



KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Macmillan Bake Sale:

Thank you so much for helping us support Macmillan today with our cake sale. It was lovely that we had so many cakes to sell and so many customers to serve. As soon as we have established how much we have raised for the charity, we will let you know.

Year 6 Residential Trip:

It was lovely to see so many of you with children in Year 6 attend the meeting on Monday with Roger Sell from CRS Adventures. I hope you found the session informative. If you were unable to attend, you can see Roger's presentation by following the link to: [River Dart Country Park & CRS Adventures Residential School Visit Information. \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

PTA Virtual Meeting – Wednesday 25th September:

I hope that those of you who attended our first PTA meeting of the year on Wednesday found the discussion interesting. We are always grateful for your input.

The first PTA event of the year is the Quiz Night on 4th October - to book tickets, go to: <https://forms.gle/QmQnzRmNAPNnzQ7CA> and the next meeting, which will be our AGM, is on 6th November.

Eco-Council Elections:

We've taken some time this week to think about our local environment and the world we live in. Having done so, Eco-Council elections have been held. Our new team of councillors who were announced in assembly earlier, will join last year's team and begin steering the school next week in a range of environmental matters with the help of Mrs Weller. Every child who put themselves forward for election and spoke in front of their class mates should be congratulated. We clearly have some very knowledgeable and passionate pupils keen to inspire others in looking after our planet.

Year 6 Cycling Proficiency – Monday 30th September to Thursday 3rd October:

Cycling Proficiency for those children in Year 6 who have signed up, begins next week. Please refer to the letter you have previously been sent about what is required for your child to start the course successfully. Most important are bikes, helmets and waterproof clothing! The first task the instructors will do is check bicycle safety so if you could take a moment this weekend to check tyre pressures, the height of the saddle and the efficiency of the brakes, putting right any issues, the team will be grateful.

Henley Literary Festival:

Next week, in celebration of the Henley Literary Festival, a number of classes will be joining virtual sessions, hearing from a range of authors and learning what inspires them. Year 4, however, will be attending a session in person. On Wednesday they are off to meet Cressida Cowell, author of 'How to Train Your Dragon'. If you have a child in Year 4 please refer to the letter you were sent earlier in the week with details on how to secure a ticket for your child if you haven't already done so. We require consent from you by Monday at the very latest.

Themed Weeks:

If you are yet to respond to the letter sent to you the other day about our themed weeks this year, we would be grateful for your support in helping us make the events we would like to happen possible. For your convenience, it has been sent to you as an attachment again today.

Mrs Weller and Mrs Redjeb are still in the process of planning Science & Technology Week which is coming up soon. They are delighted with the support many of you have been able to offer by running workshops for the children. These really do help to make the week special. If you are yet to get in touch, please do.

Sporting Events:

You will notice from the calendar that a number of football and netball matches have been organised by Mr Whittle. Do keep a look out as events will be added on a regular basis. We will do our very best to give you as much notice as we can. Our teams have already shown their commitment by turning up to practices sometimes before, sometimes after school and we are thrilled that so many are keen to represent our school. For details of all clubs running this term, please refer to last week's newsletter which can be found on our website.

Naming Uniform and Equipment:

Thank you for taking time to ensure your child's clothing and equipment is clearly named. We have had very little lost property again this week and when named items have been mislaid, they have been quickly reunited with their owner. We appreciate your support.

Smartphone Free Childhood:

You may be as aware of growing concerns parents have around children having access to smartphones because of the harm they can do to a child's mental health among other things. As a society, we seem to want to protect our children from dangers which might exist when they explore the real world but perhaps have less regard for the dangers which lurk in a virtual world.

In February 2024 friends Daisy and Clare set up a WhatsApp group to support each other in a decision to hold off buying their children smartphones. Within 24 hours thousands of other parents had joined the group after an Instagram post by Daisy went viral. By encouraging local groups to build the conversation in their areas, it wasn't long before over 60 Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp groups had launched across the country resulting in a national debate around the issue. To find out more, go to: [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

Ahead of a talk on 15th October when an expert will be speaking about the matter at the Institute of Marketing in Cookham, an event which has been jointly funded by the PTAs of the four Cookham Schools, I met this week with the headteachers of Cookham Rise and Cookham Dean School. Together with the headteacher of Herries we hope to add our voice to the campaign which we know many of you already support. Ultimately it remains a personal decision for every family but with more research now available, I hope to be able to point you to relevant sites over the coming weeks to help you decide how to tackle this complex issue yourself. In the meantime you may be interested in a book, 'The Anxious Generation', by Jonathan Haidt which explores the causes and consequences of the mental health crisis among young people in the developed world.

Job Vacancy – Lunchtime Supervisor:

We are currently looking for someone who might be interested to join our team of lunchtime supervisors on a daily or part-time basis. If you, or anyone you know, are interested please see our website and/or the attached flyer for details.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

Please continue to refer to this section in our newsletter throughout the year as new dates are added in order to keep on top of what is coming up in school. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible. Anything new will be highlighted in blue.

30 th Sept – 3 rd October	Year 6 Cycling Proficiency (please refer to the letter you were sent at the end of the summer term)
2 nd October	Year 4 to hear Cressida Cowell at the Henley Literary Festival
3 rd October	Year 2 at Altwood School for the morning in an Active 60 Festival – please refer to letter sent out
3 rd October	A team netball match v Braywick Court (home) Selected children informed by letter
4 th October	'First Class Photo' for Cygnets with Maidenhead Advertiser
4 th October	PTA Quiz Night
7 th October	School Photographer in
9 th October	EYFS Curriculum and Phonics Workshop 4pm
10 th October	A and B team football matches v Oldfield (home) Selected children informed by letter
14 th – 18 th October	Science & Technology Week
15 th & 17 th October	Virtual Parent Consultations (information to follow)
15 th – 22 nd October	Travelling Book Fair in school
17 th October	A and B team football matches v Holyport (away) Selected children informed by letter
22 nd October	KS2 (Year 3-6) Open House Session to view classrooms 3:15pm -4pm
23 rd October	EYFS & KS1 Open House Session to view classrooms 3:15pm -4pm
23 rd October	Year 3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
23 rd October	A team netball match v Cookham Dean (home) Selected children informed by letter
19 th October	PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
28 th Oct – 1 st November	HALF TERM
6 th November	PTA Annual General Meeting
8 th November	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle
11 th – 15 th November	Maths & Computing Week
11 th November	Remembrance Service at Cookham War Memorial
15 th November	Children in Need
22 nd November	PTA Pyjama and Popcorn Party
1 st December	Cookham Christmas Street Fayre
2 nd December	NCMP Year 6 screening
3 rd December	Year 5 Trip to the Harry Potter Studios
4 th December	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
10 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm
11 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 6pm
12 th December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
18 th December	EYFS & KS1 Trip to the Braywick Pantomime
19 th December	Christmas Lunch
20 th December – 6 th Jan	Christmas Holiday
3 rd – 7 th March	Book week
4 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
6 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
1 st May	Year 4 Trip to Starlight Express, Wembley Park Theatre
12 th – 15 th May	KS2 SATs
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

Harvest Festival:

Please note that because of the closure of Holy Trinity Church, our Harvest Service will be held in school.

As space is limited, we are unable to invite parents this time but we hope to invite you back to special service in the church once the work there is complete. Thank you for your understanding.