



School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Please do not feel concerned if your child has come home this week and told you about tests they have completed in class. As part of our usual assessment cycle, we have administered a number of checks which will help us establish targets ready for moving into the summer term. The results of these will be shared with you at a later date. We all appreciate, however, that you will be anxious about supporting your child's learning in what ever way you can.

In last week's newsletter I included a section about Homework and advised you on what you might do to support your child's learning at home. I hope the following is useful as a recap.

Weekly Homework Tasks:

We will continue to use Google Classroom to share homework tasks with you and the children each week. These will always appear in the 'Classwork' section under a heading 'Year ... Homework'. Homework is generally set on a Thursday or Friday and the expectations is that the children complete it all. They should follow the instructions, which your child's class teacher will always run through in the day to ensure they are clear on what they need to do, by writing appropriate responses in their homework exercise book. This should be returned at the beginning of the following week.

Just as we would guide your child through any task set in school, you too can guide your child through a homework task. They will learn from you as you explain an activity to them and support them in completing it. For the most part, homework will consolidate something your child has learnt in class and, therefore, it will give you an understanding of what has been covered each week. However, occasionally something will be set which calls on them to draw on prior learning. Regardless of what the activity is, the instructions on Google Classroom should make clear the expectation.

Encourage your child to take pride in their work. They are clear on the high expectations we have when they are writing in their exercise books in class so do remind them of this at home too.

Reading:

Reading is the key to unlock all learning so in order to ensure the children are confident readers, it is the expectation that they read every evening, anything from fifteen minutes to half an hour or even more. Preferably, and certainly if the children are in the early stages of learning to decode, they should read to you or another adult in the household. These reading sessions should be followed by you (or them) writing in their reading diary so a clear record of the daily reading they have done is kept. Once they are more competent and confident they can of course read independently but a daily entry in their diary made by them should still be recorded. It is helpful if you can oversee this.

In hearing your child read, the most important thing is to make it an enjoyable experience. We want to foster a love of reading. Reading should be fun. Take it in turns to read a sentence or a paragraph with your child. Why not take the role of narrator and encourage your child to read the spoken lines of each character, maybe experimenting with accents! Encourage them to read with expression and meaning and remember to vary the texts they choose. It's fine to stray from the school books they bring home. There are many publications which they might enjoy subscribing to and remember to turn on those subtitles when watching television. To find out more go to <https://turnonthesubtitles.org/>

Reading, however, is not just about decoding. In order for your child to have a greater understanding of the text ask them questions about it.

- Can you find the authors name on the cover? Who is the illustrator?
- What do you think of the illustrations in the book? Are they painted? Drawn? Collaged? Photographs?
- What do you think might happen next in the story?
- If you were the author of the story would you have ended it in the same way?
- What did you like or dislike about this book?
- What do you think the author was trying to say to us? What helped you figure out the message?
- What part of the story was the most exciting or interesting?

- Which character was your favourite? Why?
- Did any of the characters remind you of anyone that you know?
- Can you think of any other books that are similar to this one?
- Did the cover give you any clues about the story?
- Can you locate the spine, front cover, back cover, blurb, title?
- Is this a fiction or non-fiction book? What are the features of each?
- How did this book make you feel?
- What is the setting of this story?
- Can you ask *me* a question about the book we just read?
- Can you retell the story?
- Who is telling the story?
- Can you think of a friend who might also like this book? Why do you think they would like it?
- Do you know a story that is like this story?
- What is the genre?
- Can you deduce the meaning of this word from the context?
- Would you change any part of the story? How?
- Would you change any of the characters? How?
- Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest and happiest?
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?
- If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him/ her?
- Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?
- Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?

Don't forget the recommended reading lists posted on Google Classroom. [Books for Topics](#)

Spelling:

If your child is in Year 2 – 6 he/she will have weekly spellings to learn. Use the 'look, cover, write, check' method to help them become familiar with the letter patterns. They should spend a little bit of time doing this each evening. Ask your child if they can place the word within a sentence. Can they think of a synonym or an antonym? Can they visualise the word? Can they think of any words which rhyme with it or other words which have the same letter combination?

To support you in helping your child with this area of the curriculum, your child's class teacher has reposted a spelling booklet in the homework section of Google Classroom. There is lots of useful information contained within this booklet. Beyond weekly spelling lists your child will also be learning to spell a bank of topic or high frequency words which come under our Spelling Star programme. They should revisit these on regular occasions. Stick the list up in their bedroom or on the fridge as a constant reminder. The children are always keen to achieve their Spelling Star and these strategies will help them to do so.

Maths:

Aside from the weekly maths homework set on Google Classroom, it is important that your child continues to use Times Table Rock Stars (KS2) and Numbots (KS1). Using these apps on a regular basis will improve their fluency in recalling number facts. On Google Classroom you will find Maths Booklets which offer suggestions on how you can support your child on a whole range of maths concepts.

Building Resilience:

For the most part, children are good at bouncing back from knocks. However, some situations will really test their tenacity, and how they deal with them will be dependent on the opportunities they have had to develop a healthy approach to adversity. We have, in the past, worked hard on developing resilience and a positive growth mindset in the children. However, after a couple of substantial periods away from the classroom, we have noticed that their resilience and their ability to concentration for extended periods has dwindled. We are of course addressing this in many ways including a series of assemblies which you can find on Google Classroom if you are interested. It improves day by day. Children can develop resilience given the right influence and support from those around them. For help on how to do this and to gather practical tips, a couple of links may prove useful.

[Building resilience in your child - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Building Resilience in Children - 20 Practical, Powerful Strategies \(Backed by Science\) - Hey Sigmund](#)

Residential Trip – Year 6:

Thank you for returning your reply slip to indicate your interest in your child participating in a residential trip to CRS Adventures in Devon were it to go ahead in July. Currently residential trips are not permitted so we await guidance from the DfE before making any decisions.

Music Lessons:

We have a handful of children who are currently taking instrumental lessons with Berkshire Maestros. If you are keen for your child to receive lessons in school, please refer to the flyer or visit their website at www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk. We will be returning to face-to-face lessons after Easter.

Supporting Local Wildlife Projects:

Last Saturday, Mrs. Yolande Brown joined local volunteers, a representative from Braywick Nature Reserve and ex-Holy Trinity pupil, Rosie Street, at Battlemead Common, an open green space recently purchased by the borough for safe guarding wildlife. The purpose of the morning was the installation of owl and kestrel bird boxes. Ex-pupil Rosie recently graduated from Bristol University with a biology degree and is a keen environmentalist. Last year she founded an environmental group for young people called 'Wild SL6' and the group are currently monitoring the nesting boxes at Battlemead Common. We are hoping that in the future Rosie might visit our school to support our biodiversity work in the wildlife area. If you or your children would like to get involved in this project and support Rosie and her team, go to [Conservation | WildSL6 | Maidenhead \(wixsite.com\)](#) to find out more.

End of Term:

Please note we finish for the Easter holiday on Thursday (1st April). Pick-up times will not change on this day.

Finally, I want to thank you for adhering to the government stay at home guidance, which remains a key factor in allowing schools to remain open.

You play a crucial role in this. It is vitally important that you and your family continue to follow [Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK](#) [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) as this enables the measures that the school have put in place to be as effective as possible in addressing the challenges presented by coronavirus.

We can all help to control coronavirus if we all stay alert, this means:

- stay at home as much as possible
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly

Unfortunately, despite recent relaxation of social distancing measures, this still means that some traditional child activities such as play dates and sleepovers should be avoided. I acknowledge that this is really hard for the children but it is an important part of your role in reducing transmission.

It is also important that people should avoid sharing a private vehicle with members of another household as you will not be able to keep strict social distancing guidelines. Please consider walking, cycling or using your own vehicle if you can and follow [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) if using public transport or a private vehicle.

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to [wear a face covering](#) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

It continues to be the case that schools are having to collapse bubbles and, in some cases, close because of outbreaks of Covid-19. Please do all you can to help us to remain open for everyone. Thank you.

Have a good weekend, stay safe, and thank you for supporting us in all we are doing to keep our school operating safely and effectively.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

2nd – 16th Apr

Easter Break

16th Apr

National Offer Day for September 2021 Primary School Allocations

4th May

BucksCC Transfer Test (11+) Registration Portal Opens at 3pm



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