



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)



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KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

PTA School Disco:

This time last week we were getting ready for the PTA children's disco. It was a huge success, enjoyed by many. My thanks go to Kate for organising the event and all the parents who came along to offer support. To find out how much was raised and how that money might be spent, come along to the next PTA virtual meeting which is on Wednesday (12th February).

News from the Week:

The children have continued to explore the topics you will have read about in our January Class Newsletters. Year 5 have been busy perfecting their pop-up books which they were thrilled to share with Year 1 yesterday. The younger children were captured by their stories and the moveable pages which they had put together so well. Perhaps you have seen the snowdrops and daffodils starting to appear at the front of school but have you noticed the bird cakes which the Eco- Council made recently and which they hung on the tree outside my office? Cygnets were also out yesterday hanging the bird cakes they had made down in our wildlife area. We have prepared a positive feast for the birds this weekend! Year 6 have now concluded their work on the artist David Hockney who happened to be in the news this week. They have been engrossed in creating mood boards and landscapes to great effect. Year 4 have used figurative language and performance techniques to impress Ms O'Reilly in a cinquain poetry competition and Year 2 have continued their geography unit adding keys to the maps they have drawn. We have marked Children's Mental Health Week [Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#) in a number of ways, largely in assembly when we have used the Disney Pixar film, 'Inside Out' as a stimulus, but also in class. Year 3, for instance, have created tea cups of compliments which have done a wonderful job of boosting everyone's wellbeing.

Our netball and football team travelled together to Riverside School for their latest fixtures and I'm delighted to inform you that both teams won. Our netballers had a convincing 15 – 2 win and our football B Team were ecstatic in claiming their first win of the season with a final score of 2 – 1. There was much celebration in assembly earlier! Gymnast, Olivia, has been in school again this week sharing her expertise with every class in the school during gym lessons. Thank you for sharing with us the positive comments your children have made about these sessions. Thank you also for taking the time to attend our Open House event this week; we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to come into school, see your children's work and speak to staff. We're thrilled that it was so well attended.

Year 4 Dance Festival:

Year 4 will be performing in the Primary Schools' Dance Festival next week. Mrs Douglass, the borough's dance lead, popped into school on Tuesday to see their work and was very impressed. Year 4 parents, you are in for a treat! Two girls in Year 5, Isabella Silver and Lizzie Wells, will also be performing as part of Mrs Douglass' elite dance group; we are proud that they are there representing our school. We have been informed by the organisers that there are still tickets available so if you would like more than the one you were originally allocated, do apply. We look forward to seeing you there. For details of the day, please refer to the information you have previously been sent.

Book Week:

Many thanks to those of you who have contacted us offering help during Book Week; we are thrilled that we have a range of workshops to offer the children. During the week every class will be visiting the Little Bookshop on the High Street so if you are able to help us by coming along we would be most grateful. We are liaising with Chantal and will inform you of when every class will make their visit as soon as dates are confirmed.

Year 6 Trip to the Furze Platt Theatre Production of 'Oliver':

Just as a reminder for those of you with children in Year 6, we are off to Furze Platt Senior School on Monday. Please pick your child up from school at 12:30pm and we will meet you just outside the gates of Furze Platt Senior School at 12:45pm. Once everyone has assembled, we will walk in together. At the end of the performance we will walk the children back to where you dropped them off ready for you to pick them up at 3pm.

Gems Workshops:

The GEMS team, which we regularly share information about, have released a date for their new 3-part autism course. For parents and carers of children up to the age of 18, the online workshops will be on Wednesday 12th, 19th & 26th March 2025 from 7 – 9pm. Hosted by Parenting Special Children, the workshops are as follows:

Session 1: Introduction to Autism, what is Autism, Myths and facts & Assessment overview.

Session 2: Autism and Behaviour, becoming a detective, Sensory differences, Anxiety, Sleep.

Session 3: Autism and Building a Support Toolkit, Communication, Visuals and routines, Identifying and supporting emotions, De-escalation and low arousal.

To book, go to: <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/autism-course-berkshire-east-mar-2025/>

And to find the full list of available workshops, please view their website. <https://www.gems4health.com/workshops/>

Clubs:

Thank you for your support this week as we've implemented new arrangements for clubs which meet before school. Spanish and Maths Club coming through the front door and Netball Club entering through the side gate have meant that children in Early Bird Club have not been disturbed by others walking through the hall. It has created a more conducive atmosphere.

Choir will still arrive at 8am and make their way to the SHEL by going through the hall but we would be most grateful if the children could arrive promptly.

Last week I informed you that in order to ensure fairness and parity across all, the administration of the choir was being brought in line with our other club providers. For many years school has funded the choir but this is now no longer possible. For clubs that incur no cost to the school like Mr Whittles's Football Club, Ukelele Club, Hand Chime Club, Mr Lucas' Netball Club and Maths Club run by Mrs Neal and her team, there is no cost to join but when it comes to outside providers, we are not in a position to swallow the fees they charge. Our aim is to give the children as many extra-curricular opportunities as we can so we don't wish to restrict what is on offer but in order to do this we have no other choice than to pass the cost on. This is the situation with choir. It is not a decision we took lightly so we hope we can rely on your understanding and support. Thank you.

Parking and Pick-Up:

I received an email from a neighbour at the start of the week which contained a photograph of a car parked on her private driveway. I can't be sure it belonged to any of our parents but it is perhaps timely for me to politely ask that you are considerate of our neighbours when arriving for pick-up at the end of the day. **Can we also remind you that the trim trail is not to be used after 3:15pm, even when events like Open House take us beyond pick-up time?** In the interests of safeguarding and because staff are not available to provide supervision at this time, children **must not** use the trim trail after they have been handed over to you. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

10 th February	Year 6 Trip to Furze Platt Senior School to see <i>Oliver Jr.</i> (pick up from school at 12:30pm)
10 th February	A team football match v Cookham Rise (home), selected children informed by letter - POSTPONED
11 th February	Safer Internet Day
11 th February	B team netball match vs All Saints Junior (away), selected children informed by letter
12 th February	PTA meeting (details posted on PTA Facebook pages)
13 th February	Borough Dance Festival for Y4 – 1pm
13 th February	A team football match v Cookham Dean (home), selected children informed by letter
21 st February	Deadline for Year 6 Devon Trip Deposit

17th February – 21st February Half Term Break

24 th February	First day of term
27 th February	A team girls' match and B team boys' match v Oldfield (away), selected children informed by letter
28 th February	Year 1 participation in The Big Active 60 Festival at Braywick Leisure Centre 9 – 11:30am (details to follow)
1 st March	PTA Annual Ball
3 rd – 7 th March	Book week
3 rd March	A team football fixture v Cookham Rise (home) selected children informed by letter
4 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
6 th March	World Book Day
6 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
7 th March	Book Week Dress Up Day
10 th March	Nursing team in to carry out National Child Measurement Programme (EYFS)
14 th March	Comic Relief (details to follow)
20 th March	Ascot Bake off Event for Y5 (details tbc)
20 th March	Y4 Trip to Busy Buttons (details tbc)
27 th March	Y3 Trip to the Henley River and Rowing Museum (details to follow)
4 th April	PTA Easter Event (details tbc)

7th April – 21st April Easter Holiday

22 nd April	First day of term
1 st May	Year 4 Trip to Starlight Express, Wembley Park Theatre
12 th – 15 th May	KS2 SATS

26th May – 30th May Half Term Break

9 th – 13 th June	Arts and Culture Week
23 rd – 27 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
23 rd – 3 rd July	Sports Fortnight
4 th July	Sports Day
17 th July	Last day of term