



Dates for the diary

7 th July	Maple class consultation 1
8 th July	PTA AGM (online meeting) 6pm
8 th & 10 th July	Parent consultations (except Year 5)
12 th July	PTA Summer fair
21 st July	Year 6 leavers' service at the church 2pm (all Y6 parents welcome)
1 st September	INSET day
2 nd September	First day of the school year for children in years 1 to 6.

Monday 7th July 2025

A newsletter? On a Monday? At this hour?!

Again, apologies for the delay, but on the plus side, this has given us the chance to add even more newsworthy items than ever before. In years to come, tales will be told and passed down from generation to generation of the school newsletter that had a bit more content than most of the others, but (if we're honest) perhaps a bit less than a few of them. This is how legends are born.

I want to start with a brief mention of the weather forecasting service. Over the years, this has developed in complexity to the point where, using satellites, advanced computer modelling and a dash of artistic license, we can predict the following day's weather with reasonable accuracy.

Imagine my surprise therefore when children emerged onto a rain lashed playground last week (as accurately forecast) with no coat, and then asserted that as it was hot yesterday, they decided not to bring a coat. After a number of brief conversations with junior children, it quickly became apparent that they were making their own decision about whether to bring a coat to school. This deduction was backed up when, this morning, many children arrived at school (in the pouring rain) without a coat.

In the same way that they are not able to vote, drive or keep a bedroom tidy, primary aged children are not able to make an informed decision about what clothing to bring to school. Please make that decision for them. As in previous newsletters, please ensure your child has some sort of coat or packable jacket every day, whatever the weather was like yesterday, last summer or forecast to be next weekend. If the forecast is predicting rain or it is actually raining as you leave the house, use that as a helpful reminder. There is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes.

Parentmail

We are moving onto a new platform for school information management and communication. From September 2025, we will be using Arbor for an increasing number of services and stopping Parentmail for comms and payments. Please do not make any payments via Parentmail after 20th July. More information will follow. By



wrapping a number of services into one provider, the school will make a significant cost saving, as well as having the use of a more advanced platform.

Uniform changes

In our continued efforts to reduce the price of uniform, we have changed our PE t-shirt and tracksuit top for all year groups, and these are now available via the Price & Buckland school website.

Remember that the only branded items that we ask parents to buy are the school sweatshirt and PE shirt. Although other branded options are available for polo shirts etc, you are welcome to buy generic, unbranded versions of these items.

If your child already has PE kit, this will remain perfectly acceptable in perpetuity, so there is no need to change. In line with this, second hand or passed down items can still be bought from the pre-loved uniform sales and worn with pride.

Early Years news

The children in Early Years had a wonderful afternoon on Monday building pirate boats with their dad, mum, grandparent, uncle or aunt. Every member was fully absorbed in how to construct their boat with various materials. The children and adults left carrying some fabulous boats that any pirate would be jealous of!

We are now all looking forward to ending our pirate adventures with a trip to Dunorlan Park next week.



Mrs Coward

Year 4 Maypole Dancing

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their Maypole dance training this week, which was delivered by our external sports partner. The children showed great enthusiasm as they learned traditional steps, practised weaving patterns, and working together to create impressive routines. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop coordination, teamwork, and rhythm in a fun and active way.





Mr Pritchard

Year 4 Visit to Wakehurst Place

On 25th July, Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Wakehurst Place to support our science learning about living things and their habitats. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the children were excited to explore the stunning surroundings. Working in groups, they investigated different tree species, measured height, girth, and canopy cover, and made careful observations to help estimate each tree's age. We were fascinated to learn that trees can communicate with each other through their roots, sending warning signals about threats such as pests or drought - amazing! During our wellbeing walk, we used our senses to take in the abundance of plants, flowers, and vegetables and reflected on the calming effects of nature. Wakehurst staff were full of praise for our pupils' behaviour and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of them - well done, Year 4!



Mrs Schone

No Smartphones in school policy reminder from September 2025

As you know, we do not allow children to bring phones to school unless there are special circumstances and parents make a request to me. From September we will not allow children to bring in smartphones to school under any circumstances.

If you feel that your family have extenuating circumstances, then following a direct request to me, we may allow a non-smartphone (also known as a brick phone – costing around £20) to be brought to school and handed to/collected from the class teacher at the start of each day. These phones cannot have a camera or internet access.

Please note that this supersedes any prior agreement made with any individual family.



Drop off and pick up

You may have seen talk recently about how childhood has changed, with some commenting that modern society has led to less freedom in the 'real world' for current children (think about what age you were allowed out alone and compare that to current thinking), whilst allowing greater access, and potentially less supervision, to the online world. *[To talk to someone about what a Smartphone Free Childhood might look like, please pop along to our Summer Fair on Saturday 12th July where some of our parents will be running a stall about this initiative.]*

While we, as a school, promote independence in our children, we are always mindful that safety and security should come first. **As a result, it is school policy that only children in Year 5 and Year 6 are allowed to walk home on their own, provided that the school and family have no concerns about the child's ability to keep themselves safe and that the school receives permission via our permission form which will be sent out in September.**

In order to develop independence in a graduated way, if your child is in Year 4 and you feel they are ready for a little more responsibility, from September, we will allow them to be dropped off at the bottom gate in the morning (after 8:45am) to make their way into school by themselves. They will still need to be collected from the wooden KS2 gate at the end of the day by an adult. Please note that all children in Years R - 3 should be taken to their entrance gate/door each morning and supervised by an adult until the entrance opens at 8:45am.

Miss Hayward

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges

➤ Winners for week ending 27th June 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Charlie in Kestrel Class 341,953 words	Dormouse Class 1,157,158 words	Jack in Badger Class 16 quizzes	Dormouse Class 75 quizzes

➤ Winners for week ending 4th July 2025:

Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Class Word Count	Highest Individual Number of Quizzes Passed	Highest Class Quizzes Passed
Kate in Dormouse Class 553,107 words	Dormouse Class 1,276,808 words	Jake in Stoat Class 48 quizzes	Stoat Class 207 quizzes

Many congratulations to all our winners. Keep reading everyone!

Mrs Simpson

Kindest regards,
John Tutt

