



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

Again, another busy week has passed with a visit to Cygnet Class from our Community Police Officer and our gymnastics coach working with all classes across the school. We hope your child has spoken positively about the things they have been up to.

PTA Disco:

If your child is coming along to the PTA disco later I trust you have already bought a ticket and that they are looking forward to the party.

Arrangements are as follows (**please note a change in timings from the last time we had a disco in school**):

- **EYFS & KS1 - 4.45 – 6pm**
- **KS2 - 6.15 -7.30**

Children in EYFS and KS1 should arrive at 4:45pm at the front entrance.

If your child is at Sewing Club or iPro football training you are required to pick up your child from the club and then bring them back to school at the appropriate time. WE ARE UNABLE TO SUPERVISE THEM IN SCHOOL BETWEEN THE CLUB FINISHING AND THE DISCO STARTING.

If your child is going to WrapAroundCare before the disco, please inform Nina and her team.

Children in EYFS and/or KS1 should be collected from the back door of the hall at 6:00pm. We will be as quick as we can handing them over but it may take a little while. Thank you for your patience while we do this.

Once all the younger children have safely left, we will then open the doors at the front of school to allow KS2 children to come in. **They too should be collected from the back door of the hall at 7:30pm.**

We would be grateful if you could discourage your child from bringing unnecessary items with them which may get mislaid. **Please note, that the bringing of mobile phones is strictly prohibited and food items should not be brought either.** Thank you for your support.

PTA HT Fest:

Just as a reminder, your child is invited to enter the competition to design a front cover for this year's HT Fest programme. Please refer to the flyer sent out today for details. Their design should have a sport theme and be returned to school by Friday 6th February.

Smartphone Free Childhood:

No doubt you will have heard all the coverage in the media recently about the controversy over young people having access to mobile phones and in particular certain social media sites. Earlier in the week the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, called for all schools to follow new government guidance and be phone-free for the entire school day. As you will know, we took the decision some months ago to join with many RBWM schools and impose a smartphone free ban at our school. We are enormously grateful for your support in helping us implement this. The children were never permitted to use their phones in school; they were locked away during the day and returned at home time. However, since we imposed the ban, the number of issues brought into school related to the use of mobile phones while at home has reduced to zero. We continue to teach the children about online safety and etiquette and trust that you do too but understanding the complexity of the problem makes it tricky for all of us to navigate our way through.

I share with you today a letter from the Headteacher of Newlands School outlining their stance on the matter and inviting parents of Year 6 girls to a meeting on Thursday 18th June at 6:00pm to find out more. Do take a moment to read the attachment.

In the meantime, you may like to show your support by signing the Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact by going to: [Smartphone Free Childhood](https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.com/)

Charity Work:

A couple of weeks ago I spoke to the PTA about the charity work we have undertaken since the new academic year began. Thanks to your generosity we have donated £1548.14 to a number of worthy causes. We have supported MacMillan Cancer Support, the Royal British Legion, Children in Need, Save the Children and Barnardo's. In addition we gave to Food Share Maidenhead. We are proud of this and wanted to share the news with all of you.

Sports News:

Our football team were disappointed that their match this week has to be postponed because of a water-logged pitch and our netball team were also disappointed not to secure a win against Cookham Dean on Wednesday. However, they look forward to fixtures still to come. Do take a look at the calendar for dates of matches that are coming up.

Buckinghamshire Secondary School Transfer Tests:

If you have a child in Year 5, you may be considering a grammar school for when they leave Holy Trinity. This week, we have been informed that the Buckinghamshire Secondary Transfer test will take place on Tuesday 8th September 2026 (Practice) and Thursday 10th September 2026 (Transfer Test). As we are not in Buckinghamshire, if you wish your child to take the 11+ examination here or elsewhere you are required to register them for the test yourself. Please note that the timeframe for parents to register for the test has been shortened this year; the deadline will now be 2nd June (last year it was 13th June). The registration window opens on 1st May so do contact Buckinghamshire Council if this applies to you.

Open House:

Finally, next week we invite you to another Open House to view your children's work, see their classroom and meet informally with their teacher(s). They run on Tuesday for KS2 and Wednesday for EYFS and KS1 from the end of the day to about 4pm. On Wednesday parents of children in Reception will have an opportunity to join a short workshop in which we will explain our approach to teaching early reading and share with you the resources we use.

Perhaps I may see you later at the disco but if not, have a wonderful weekend.

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.**

30 th January	PTA Disco (details above)
3 rd February	Open House KS2
4 th February	Early Years – Height, weight and vision with the school nurse
4 th February	Open House EYFS & KS1
5 th February	Girls' Home Football Match v St Edmund Campion (selected girls informed by letter)
10 th February	Year 6 trip to see 'We Will Rock You' at Furze Platt Senior School (please refer to email)
12 th February	Borough Dance Festival (Year 4 and our elite boys' group participating – please refer to the letter you have been sent)
16th – 20th February	HALF TERM BREAK
24 th February	Junior Music Festival Rehearsal for Year 3 (please refer to letter)
25 th February	Y2 Trip to The Lookout (please refer to letter sent out)
26 th February	Home Football Match vs Oldfield, (selected children informed by letter)
2 nd – 6 th March	Book week
3 rd March	Virtual Parent Consultations
5 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
12 th March	Home Boys and Girls Football Matches vs Lowbrook, (selected children informed by letter)
14 th March	PTA Ball
18 th March	Ascot Bake-Off Finals (Year 5 participating)
25 th March	Rock Steady Concert, school hall 9:30am
30th March – 10th April	EASTER HOLIDAY
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
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)