



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

### **Teddy Bears' Picnic – Monday (24<sup>th</sup> March) No Nuts & No Sesame:**

I trust you saw my email at the beginning of the week about the need to order a grab-bag or send your child in with a packed lunch on Monday if they would like to support Year 4 in their Partners for Change, Ethiopia event. **If you have not placed an order for a grab-bag, regardless of which year group your child is in, you must send your child in on Monday with a packed lunch.** There will be no other food options available. The children who choose to go to the teddy bears' picnic will join Year 4 outside, those choosing not to will eat their packed lunches or grab bags in the hall.

**If you are sending your child in with their own packed lunch please remember not to include anything containing nuts or sesame.** We have children in school with severe allergies who are dangerously affected when coming into contact with such items. Please continue to be mindful of the ingredients in food items which might not obviously have nuts or sesame. I was alerted to the fact only this week that certain rice cakes contain sesame. Thank you for working with us to safeguard everyone.

### **Supporting Partners for Change, Ethiopia:**

Year 2 led our Lent fundraising project for Partners for Change, Ethiopia, this week by organising a soft toy sale. They would like to thank everyone for their kind donations which led to their event being a huge success.

Year 6 have continued their walkathon which has seen them get closer to their end goal and as well as the Teddy Bears' Picnic on Monday there will be other fund raising activities happening during the week. Please refer to the calendar of events so your child knows when to bring in pocket money.

The energy and enthusiasm with which the children have embraced this project has continued this week. If you wish to find out more about the charity and the incredible work they do, go to: [PFC Ethiopia – Partners for Change Ethiopia Website](http://PFC Ethiopia – Partners for Change Ethiopia Website)

### **Year 5's Ascot Bake-Off Event:**

Yesterday, the winning team from Year 5's recent bake-off project went to Ascot Racecourse to represent the class with their summer menu. They had a wonderful day meeting the judges as well as other children from many local primary and secondary schools who had also entered the competition. I am delighted to inform you that our team came away as first runners up which meant they won a cook book each and tickets to attend a Race Day with their families this season. Congratulations, James, James and Haaris and a special thank you to Sweet Marie's who provided the team with items to display.

### **Year 4's Trip to Busy Buttons:**

Yesterday Year 4 also enjoyed a trip out. They were in Windsor at the Busy Buttons workshop creating a 3-dimensional structure to represent the River Thames and the city of Oxford which it flows through. Their work will be displayed at the Royal Windsor Flower Show on 7<sup>th</sup> June. They had a fabulous time using their imagination and a range of design technology skills.

### **Heathrow Explorers:**

This morning Year 6 enjoyed a workshop with 'Learning to Work', the team who brought us the Ascot Bake-Off competition. During the session the children were free to let their imagination run wild as they explored and designed new modes of transport fit for the future. The focus was on sustainability and innovation while at the same time learning what it is like to work at an airport. They were supported in small teams to use 3D design software while developing skills of teamwork, communication, problem solving, creative thinking and adaptability. Work at Heathrow might have been suspended today but in school everything was functioning perfectly!

### **Football News:**

This afternoon a team of nine Year 5 boys went off to Claire's Court for a football tournament against a number of other state and private schools. They played lots of matches which determined their overall success in the competition. I was thrilled to learn that the team came third and walked away with bronze medals in recognition of their achievement.

Unfortunately, the teams who played after school matches yesterday, despite playing consistently, didn't beat the two teams from All Saints. The weather was in their favour but not the goals.

### **VE Day Celebrations:**

I hope you saw the flyer last week explaining how the village is going to be celebrating 80 years since VE Day. We have begun preparing for the event with children making bunting in school. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May we will be welcoming a workshop provider in to deliver sessions to every class explaining the significance of the date and bringing it to life. This has kindly been funded by the PTA. Your child is invited to come to school on 8<sup>th</sup> dressed in clothes from the era. Details will follow but I mention it now to give you plenty of time to prepare.

### **Earth Hour:**

This weekend we have all been encourage by our Eco-Council to support Earth Hour between the hours of 8:30pm and 9:30pm tomorrow. To help get everyone prepared, this afternoon for an hour we were plunged into darkness and were unable to use any technology. It was brilliant and served as a reminder to everyone of how much we rely on our earth's resources yet can be so wasteful. If you would like to support our Eco – Council and mark Earth Day tomorrow go to: <https://www.earthhour.org/> for details of what to do.

**SmartPhone Free:**

Thanks to the commitment and determination of a parent steering party, we are noticing that far fewer of our Year 6 children are bringing smartphones to school. It has had an enormously positive impact. I am proud that our school currently sits at the top of the Berkshire leader board which records the number of parents who have signed the pact indicating their support of a smartphone free childhood. If you are yet to sign and would like to do so and help keep our school in the top spot, go to: [Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact](#)

**Clubs:**

There are still spaces available in the clubs that are running this term and a number of flyers have already been sent out to you about clubs that will be operating next term.

**Church Choir:**

A couple of weeks ago, I drew your attention to the search now on for new choristers by Sara Wood, Director of Music, at the church. In the latest parish magazine, Sara again writes about the opportunity joining the Youth Choir provides. The commitment is a weekly 35-minute practice on Tuesdays (starting at 6:30pm) and usually one Sunday a month. For more details contact [sarawood44@hotmail.com](mailto:sarawood44@hotmail.com)

**Gas Works:**

This week we have been informed that Cadent are due to begin works to replace gas pipes along Sutton Road. The work will begin around 31st March and take approximately 34 weeks. As a result, there will be manually controlled temporary traffics lights in the village. The advice is that we all plan extra time for our journeys as they are anticipating traffic hold-ups. To find out more, refer to the letter sent as an attachment or go to: [cadentgas.com/cookham](http://cadentgas.com/cookham)

**Cookham Run 2025:**

For those of you keen on running, the Rotary Club is organising a 5K and 10K Charity Run on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May along the Thames. For details of how to enter go to <https://cookhamrun.co.uk>

Have a lovely weekend and we'll see you on Monday.

Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Pfc charity event - Teddy Bears' Picnic
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Pfc charity event - Book Topple
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception and Year 1 Pfc charity event - Board Game and Jigsaw Puzzle Sale & Year 5 Book Tombola
26 <sup>th</sup> March	B team netball match vs Courthouse (home), 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
31st March	Girls A team football match v All Saints Junior (home), selected children informed by letter
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	A team netball match vs Furze Platt Junior (away), 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	Come to school dressed in colours of the Ethiopian flag (green, yellow, red & blue) in support of Partners for Change
4 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Easter Event (details tbc)

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

21 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 6 Devon Trip – Final Instalment due (please refer to letter sent 30.1.25)
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	First day of term
24 <sup>th</sup> April	B team boys and A team girls football matches vs Waltham St Lawrence (home), selected children informed by letter.
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
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Y3 Junior Music Festival Rehearsal - Courthouse School am (details to be sent out in a letter)

### 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
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Junior Music Festival Rehearsal - Courthouse School am (details to be sent out in a letter)
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