



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)

School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Welcome to the start of a new term. I hope you and your family had a lovely Easter break and have enjoyed the first week back. It took almost no time for the children to settle in and we have had a positive week introducing new topics and celebrating achievements.

Learning with Wild Cookham:

On Monday Cygnet Class welcomed Wild Cookham expert Joelle into class to talk to them about hedgehogs in particular. She also brought tadpoles to show them and left having imparted her passion for looking after our environment.

Visit from the Fire and Rescue Service:

Having constructed the most fabulous houses to replicate the city of London in the 17th Century, Year 1 watched as the crew from our local fire and rescue service set them alight. It was clear to see why the Great Fire of London caused such devastation as the fire spread from house to house. Fortunately, the fire was quickly doused by the powerful fire engine's hoses creating a spectacular finale to the crew's visit.

The Great Big Dance Off 2026:

Also, on Tuesday our Year 4 children headed off to Cadogan Hall in Chelsea to take part in a heat of 'The Great Big Dance Off', a national dance competition open to schools across England and Wales. The event was one of nine heats across the country that take place before the grand final later this year. The standard was phenomenally high and the children found themselves up against seventeen school all keen to take one of the top three places which would see them through the final. Our squad danced superbly and although they haven't made it through, the points they scored from the three judges demonstrated just how much they impressed. We are enormously proud of them.

Taking Inspiration from the Artemis II Mission:

In starting a new term, it seemed very relevant to use the news of the astronauts on the recent Artemis Mission to provide us with inspiration for the weeks ahead. As such, collective worship has focused on this historic event. The children have established that in order to achieve success the astronauts had to have a huge amount of courage and determination. We have spoken about their resilience and teamwork. The children have recognised how their friendship, their self-belief, their positivity and their willingness to work hard have all been significant. But above all, we have vowed to find these qualities in ourselves to help us make the most of the final term of this academic year. The week has certainly begun well and there is nothing to say it won't continue in this way.

Class Newsletters:

To help your child navigate the weeks ahead, please refer to class newsletters which have been sent to you today.

Cookham Festival:

We were delighted that Rob Castell joined us this afternoon to work with our choirs as they prepare for their performance of his Cantata at this year's Cookham Festival. Rehearsals went well for the event which is now only three weeks away. I do hope you have got your tickets!

Our summer music concert is also approaching with auditions next week. Do refer to previous newsletters for details.

Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church:

I was thrilled to learn from Father Stephen over the holiday that so many of you were able to attend the service at Holy Trinity Church on Easter Sunday. I understand that lots of children took part in the Easter egg hunt and that many went home laden with chocolate!

The church will be running a summer camp here at school during the week beginning 3rd August. Details will follow but for now you have been sent a flyer as a reminder.

PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale & PE Kit:

On Tuesday of next week, Mrs Awoyemi and her team will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale on the playground after school. We will also have on display a new PE kit which we propose introducing if the feedback from you is as positive as it has been from some of the children. Having heard from some pupils that when they attend borough sporting events, they feel less smart than other schools taking part, we have looked into what we might do about this. We are keen to hear your views so do come along to take a look.

Extra- Curricular Activities:

For news of clubs running this term, see below for details.

Extra-Curricular Activities running next term: Please contact club providers directly to enquire about availability. Thank you

Club	Year Group	Day/Time	Contact Details	Arrangements for drop-off/pick-up
Early Bird Club	All	Start time 8am each day of the week	No requirement to book, simply drop off anytime between 8am and 8:30am. Payment of £2.50 per session should be made through your ScoPay account	Arrive through the back door of the hall
After School Provision	All	From 3:15pm	Book directly: holytrinity@wraparoundcare4u.com	See WrapAroundCare4U for details: information sent out via email
Spanish Club	Year 4	Monday before school at 8.20am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: 07939 045722 francesca@the-pows.co.uk	Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am
Ukulele Club	Year 4, 5 and 6	Monday lunchtime	No need to book; Mrs Lucas is looking forward to starting up her band	N/A
Art Club	Year 3 & 4	Monday after school, finish time: 5pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Hyslop: Nickyw1@hotmail.co.uk	Collect from the front entrance of school
Playball	EYFS & Year 1	Monday, finish time: 4pm	Book online: http://www.playballkids.com/f/southbucks	Collect from the back door of the school hall.
Junior Choir	Years 3 & 4	Tuesday before school, start time: 8am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Brown larainebrownbda@gmail.com	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Netball	Years 5 & 6	Tuesday before school, start time: 8am	Book directly by contacting Mr Lucas	Arrive at the side gate promptly at 8am ready to be let in by Mr Lucas
Spanish Club	Year 2	Tuesday before school at 8.20am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: 07939 045722 francesca@the-pows.co.uk	Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am
Spanish Club	Year 3	Tuesday after school, finish time 3:50pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: 07939 045722 francesca@the-pows.co.uk	Collect from the front entrance of school
Football Club	Year 5 & 6 girls & boys	Tuesday after school, finish time 4:30pm	Please refer to Mr Whittle's email sent this week for dates	Collect from the back gate – do not walk through school at the end of the session!
Art Club	Year 5 & 6	Tuesday after school, finish time: 5pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Hyslop: Nickyw1@hotmail.co.uk	Collect from the front entrance of school
Cooking Club	Year 1 - 6	Tuesday after school, finish time 4:30pm	Refer to flyer for booking details	Collect from the front entrance of school
Little Samurai	EYFS, Y1 & Y2	Tuesday, finish time: 4:15pm	Book directly: 07828 534817 www.SamuraiKickboxing.com info@SamuraiKickboxing.com	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Hand Chime Music Club	Y3 & Y4	Tuesday, finish time 4:00pm	Led by Miss Smith Limited spaces – please email the office to confirm a space	Collect from the front entrance of school
Rock Steady	EYFS – Y6	Wednesday morning	Book directly: 0330 113 0330 Rocksteadymusicschool.com	N/A lessons take place during the school day
Spanish Club	Year 1	Wednesday before school at 8.20am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: 07939 045722 francesca@the-pows.co.uk	Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am
Mad Science Club	Year 1-6	Wednesday after school, finish time 4:30pm	Refer to flyer for booking details	Collect from the front entrance of school
Yoga & Mindfulness	Year 1 - 6	Wednesday, finish time 4:30pm	Book directly by contacting Sallie Windsor: 07846 992824 sallie.windsor@nurturekidsyoga.com	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Senior Choir	Years 5 & 6	Thursday before school, start time: 8am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Brown larainebrownbda@gmail.com	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Computer Xplorers	Years 4, 5 & 6	Thursday after school, finish time 4.30pm	Book directly Computer Xplorers Booking Page	Collect from front entrance of school
Young Samurai	Years 3 - 6	Thursday after school, finish time: 4:15pm	Book directly: 07828 534817 www.SamuraiKickboxing.com or info@SamuraiKickboxing.com	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Cooking Club	Year 1 - 6	Thursday after school, finish time 4:30pm	Refer to flyer for booking details	Collect from the front entrance of school
Netball Club	Year 2, 3 & 4 (numbers limited)	Thursday after school, finish time: 4:15pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Thomas	Collect from the back gate
Maths Club	Year 5 & 6 (by invitation)	Friday before school at 8:15am	Organised by Mrs Neal with a rota of children invited to attend every few weeks	Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:10am ready for an 8:15am start
Spanish Club	Year 5	Friday before school at 8.20am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: 07939 045722 francesca@the-pows.co.uk	Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am
Sewing Club	Year 1 – 6	Friday after school, finish time: 4:30pm	Book directly: 07782 253565 anita@dhaaga-sewing.co.uk	Collect from the front entrance of school
IPro Football	Years 1 - 6	Friday after school, finish time: 4:30pm (See flyer sent out again today.)	Book directly: Office 07908 172175 Email: office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk Children attending this club are permitted to come to school wearing their school P.E. kit with a football shirt to change into at the end of the day if they wish.	Collect from the back gate – do not walk through school at the end of the session!
Maestro Music Lessons	EYFS – Y6	Various days during the week	To find out more, go to: Homepage - Berkshire Music Trust (berksmusictrust.org.uk)	Times of lessons determined by Maestros

Living with Educational Needs and Disabilities:

Following the Inclusion Ambassadors' presentation at this year's borough SEND conference the final animation series of their work 'Just Believe Me,' is now live on the [RBWM local offer](#).

The experience of living with special educational needs and disabilities is unique to every young person. The borough's Inclusion Ambassadors have incredible lived experiences, and wanted to share some of their own understanding of what they find difficult to deal with, and what helps them most.

In the top ten tips animation, they talk about their own situations to help professionals and other adults recognise simple ways that can make things easier for young people. While these tips are shaped by the perspectives of SEND students, the message is universal: what works for young people with SEND also works for the wider community. Do find a moment to take a look, it's well worth it:

<https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/involving-families-and-young-people/inclusion-ambassadors/ten-top-tips>

You may have noticed some planters along the side of the Year 5/6 building. Mrs Weller and our Eco-Council are coordinating a project which will encourage everyone to get planting. Each class will take responsibility for a planter, growing a range of plants and produce. We would like to thank Hillier's Garden Centre for giving us a number of bags of compost to get us started.

Finally, you may also have noticed the new steps to our 'garden room.' These were recently installed by the expert team of landscapers at Finest Garden Solutions. We found the team to be enthusiastic, helpful, professional and super friendly. We will not hesitate to use them again and would be very happy to recommend for any gardening/landscaping needs. <https://www.finestgardensolutions.co.uk>

Have a wonderful weekend and we shall look forward to seeing you on Monday at the start of a new week.

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.**

21st April	PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale (playground 3:15pm)
21 st April	Boys and Girls away football matches vs Holyport (selected children informed by letter)
22 nd April	Away Netball Match v Furze Platt Junior School (selected children informed by letter)
23 rd April	Auditions for the Musical Evening Concert
27 th April	PTA meeting 8pm Kings Arms
28 th April	Open House
29 th April	Open House
1 st May	Window for Applying for the Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests Opens
5 th May	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal for Year 3 (please refer to letter)
6 th May	Year 4 trip to 'The Lion King' (details to follow)
8 th May	Cookham Festival Schools' Event (tbc)
11 th – 14 th May	KS2 SATs
19 th May	Start of Walk to School Week
20 th May	Musical Evening Concert
21st 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)
25th – 29th May	HALF TERM BREAK
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)