



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

I trust you are now in receipt of our Ofsted report which we were delighted to receive and share with you. Thank you for your kind words in response to the inspector's findings. Mrs Standing, our diocesan advisor, has also been in school recently talking to children, staff, governors and parents about our school vision and ethos. I am grateful to those of you who shared your thoughts with her last Friday. She too was incredibly positive about many aspects of school life.

National Testing Programme:

If you missed the information in last week's newsletter about this year's national testing programme which affects four year groups across our school, please take a moment to find look back. Next week the children in Year 6 will be sitting end of Key Stage 2 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs). Test papers are sent off and marked externally so we should receive their results in July.

Arts and Culture Week Projects:

The date for our Arts and Culture Week performance which we videoed last year so you could see our work, has now been set for Friday 27th May. This year we would like to invite you in. The details are yet to be confirmed but it is likely that the event will begin at 11am. Under gazebos on the field representing each of the decades the Queen has been on the throne, you will see work the children have completed. We hope you will then be enthralled by class presentations of dances and poems through the years. After everyone has performed, the children will be escorted back up to their classroom from where you can sign them out. At this point, around 12:30pm, we hope you will return to the field with your child/children to join us for an enormous picnic. The PTA will run a bar and there will be treats for the children. Dave the Disco will be providing entertainment and we hope to end with a truly spectacular event to mark our Queen's incredible reign. Further details, which will also be posted on Google Classroom under an 'Arts and Culture Week 2022' heading, will follow.

Today, your child has been reminded about the performance clothes they will need to wear to school on Friday 27th May: plain black short sleeved t-shirt and plain black shorts (no logos please). They have also been set a homework task which they have until Friday 27th to complete. They are to design a pot/tub of whatever size they choose planted with red, white and blue flowers/plants. We would like to use these to mark a pathway from the building down to the field through which you and the children walk on the day. We hope to create a wonderful spectacle. Do encourage your child to check for posts on Google Classroom in the coming days so you and they remain clear on what is happening.

During the week leading up to the performance the children will be involved in a number of workshops. If you would like to come in and run a workshop related to the Arts, our Arts and Culture Week coordinators would love to hear from you. Simply email the office marking your message for the attention of Mrs Lucas & Mrs Nicol. You may also be able to help with another project. Between now and then every child will be designing a clay tile to mark the Jubilee. If you are, or know, a friendly tiler who would be willing to help us construct an enormous picture of these tiles, please let us know.

Cookham Festival:

We are delighted that our Junior and Senior Choir will be taking part in a very special event next Friday (13th May). They will be joining the other Cookham schools to sing in a concert at The Odney Club. Rehearsals are going well but, with just a week to go, any last minute practise will enhance the performance. Words and backing tracks have been posted on Google Classroom in the 'Classwork' section under a heading 'Choir'. If your child is taking part in the concert, please encourage them to take a look and run through the songs over the next few days.

PTA:

Thank you for supporting the PTA with their uniform shop earlier in the week. Mrs Strudwicke and her team did a wonderful job washing and sorting items before they went on sale. A lot was decided at the PTA meeting on Tuesday so do look out for information about a number of exciting events planned for the next few weeks.

SEND REVIEW: Green Paper consultation - give your views:

For your information, the Government published its long-awaited SEND review at the end of March, in the form of a **Green Paper** that sets out proposals for changes to the way the SEND system works. Education ministers have emphasised that these are still just proposals – not definite decisions yet – and there will now be a period of **public consultation** lasting until Friday 1 July. The review is quite lengthy - IPSEA has created a summary which you can access [here](#), via the IPSEA website

News from around The School:

Smelly cabbages and sparkly diamonds have been on the minds of Goslings when the children started to uncover the mysteries of Ben's seemingly-dull Granny in David Williams' 'Gangsta Granny'. They came up with lots of ideas as to where she found her stash of diamonds and are excited about learning who has guessed correctly! Cormorants have been discussing the qualities which make someone inspirational. They all agreed that determination, humility, loyalty and bravery were important. The children have learned about inspirational people throughout history and created posters about individual who inspire them and others.

Year 6 have been focusing on revising all things SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and Maths related. Making the most of the fine weather, they headed out onto the playground to draw Venn diagrams with chalk, and play dice games to help with their understanding of conjunctions!

In maths, Kingfishers conducted an investigation using four grow bags of potatoes focusing on a range of questions: What is the total number of potatoes in my bag? What does the biggest/smallest potato weigh? Does the bag with the most soil have the most potatoes? How long is the biggest/smallest potato?

What is the difference between these measurements? The investigation also threw up other science related questions, How long do potatoes take to grow? What do potatoes need to grow?, which we will tackle in the coming weeks. In a link with their class text, 'Oliver's Vegetables', the children in Swan Class have also been studying plants and their growth. Making careful scientific observations, the children spent time in the Wildlife Area, drawing plants and labelling their parts.

Year 3 and 4 have discovered how to name items of clothing in French. They enjoyed a number of interactive games while exploring the meaning of the sentence opener, ' Je porte....' Year 6 on the other hand have put their German skills to use in completing a 'Personal Information sheet' while Year 5 continued their topic 'Die Tiere'. They've now moved on to learning various adjectives which can be used in short sentences describing these animals.

Nearly everyone in Year 4 has improved their score from last week in the Multiplication Tables Check. The children are working incredibly hard ahead of their national test next month. Do refer to the letter sent out last week which explains how you can support them in achieving even greater success.

Having painted pictures of dinosaurs and written dinosaur facts, during P4C (Philosophy for Children) Cygnets turned their thoughts to how it would be if dinosaurs still roamed the earth. Some thought it would be good because they would find out what dinosaurs were really like and they could have fun riding them or slide down their tails! Others were not convinced; they were concerned about dinosaurs crushing them or giving them earache from their loud roaring! The thought of what might happen when they went to the toilet also caused much consternation!

Having been lucky enough to be invited to attend a cross-country event at St Piran's School on Thursday, twenty-four children from across Year 3 and 4 set off with a sprint in their step. The course was tough and the opposition was strong but our squad, with less training than some of the others, gave their best. We were delighted with 3rd place overall in the Year 4 Girls' category and thrilled to secure an individual win when Lola powered across the finish line ahead of everyone! After such a long time with no events happening because of the pandemic, we are making the most of every opportunity which comes our way. The fact that so many children have had the chance to represent the school in a sporting event this year gives us a great sense of pride.



Follow us on twitter and see more of what we are up to!
@HTSchoolCookham

Cookham's Footprint:

You may be aware of an initiative in Cookham which concerns the environment and climate emergency but more immediately relates to our use of energy, the dramatic increase in its price and the impact of this on many local households.

A group of volunteers across Cookham have come together to face up to these challenges and **Cookhams Footprint** is the result. The initial and urgent focus is on reducing our energy use, through stopping wasted energy and by adopting appropriate technologies across the Cookhams to generate our own household energy as well as community-based generation. Longer term the team hope to address some of the broader challenges under the climate emergency umbrella.

Today, for your information, you have been sent a couple of fliers which outline the work being done.

Thank you for all your support this week and have a wonderful weekend.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

9 th – 12 th May	KS2 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs)
11 th May	Year 1 Commonwealth Games event at Altwood School (letter sent)
13 th May	Katie Cox Cookham Festival Concert, Odney Club, 4pm & 6pm (school choir)
13 th May	Year 5/6 Football Match v St Edmund Campion (away - information to follow)
From 16 th May	KS1 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs)
16 th May	Year 5/6 A Team, B Team and Girls Football Matches v Waltham St Lawrence (home - information to follow)
19 th May	Year 3 Cricket Skills event at Altwood School (letter to follow)
20 th May	'It's Your Move' Workshop (Year 6)
22 nd May	Ovey's Farm Concert (choir)
23 rd – 27 th May	Arts and Culture Week (not 13 th June as previously advertised)
27th May	Platinum Jubilee Celebratory Event and Picnic
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half Term Holiday
From 6 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Test
6 th – 10 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Screening Test
7 th June	Early Years Health Screening (refer to letter previously sent out)
10 th June	PTA School Disco (details to follow)
27 th June – 1 st July	Year 6 Residential Trip
8 th July	Sports Day (tbc)
2 nd July	HT Fest (details to follow)
14 th July	Last day of term
15 th July	First Day of the summer holiday
2 nd September	First day of the new academic year
8 th October	PTA Ball (details to follow)