



## END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

Looking forwards:

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Y2 & 3 Family Learning English
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday Monday</b>
Week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Group Photos
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 4 Family Learning Maths
	BMF 2 <sup>nd</sup> rehearsal
Week beginning 25 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Half term</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Family Learning Maths
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (weather permitting)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Back up sports day



Please see below the after-school clubs which will be hosted v by Prestige after the holidays

Monday: KS2 Athletics

Tuesday: KS2 Cricket

Wednesday: Year 1 to 4 Mixed football

<https://www.prestigesportscoaching.com/services-4>

## Message from Mr Riordan

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Easter to all our families!

It was wonderful to see so many creative and colourful Easter bonnets in our parade this morning – the children truly went above and beyond! Here are a couple of example photos to share with you – we will put more onto our social media channels in the days ahead, so please make sure you are following our Instagram and Facebook accounts – links are on our homepage.

As we enter the Easter period, we hope you are able to enjoy a restful and joyful time with those you love. In the spirit of Easter, we share with our friends at ODBE this message of hope:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:3–4

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Easter







Please see the letter attached to this newsletter from Bracknell Forest Council regarding the Meningitis B outbreak in Kent.



26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **Invasive meningococcal disease Information for parents and carers in Bracknell Forest**

#### **What is meningococcal disease**

Meningococcal disease is caused by meningococcal bacteria, which many people carry harmlessly in the back of their throat. There are multiple strains of meningococcal bacteria and infections, such as ~~MenA, MenB, MenC, MenW, MenX, MenY~~. It is not known why some individuals carry the bacteria without them causing harm while others go on to develop invasive disease.

Meningococcal disease is rare however it can be very serious if not treated quickly. It can cause:

- bacterial meningitis (inflammation of the protective lining which surrounds the brain and spinal cord)
- ~~septicaemia~~ (a severe infection which spreads throughout the body and can cause organ failure).

#### **How meningococcal disease spreads**

Meningococcal disease does not spread very easily between people. The bacteria is passed to others after a long period of close contact, for example by living with someone in shared accommodation, through prolonged kissing, or sharing drinks and vapes. ~~MenB~~ bacteria is not as contagious as infections such as measles or COVID-19.

#### **What you need to do**

- a) Know the signs and symptoms

While meningococcal disease is rare, it is important to know the signs and symptoms and to seek medical help urgently as it can be very serious if not treated quickly. Symptoms of meningitis develop suddenly and can include:

- a high temperature (fever)
- being sick, vomiting
- a headache
- a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it (but a rash will not always develop)
- a stiff neck
- a dislike of bright lights
- drowsiness or unresponsiveness
- seizures (fits)

These symptoms can appear in any order. You do not always get all the symptoms.

Find out more about the symptoms of meningitis and the actions to take for suspected meningitis: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms)

b) Vaccination against meningitis

The [NHS routine immunisation programme](#) offers the following meningococcal vaccines:

- The [MenACWY vaccine](#) is offered to young people aged 13-14 (Year 9 in school) and can be provided as catch-up until the young person's 25th birthday.
- The [MenB vaccine](#) was introduced in 2015 and is routinely offered to babies aged 8 weeks, 12 weeks and a booster at 1 year, with catch-up only available until their 2nd birthday. There is currently no routine [MenB vaccination programme](#) for people after age 2.

There are other vaccines in the NHS's routine childhood [immunisation schedule](#) which can protect against other diseases that can lead to meningitis. It is therefore important that children and young people are up to date with their routine vaccinations.

To check your child's [immunisation history](#), you can look at their [Personal Child Health Record](#) (the Red Book), check on [the NHS app](#), or contact your GP.

To catch up on [immunisations](#), you can speak to your GP surgery.

**Other useful information and resources:**

**UKHSA communications on the outbreak in Kent**

Meningitis B outbreak: what you need to know <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/18/meningitis-b-outbreak-what-you-need-to-know/>

Who is eligible for the [MenB vaccine](#) and do I need it myself?

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/20/who-is-eligible-for-the-menb-vaccine-and-do-i-need-it-myself/>

News story:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cases-of-invasive-meningococcal-disease-confirmed-in-kent>

**Posters and leaflets**

Meningitis and [septicaemia](#): Don't ignore the signs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningitis-signs-and-symptoms-poster>

**NHS**

Meningitis - [www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/)

NHS vaccinations and when to have them - <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

**Other organisations**

Meningitis Research Foundation, [www.meningitis.org](http://www.meningitis.org)

Helpline 0800 8800 3344 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Meningitis Now, [www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org)

Helpline 0808 80 10 388 (Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to 1pm)

**PLACE DIRECTORATE**

Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD

T: 01344 352000 [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

Our new website is live!

We are delighted to confirm that our new website, along with our refreshed branding including logo and font, has now gone live! The website address will remain the same: [www.stmichaelseasthampstead.com](http://www.stmichaelseasthampstead.com) Remember to give us a follow on our socials: @stmicheast on Instagram and Facebook.

We hope you enjoy the new look! Some information may take longer to migrate over/ be uploaded/ be updated, so please bear with us and we thank you for your patience. If there is anything you need and can't find, please feel free to contact the office: [secretary@stmicheast.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stmicheast.co.uk)



SATs DfE Blog - Link

We posted last week that the DfE have created a blog for Year 6 parents; the link appeared to be broken. Please follow here: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/ks2-sats-2026-what-parents-need-to-know/>



Year 2 require shoe boxes for an art project early in the summer term. If you have any old shoe boxes around the house and are willing to send our way, we would appreciate this



**JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK WITH US.**

	<p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>(29/03)</b></p> <p>Jesus, amid the cheering crowd, rides on a donkey to Jerusalem</p>	<p><b>8am</b> <b>9:30am</b></p>	<p>Holy Communion Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist</p>
	<p><b>HOLY MONDAY</b></p> <p>Jesus visits his friends in Bethany and Mary anoints the feet of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>8pm</b></p>	<p>Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross</p>
	<p><b>HOLY TUESDAY</b></p> <p>Jesus foretells the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter</p>	<p><b>6pm</b> <b>8pm</b></p>	<p>Holy Communion Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross</p>
	<p><b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b></p> <p>Judas makes a deal with the high priests; he agrees to turn Jesus over for 30 silver coins</p>	<p><b>8pm</b></p>	<p>Holy Communion and Stations of the Cross</p>
	<p><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b></p> <p>The Last Supper takes place. Jesus institutes the sacrament of the Eucharist</p>	<p><b>8pm</b></p>	<p>The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday</p>
	<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p> <p>Jesus is sentenced to death by crucifixion. He dies on the cross and is buried in a tomb.</p>	<p><b>12pm</b> <b>2pm</b> <b>8pm</b></p>	<p>Good Friday Reflections The Liturgy of Good Friday Tenebrae</p>
	<p><b>HOLY SATURDAY</b></p> <p>The body of Jesus remains in the tomb. He has descended to the dead.</p>		<p>Vigil <b>CANCELLED</b></p>
	<p><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>(05/04)</b></p> <p>Jesus rises from the dead</p>	<p><b>5:30am</b> <b>8am</b> <b>9:30am</b> <b>6pm</b></p>	<p>Easter Vigil Easter Holy Communion Easter Parish Eucharist Evening Prayer</p>

[www.easthampstead.org.uk/worship/easter](http://www.easthampstead.org.uk/worship/easter)



PRESTIGE SPORTS  
COACHING

# EASTER SPORTS CAMP

SAVE THE DATE

**WEEK 1: MON 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH -  
THUR 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL**

**WEEK 2: TUE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL -  
FRI 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**WILDRIDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
£20 PER DAY  
AGES 5-11 YEARS**

**BOOK NOW**

[www.prestigesportscoaching.com/holiday-camps](http://www.prestigesportscoaching.com/holiday-camps)





## Prestige also offer wrap around care

Wrap around care is a vital service that we provide at Prestige Sports Coaching which enables you, as parents / carers, to not worry about meeting the expectation of dropping your children off before school or picking them up at the end of the day. Our wrap around service is the perfect opportunity for your children to prepare for or wind down from their busy school days while also participate in highly engaging activities.

At Breakfast Club your children can enjoy a healthy breakfast with the choice of toast with a range of spreads or a choice of cereals accompanied with a drink of water.

Breakfast club offers a relaxed, slow start to the morning so your child is ready for a fun filled day of learning at school.

At Wrap Around Club your children can enjoy a healthy snack with the choice of cheese or ham wrap / crackers, toast with a range of spreads or a piece of fruit.

Wrap Around club offers a relaxed, slow wind down to the day.

You are also welcome to provide your own NUT FREE snack for wrap around.

## What the children say:

“I think ASC and BC are good because they have good food which you can have and the supervisors are really nice.

There is lots of entertainment like colouring and kinetic sand. It's run by PE teachers and they are fun. When it's warm we go outside on the equipment.

It is not very expensive and it is open every day!”

EH – Year 6



Book a Bikeability course this Easter Holidays with Avanti Cycling.

Want your children to have more independence in getting from A to B?

Sign them up for a Bikeability course this Easter holidays.

We are holding courses on the below days / venues:

Venue	Bikeability Level	Date - 2026
<u>Highdown</u> School, Reading, RG4 8LR	Level 1&2	7 <sup>th</sup> April & 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Jocks Lane, Bracknell RG12 2BH	Level 1&2 Learn to ride	31 <sup>st</sup> March – sold out 2 <sup>nd</sup> April & 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Woodford Park, Woodley, RG5 4LY	Level 1&2 Level 3	30 <sup>th</sup> March & 7 <sup>th</sup> April 1 <sup>st</sup> April & 9 <sup>th</sup> April
Prospect Park, Reading, RG30 2ND	Learn to ride	9 <sup>th</sup> April

All courses run 9.20 to 3pm except learn to ride.

To book a course, visit our website: [www.avanticycling.co.uk/holiday-courses/](http://www.avanticycling.co.uk/holiday-courses/)

**avanticycling**  
Cycle training specialists

This Easter holidays - would you like your child to increase their road cycling confidence or just have fun on their cycle?

Avanti Cycling are helping children improve their cycling skills - we have courses suitable for teens wanting to travel independently to young children wanting to learn to ride.

We are offering courses in Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell. Review our full schedule online: <https://avanticycling.co.uk/holiday-courses/>



No dogs  
except  
assistance  
dogs

St Michael's School & Church  
Easthampstead

# SUMMER FETE

27th June 12-3 pm

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**GAMES**

**BBQ**

**RAFFLE**

**CAKE**



**ROCK  
STEADY**

# ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!

TAKES PLACE AT SCHOOL



## IGNITE THEIR INNER SPARK!

- ✈ Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- 🎸 Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- 🌟 Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
- 📄 Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- 🎵 Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S  
PLACE ONLINE!



0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

**ROCK  
STEADY**

## LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC IN A BAND THAT'S FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Drums, guitar, bass, keyboard or vocals.

### Inclusive and hassle-free!

Takes place in school, instruments provided and no experience necessary!

### Taught by professional musicians

Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.

### Progress at their own pace

Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification!

### Have fun and learn by playing

Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.

### Much more than music

Improves wellbeing, confidence, social skills and academic achievement.

### End every term on a high note

Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.

£44.68 per month (no payment in August). Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.



BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE!

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)  
info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

# 92%

of children report greater confidence and self-belief from being in Rocksteady.

Insights from 1,738 children

# 99%

of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady band lessons.

Insights from 3,737 parents

"It makes me feel like I'm part of something, and happy!"  
Rocksteady pupil

**TRINITY**  
MUSIC SCHOOL



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## BBC iPlayer for Kids

Children under the age of 13 can have their own iPlayer profile, which includes content from CBBC, CBeebies and other suitable BBC programmes.

You can download the iPlayer app and then find out how to create a profile here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/help/questions/about-the-childrens-experience/iplayer-child-experience>

Going on a long journey? The BBC have also compiled a list of shows and films as well as games and quizzes to make the journey go quicker:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/best-films-games-and-quizzes-to-keep-kids-entertained-on-long-journeys>



Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/april-2026-primary/>

## Age ratings in games

**Age ratings exist to help protect your child as they show whether content is suitable for your child's age.** Make sure you check the age rating of any game your child is playing.

### Why should I check?

Not all games will be appropriate for your child. Some may appear child friendly due to fun or cartoon style graphics but still include unsuitable content. Age ratings consider factors such as violence, frightening content, bad language and/or in app purchases.



### How can I check?

Most games are rated by PEGI (Pan European Game Information), who not only state the age you should be to play the game but also provide further content descriptors to give you an indication of the type of content that your child might encounter. Apps are rated by the App store/Google Play.

### How can I stop my child from accessing a game they are not old enough to play?

You can set up **parental controls** to restrict access to games or apps that your child is not old enough to play and set restrictions so any downloads/purchases must be approved by you. For example:

- Nintendo – restrict software by age so if you restrict to 10+, games with that rating or above cannot be played by your child.
- Xbox / PlayStation – set an age limit so anything that exceeds that age rating must be approved.
- Apple / Google (Family Link) – restrict your child from installing apps, allowing you to review before approving all purchases.

### What else do I need to do?

- Review any additional content descriptors, read reviews and check if the game includes any form of communication or in app purchases. This will help inform your decision as to whether the game is suitable for your child.
  - For any game your child plays, set up appropriate parental controls.
  - If you decide a game is not appropriate, explain to your child why.
- We know your child might feel peer pressure to play certain games, but explaining your reasoning will help them understand your decision.

### Further information

- <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

## Fake or Real? Know the Deal

Essex Police have launched a groundbreaking AI Safety Campaign in partnership with BT and EE to tackle the growing risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) misuse and deepfake technology. This is the first time a UK police force is working directly with a global technology firm to provide practical advice to parents, guardians and young people.

AI technology offers incredible opportunities, but it also introduces serious risks when misused. Deepfake content – highly convincing, fabricated images or videos – can be used to exploit young people, sometimes without their knowledge. Artificially generated Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is one of the fastest-emerging crimes Essex Police is actively investigating.

The campaign is designed to help you understand:

- What deepfakes are and why they matter
- How to protect children from online harm
- What to do if an image is misused

### Further information

Find out more here, including advice on how to protect your child:

<https://eephonesmart.co.uk/fake-or-real>

## What is the Manosphere?

Have you seen the new Netflix documentary 'Louis Theroux: Inside the Manosphere' in which Louis Theroux interviews several 'influencers' that promote extreme / disturbing ideologies online. It is a shocking watch but prompts the importance of ensuring our children are protected from this content. In essence, the manosphere is against the empowerment of women and certain people promote these views and other harmful misinformation online via social media etc.

### What should I do?

We need to develop critical thinking in our children and have age-appropriate conversations with them as explained in these two articles:

- <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/talking-about-feelings/talk-to-your-child-gender-equality/>
- <https://www.brook.org.uk/blog/4-ways-to-tackle-misogyny-among-young-people/>

### Further information

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/what-is-the-manosphere-and-why-should-we-care>

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## How to set up parental controls on ChatGPT

Internet Matters have published an article detailing how you can link your own account to your child's account (they must be logged in) to set parental controls on ChatGPT.

You can read the article here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/chatgpt-parental-controls/>

## WhatsApp update: Parent-Managed Accounts

WhatsApp have announced that they are rolling out the option of Parent-Managed accounts for those under the age of 13. The settings will include allowing you to choose who can contact your child and ensuring only you can add them to groups. Find out more here:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

**Whilst, these features could be useful, it is important to emphasise that just because the option now exists, WhatsApp may still not be an appropriate platform for your child to be on.** We often receive reports of issues, particularly with group chats on WhatsApp. Wayne Denner (online safety trainer) explains more here: <https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-parent-managed-accounts-what-parents-need-to-know/>

## AI and homework

AI can be a useful tool for helping children with homework both in understanding a topic and for research. However, please remember that it should not be used to complete tasks as this would constitute plagiarism.