



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's not quite a week since our annual Black-Tie Fundraising Ball but I think we are all still riding high on its success. I hope that those of you who were able to come along enjoyed it as much as my colleagues and I did. It really was a stunning event organised by a superb committee steered by Mrs Olivia McLaren and Mr Andy Birkby. Our thanks go to them and their team, Mrs Sarah Lord, Mr Steve Russell, Mr Roland Burton, Mrs Alex Turley, Mrs Alix Howden and Mrs Caroline Greenway for their vision and hard work in seeing it through. We are enormously grateful to those who had a part to play in the proceedings and if you donated prizes to our raffle or bid on them thank you for your generosity. It was an event that really brought our community together and raised a substantial amount of money which will allow us to embark on new projects all of which will directly benefit your children. Do come along to the next PTA meeting to hear about future plans. Since then, we have continued to enjoy a number of events in school.

News on the Ducklings:

Your fundraising through events like the ball allowed us again this year to buy a duckling hatching kit. This week and last, the children enjoyed seeing the eggs hatch and ducklings emerge. While they have been based in Cygnets, every class has been to visit them on various occasions. Today they were collected and returned to the farm from where they came.

PTA Young Ambassadors:

Yesterday our PTA Young Ambassadors met with Mrs Jones and Mrs King to discuss HT Fest and next week's 'Make the Rules Day'. They were full of ideas for both events. Details of our 'Make the Rule Day' on Friday will be shared with you early next week by our PTA Chair.

Ascot Bake-Off:

On Wednesday our winning Year 5 team headed off to Ascot Racecourse to present their honey traybake to judges in a competition run by 'Learning to Work'. On the run up to the final the class had all been involved by working in teams to create recipes which fitted the brief. Through a process of elimination, our winning team emerged so it was Cora, Jemima and Karoline that went along with their mums to represent our school. They were required to speak to the judges, one of whom was television chef Benoit Blin, for a given length of time about their journey to the final and their bake. They did brilliantly and although they didn't win, they enjoyed a day out at the racecourse learning about different career opportunities. We are enormously grateful to the Learning to Work Team for giving us this opportunity.

Extra- Curricular Activities:

For news of clubs running again next term, please refer to various flyers which have been sent to you over the last couple of weeks.

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, a brand new after-school club, Computer Xplorers is starting after Easter. Open to **Years 4, 5 and 6**, the club will introduce pupils to the exciting and creative world of technology. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, children will have the opportunity to explore how technology can be used to design, create and solve problems. The club aims to inspire curiosity, build confidence and encourage pupils to think creatively while developing valuable digital skills. This week the children heard about what the club has to offer in an assembly led by its creator. We hope that your child came home interested in possibly signing up.

House Captain Assemblies:

Our Year 6 House Captains led house assemblies this week encouraging us to the most of opportunities which come our way. They spoke about how doing something for the first time can be scary at first but could lead to new interests and talents being uncovered. Their words were motivational and inspiring.

Supporting Comic Relief:

We are grateful to you and the children for helping us supporting Comic Relief today. By wearing a splash of red we have collected £238.44 which will be sent to the charity in due course. Thank you for making this possible.

Sporting News:

Again, our netball and football teams have been in action this week. Yesterday our girls played a thrilling match securing a 1-1 draw when they played Waltham St Lawrence. The boys' team unfortunately lost 6-0 but nonetheless their sportsmanship meant they came off the pitch with their heads held high. The netball match against Riverside on Tuesday yielded really positive results; the team managed a 12-1 win which they were delighted with.

Lunchtime on the Field:

The children have been very patient this week waiting for the field to dry out. Today was the day we enjoyed a lovely long lunchtime playing on the grass in the sunshine. Everyone looked after each other and made sure it was a happy time for all.

Rock Steady Concert:

Our termly Rock Steady Concert will be held in school on Wednesday at 9:30am. You are warmly invited to attend.

Junior Music Festival:

If you have a child in Year 3, you will be aware of the Junior Music Festival Concert at the Hexagon in Reading on **Friday 19th June 2026**. **Tickets go on sale Friday 1st May 2026**. For ticket purchasing, you should contact the Hexagon box office directly on 0118 9606060 or book online via their website <https://whatsonreading.com/venues/hexagon/whats-on/berkshire-music-trust-junior-music-festival-2026-making-waves> Please note that no-one will be allowed to pre-order tickets before the above date, but that there are no restrictions on tickets purchased once they are on sale. We will send the information regarding where best to sit/areas to avoid before tickets go on sale.

Easter Service in Church:

On Thursday morning we will be going to church for an Easter Service. Again, you are warmly invited to attend. The service starts at 10am so we shall leave school at around 9:40am in order to get there in time. If you are able to help us walk the children there and back safely, we would be grateful for our support. Simply arrive at the front entrance at 9:40am where we will meet you.

Secondary School Open Days:

If you have a child in Year 5 you are likely to be thinking ahead to secondary school options. Open Days are generally published on school websites but occasionally details come through to us. Today I share with you news of open mornings at Sir William Borlase Grammar School on 14th and 21st April. Tickets can be booked by via the school website from 8am on 23 March. Please note spaces are limited. They will also be holding an Open Evening on 23 September.

Happy Eid:

To all our families who are celebrating Eid, I hope you have a wonderful weekend with family and friends. See you all on Monday for the final week of term.

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.**

25 th March	Rock Steady Concert, school hall 9:30am
26 th March	10am Easter Service in Holy Trinity Church
30th March – 10th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
14 th April	Year 4 Great Big Dance Off in Chelsea (details to follow)
21 st April	Boys and Girls away football matches vs Holyport (selected children informed by letter)
23 rd April	Auditions for the Musical Evening Concert
27 th April	PTA meeting 8pm Kings Arms
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
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)