



#### 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

Welcome back to the first week of a new term which has gone well and made for a positive start. The children have bounded through the gate each morning keen to embrace the challenges of the day. A week doesn't seem to go by without something special happening in school or someone interesting visiting. This week was no exception. On Tuesday Cygnets enjoyed meeting Joelle from Wild Cookham who spent the morning talking about hedgehogs. The children designed hedgehog houses before Joelle donated one to go in our wildlife area. We hope it finds an owner soon! Following her visit the Eco-Council met to discuss their action-plan for the year. They are full of ideas for how we can look after our planet.

The following day our KS2 classes took part in a virtual 'Discover Opera' initiative specifically designed for primary schools and organised by Royal Ballet and Opera. During the morning the children watched live performances of songs from famous operas by artists of the Royal Opera, joined children across the country singing, went behind the scenes to visit the props and costume departments and learnt how props, scenery and lighting transform the stage. It was a wonderful experience for all.

The same day, Sarah Parfitt came with three students from Reading University and others to speak to us about the Cookham dig. In an assembly, we heard about how the team is unearthing a royal monastery that's been hidden beneath Cookham for over 1000 years. Jude in Year 5 who has previously visited the site spoke to every one about his experiences too. The team then spent the rest of the afternoon working with Year 4 who are studying this period of history. In a hands-on workshop, they learnt more about the dig and the fascinating things that have been found. We hope to welcome Friends of Cookham Abbey back to school at a later date, perhaps when the dig starts again in the summer. To find out more about this incredible project right on our doorstep, go to: [Friends of Cookham Abbey | Support the Archaeological Dig](#)

Last night, Mr. Redjeb and I attended a Rotary Young Writers Competition Awards Event in Cookham which celebrated the talents of local primary school children. Year 6 had entered this annual competition a while back composing pieces on the theme, 'Wonderful Water'. After some judging in school, five pieces written by Carmen, Soph, Angus and Christopher were selected to be sent off. Of those, a poem by Joel Statham was chosen by the panel as the winning entry from our school. At the awards event, Joel read out his poem as did the finalists from other schools. He was awarded a certificate and a book voucher in recognition of his achievement. He represented our school superbly.

Our football teams sprang into action this week with away matches against Oldfield School. The girls' team and the boys' team played some great football but despite early leads they lost, both with scores of 3-2. There was initial disappointment but we celebrated their sportsmanship in assembly this afternoon. In another sporting event, this time arranged by the Ascot and Maidenhead Sports Partnership of which we are members, Year 1 headed off to Braywick Leisure Centre earlier today to take part in a 'Big Active 60 Festival'. They returned full of excitement having taken part in a range of events.

Before any of this happened, six Year 5 children joined me in the holiday to be part of an interview panel to appoint an associate priest to work alongside Father Stephen. Before enjoying lunch with the candidate and others involved in the process, they listened to him deliver an assembly. Their views afterwards were valuable in helping the team come to a decision.

#### Parents' Evening:

I trust you saw the email guiding you on how to book a slot at next week's Parents' Evening. If you are yet to do so, slots are available so do log in.

#### Meal Orders:

Please can we politely remind you to ensure meal orders are placed at least 24 hours in advance so that the kitchen staff have accurate numbers for each day. This applies to children in EYFS and KS1 as well. It isn't always possible to give a child their first choice of meal when an order has not been placed. Thank you

#### No Nuts and Sesame:

Please remain mindful that we are a no nut, no sesame school because of the severe allergies that certain children have to these products. On no account send your child to school with items containing these ingredients. Thank you

#### Clubs:

For details of the clubs running this term, see below. **Please note that no clubs (other than Wrap Around Care) will be running after school on Tuesday or Thursday of next week because of parents' evening. This includes Booster Clubs.**

**Extra-Curricular activities running this term with details of providers. Please take note of some recent changes:**

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 should be made through your ScoPay account	Arrive through the back door of the hall
After School Provision	All	From 3:15pm	Book directly: <a href="mailto:holytrinity@wraparoundcare4u.com">holytrinity@wraparoundcare4u.com</a>	See WrapAroundCare4U for details: information sent out via email
iPro Football	KS2 boys	Monday lunchtime	Book directly: Office 07908 172175 Email: <a href="mailto:office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk">office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk</a> (school PE kit may be worn)	N/A
Ukulele Club	KS2	Monday lunchtime - All welcome	Children should speak to Mrs Lucas	N/A
Art Club	Year 3 & 4	Monday after school, finish time: 5pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Hyslop: <a href="mailto:Nickyw1@hotmail.co.uk">Nickyw1@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Collect from the front entrance of school
Playball	EYFS & Year 1	Monday, finish time: 4pm	Book online: <a href="http://www.playballkids.com/f/southbucks">http://www.playballkids.com/f/southbucks</a>	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Junior Choir	Years 3 & 4	Tuesday before school, start time: 8am	<a href="mailto:larainebrownbda@gmail.com">larainebrownbda@gmail.com</a>	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Netball	Years 5 & 6	Tuesday before school, start time: 8am	Please speak to Mr Lucas for more details	<b>Arrive at the side gate promptly at 8am ready to be let in by Mr Lucas</b>
Spanish Club	Year 2	Tuesday before school at 8.20am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow (see above)	<b>Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am</b>
Art Club	Year 5 & 6	Tuesday after school, finish time: 5pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Hyslop: <a href="mailto:Nickyw1@hotmail.co.uk">Nickyw1@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Collect from the front entrance of school <b>NOT RUNNING ON 4.3.25</b>
Little Samurai	EYFS, Y1 & Y2	Tuesday, finish time: 4:15pm	Book directly: 07828 534817 <a href="http://www.SamuraiKickboxing.com">www.SamuraiKickboxing.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@SamuraiKickboxing.com">info@SamuraiKickboxing.com</a>	Collect from the back door of the school hall <b>NOT RUNNING ON 4.3.25</b>
Hand Chime Music Club	Y2 & Y3	Tuesday, finish time 4:15pm	Led by Miss Smith Limited spaces – please email the office to confirm a space	Collect from the front entrance of school <b>NOT RUNNING ON 4.3.25</b>
Football	<b>Y4, 5 &amp; 6 Girls</b>	Tuesday, finish time 4:20pm	Please refer to Mr Whittle's letter	Collect from the back gate <b>NOT RUNNING ON 4.3.25</b>
Rock Steady	EYFS – Y6	Wednesday morning	Book directly: 0330 113 0330 <a href="http://Rocksteadymusicschool.com">Rocksteadymusicschool.com</a>	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: (see above)	<b>Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am</b>
Maths Club	Year 4 (by invitation)	Wednesday before school at 8:15am	Organised by Mrs Neal with a rota of children invited to attend every few weeks	<b>Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:10am</b>
iPro Football	KS2 girls	Wednesday lunchtime	Book directly: Office 07908 172175 Email: <a href="mailto:office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk">office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk</a> (school PE kit may be worn)	N/A
Spanish Club	Year 3	Wednesday after school, finish time 3:50pm	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: (see above)	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 <a href="mailto:sallie.windsor@nurturekidsyoga.com">sallie.windsor@nurturekidsyoga.com</a>	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Senior Choir	Years 5 & 6	Thursday before school, start time: 8am	<a href="mailto:larainebrownbda@gmail.com">larainebrownbda@gmail.com</a>	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Young Samurai	Years 3 - 6	Thursday after school, finish time: 4:15pm	Book directly: 07828 534817 <a href="http://www.SamuraiKickboxing.com">www.SamuraiKickboxing.com</a> or <a href="mailto:info@SamuraiKickboxing.com">info@SamuraiKickboxing.com</a>	Collect from the back door of the school hall <b>NOT RUNNING ON 4.3.25</b>
Spanish Club	Year 4	Friday before school at 8.20am	Book directly by contacting Mrs Pow: (see above)	<b>Arrive at the front entrance of school by 8:20am</b>
Sewing Club	Year 1 – 6	Friday after school, finish time: 4:30pm	Book directly: 07782 253565 <a href="mailto:anita@dhaaga-sewing.co.uk">anita@dhaaga-sewing.co.uk</a>	Collect from the front entrance of school
iPro Football	Years 1 - 6	Friday after school, finish time: 4:30pm	Book directly: Office 07908 172175 Email: <a href="mailto:office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk">office@iprofootballcoaching.co.uk</a> <b>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.</b>	<b>Collect from the back gate</b>
Maestro Music Lessons	EYFS – Y6	Various days during the week	To find out more, go to: <a href="http://Homepage - Berkshire Music Trust (berksmusictrust.org.uk)">Homepage - Berkshire Music Trust (berksmusictrust.org.uk)</a>	Times of lessons determined by Maestros

**Book Week:**

Many thanks again to those of you who have contacted us offering help during Book Week which starts on Monday; we are thrilled with the range of workshops. Every class will also be visiting the Little Bookshop for about 45 minutes so if you are able to help on the day your child is going there we would be most grateful. Please let your child's class teacher know. The timetable is as follows:

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March                      Trip to the Little Bookshop:  
➤ 9:15am Year 2  
➤ 10:30am Year 1  
➤ 1:30pm Year 3  
➤ 2:15pm Year 4

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March                      Trip to the Little Bookshop:  
➤ 9:30am EYFS  
➤ 1:30pm Year 5  
➤ 2:15pm Year 6

During the week we have visits from a number of authors. The deadline for pre-ordering their books has passed but they may have copies available on the day so, to avoid disappointment, next week you might like to arrive at pick up with some cash on you!

Our Eco-Council, who met this week to discuss a variety of issues, are organising a 'Book Swap'. They are inviting everyone to bring to school on either Monday or Tuesday a book they have read before to put into the swap. The book should be one that they are prepared to donate in return for a book someone else has brought in. Your child is welcome to bring in more than one book if they wish but please don't send in any tatty ones. We don't want lots of leftover books at the end of the day! The Eco-Council will set up the stall on Wednesday and invite each class in turn to visit. They hope that this will be an activity everyone will enjoy and benefit from while looking after the planet at the same time.

Your child is also invited to take part in a competition which involves them bringing into school on Thursday a photograph of them reading in an unusual place. We hope lots will take part and enjoy the opportunity to be really creative!

Maidenhead's Big Read looks exciting this year so do take a look at the flyers which have been sent out again. Nick Arnold who writes the Horrible Science books will be there as will Zak Simmonds-Hurn, an illustrator for The Phoenix magazine, who will be doing draw-alongs. Iszi Lawrence will be entertaining the children with stories of WWII at White Waltham Airfield and Catherine Bruton, author of 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria', will be talking about her latest book, 'Bird Boy'. All events are free to attend, with no advance booking.

Finally, don't forget dress-up day on Friday. We are hoping to bring books to life with lots of characters stepping out of the pages!

**Year 6 Residential Trip:**

Now that the deadline for securing a place for your child on the residential trip has passed, we have final numbers so relevant preparations can begin. Over the coming weeks, kit lists along with medical and consent forms will be sent out so do keep a look out for these.

**Special Eucharist to Celebrate the Opening of Holy Trinity Church, Cookham:**

As you will be aware, ever since the church closed for refurbishment, they have been meeting in our school hall every Sunday for their morning service. The work at the church is going well so it won't be long before it is fully re-open. To celebrate, we are all invited to a special service at 11am on Pentecost, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**Junior Bake-Off**

Having heard from the Series Producer at Love Productions; the production company behind 'The Great British Bake Off', I'm sharing with you information about the 11<sup>th</sup> series of Junior Bake Off; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain. Application have recently opened so if your child would like to be considered, an application can be made online at - [www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)

The team are looking for young budding bakers between **9-15 years old**. Filming would take place from July 2025, but **applications close on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**. Please see the flyer sent out to you today for more details if you are interested.

**Traffic Incident in School Lane:**

On Tuesday morning the grandmother of a child attending netball club before school was struck on the arm by the wind mirror of a car passing driving along School Lane. Please take care when journeying to and from school.

**Cookham Cycle Path:**

You may be aware of a campaign to create an off-road cycling path network around Cookham which will connect to Maidenhead and Bourne End. The project has gained publicity recently after an article appeared in the Mail Online. To find out how some of our parents are supporting the initiative, go to:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14421433/Wind-Willows-Cookham-campaign-cycle-Amsterdam.html>

And finally, if you are coming along to the PTA's annual ball at the Odney tomorrow, the staff and I shall look forward to seeing you. It promises to be a magnificent event.

Anna Smith

# CALENDAR DATES

## 17<sup>th</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> February Half Term Break

1 <sup>st</sup> March	PTA Annual Ball
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Book week
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	A team football fixture v Cookham Rise (home) selected children informed by letter
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Trip to the Little Bookshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 9:15am Year 2</li> <li>➤ 10:30am Year 1</li> <li>➤ 1:30pm Year 3</li> <li>➤ 2:15pm Year 4</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Parent Consultations
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Trip to the Little Bookshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 9:30am EYFS</li> <li>➤ 1:30pm Year 5</li> <li>➤ 2:15pm Year 6</li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Parent Consultations
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Week Dress Up Day
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursing team in to carry out National Child Measurement Programme (EYFS)
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Bags to School event for Partners for Change, Ethiopia
12 <sup>th</sup> March	A and B team netball matches vs Holyport (away), selected children informed by letter
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief (details to follow)
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Ascot Bake off Event for Y5 (details tbc)
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Trip to Busy Buttons (details tbc)
20 <sup>th</sup> March	A and B team boys football matches vs All Saints Junior (away), selected children informed by letter
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 5 boys football tournament (pm), Claires Court Junior School, selected children informed by letter
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Trip to the Henley River and Rowing Museum (please refer to letter)
27 <sup>th</sup> March	A team boys and A team girls football matches vs Lowbrook (home), selected children informed by letter
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	PTA Meeting
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	B team boys and A team girls football matches vs Furze Platt Junior (home), selected children informed by letter
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Rock Steady Concert am
4 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Easter Event (details tbc)

## 7<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> April Easter Holiday

22 <sup>nd</sup> April	First day of term
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 4 Trip to Starlight Express, Wembley Park Theatre
6 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Open House
7 <sup>th</sup> May	EYFS & KS1 Open House
8 <sup>th</sup> May	VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (details of how we will mark this occasion will follow)
12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs
17 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Eurovision Song Party

## 26<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> May Half Term Break

9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Royal Windsor Flower Show
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Special Eucharist to Celebrate the Opening of Holy Trinity Church, Cookham 11am
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week Performance pm
17 <sup>th</sup> June	EYFS Trip to Braywick Nature Centre
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Arthur Burgin Science Exhibition – Year 6
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential Trip
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Fortnight
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
5 <sup>th</sup> July	HT Fest
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Rock Steady Concert am
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term & Leavers' Service