culture Week:

After half term we will be preparing for Arts and Culture Week. As well as working towards a grand show which you are all invited to on Friday 12th June at 1:45pm, during the week we will be organising workshops for the children which celebrate the arts. Please see a letter from Mrs Lucas and Miss Law, sent as an attachment today, about how you can get involved in helping us make the event memorable for the children.

Walk to School Week:

On Monday we launch Walk to School Week, a national initiative designed to encourage children to adopt active travel habits, reduce traffic congestion, and promote a healthier lifestyle. We hope you will support your child in taking part. Journeys to school will be tracked on class charts and the children will record their 'journey to school diary' on a specially designed passport. There will be a focus for each day of the week: 'Movement Monday', Tuesday is 'Travel Safe Tuesday', on 'Wildlife Wednesday' everyone is encouraged to keep their eyes open, the challenge on 'Trail Finder Thursday' is to find an alternative route to school and we end with 'Fitness Friday'. In assembly today we have spoken about the event so we are now all set to go.

Attendance:

As you are perhaps aware, on a regular basis an Education Welfare Officer from Achieving for Children which provides children's services in relation to safeguarding, education and health, comes into school to scrutinise our attendance registers. A meeting was held this week. The attendance of our pupils is excellent thanks to your support and appreciation of how important being in school is. Your child's attendance is recorded on their annual report for you to see and shared with schools at transition points. 100% attendance is the goal but when attendance falls below 95% concerns are raised. Of course, it is detrimental for a child to be in school when they are unwell but unless your child has a temperature or a stomach upset that causes diarrhoea or vomiting, if they complain of being a little under the weather I encourage you to send them in. We will always call you if your child is struggling to cope with the day.

11+ Transfer Tests:

If you missed the date on our school calendar, the window for applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests (11+) has been open for a couple of weeks. 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:

As I wrote in last week's newsletter, after half term 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 HT Fest:

We end the term with a mufti day next Friday. Your child is invited to ditch their uniform in exchange for a donation to the PTA who are looking for prizes for their tombola. The team will be on hand at the front of school to collect your gifts. Thank you.

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.

New Computer Xplorers Club for Years 1, 2 & 3:

We are pleased to announce that a new Computer Xplorers Club is now available for children in Years 1, 2 & 3. This will take place on Fridays, commencing after half term. Booking is via the link on the flyer, within the email which accompanies this newsletter.

Enjoy the weekend and I hope to see many of you at our summer music event on Wednesday.

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.**

19 th May	Start of 'Walk to School Week'
19 th May	EYFS out at Waltham Place Biodynamic Farm (please refer to letter)
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
4 th June	Rotary Mathematical Competition (selected Y4 children invited to attend)
5 th June	PTA Disco
6 th June	Royal Windsor Flower Show at which EYFS will be exhibiting their wheelbarrow
8 th – 12 th June	Arts and Culture Week
12 th June	Arts and Culture Week Performance 1:45pm
16 th June	Rotary Mighty Maths Competition (selected Y2 children invited to attend)
17 th June	Arthur Burgin Exhibition (Year 6)
17 th June	Water Safety Workshop at Braywick for Y5 (letter to follow)
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 (no after school clubs operating)
4 th July	HT Fest
8 th July	Steel Pan Afternoon Concert for parents of Y5 & Y6 tbc
10 th July	Spanish Assembly am
16 th July	Last Day of Term – Leavers' Assembly (details tbc)