



## WEEK BEGINNING 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

### Events this week:

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Family Learning Maths
	Y3 Multisports Tournament

### Looking forwards:

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 & Y6 Transition Meeting (parent only)
	Y5 Fire Brigade Visit
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Infant trip to Beale Park
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5, choir & Performing arts performing at The Hexagon
	Y5/6 Athletics tournament
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5/6 Transition meeting (parent and child)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Peter Swallow MP to visit
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (weather permitting)
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Summer Fete
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5/6 Cricket
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Back up sports day

Mrs Couchman kindly requests that parents do not allow their children to press the school buzzer at the start or end of the school day as this causes disruption in the office.

Thank you for your support.

## A Bright Start to Summer & Looking Ahead to Earth Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and joyful half term, I would like to take a moment to say just how incredibly proud we are of our wonderful Year 6 pupils. They completed their SATs with such maturity, determination and positivity. They have truly demonstrated our school value of Achievement, alongside remarkable perseverance and resilience. We know how much effort they have put in over many months, and they should all feel enormously proud of themselves. We are also very grateful to our staff, governors, volunteers and families for the encouragement and support they have shown.

This week in school, we have also been reflecting on the Christian festival of Pentecost, which many Christians around the world will celebrate on Sunday. Pentecost reminds Christians of the moment the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, filling them with courage, hope and confidence to go out into the world and shine their light for others. It is a powerful reminder that anyone can make an extraordinary difference when they act with kindness, love and bravery. As a school family, we have been thinking about how we too can "go above and beyond with love" in our everyday lives through the way we support others, show compassion and use our gifts to help those around us.

As we head into the half-term break, I would like to wish all of our children and families a safe, happy and restful week, whatever you may be doing. With some warmer weather hopefully on the way, please do take care in the sunshine, stay hydrated and remember to stay safe when out and about.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 1st June for the final half term of the academic year.

With love,

Mr Riordan, Headteacher



*"Shine your light before others."*

*Gospel of Matthew 5:16*

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## **Staying Safe Over Half Term**

As we approach the half-term break, we would like to share a gentle reminder about personal safety. In school, we will be reminding children about ways to stay safe, and it would really help if these messages could also be reinforced at home.

Some simple reminders for children include:

- Staying with friends when out and about
- Being aware of what is happening around them
- Not talking to or going anywhere with strangers
- Telling a trusted adult if something does not feel right
- Going to a safe place, such as a shop or busy public area, if they feel worried
- Making sure mobile phones are charged before going out

These simple conversations can help children feel safe, prepared and confident while enjoying their half-term activities.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe.

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## **Information from Bracknell Forest Council regarding the meningococcal disease outbreak in Reading**

Please see the message below from Bracknell Forest Council:

You may be aware of a recent local case of meningococcal disease. We understand that parents may be anxious and we are therefore sharing the information below.

Please note that the risk to others in the local area is very low. There is no need for you to make any change in the school routine and no reason for pupils to be kept at home.

### **About invasive meningococcal disease**

Meningococcal disease (meningitis and septicaemia) is an uncommon but serious disease caused by meningococcal bacteria. The onset of illness is often sudden and early diagnosis and treatment with antibiotics are vital. While meningococcal disease can affect all ages, recent outbreaks have shown that older children, teenagers and young adults, particularly those in shared settings such as schools, colleges and universities, are more likely to be affected.

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

Meningococcal infection doesn't spread very easily. The bacteria can only be passed to others after a long period of close contact, for example living with someone in shared accommodation, through prolonged kissing or sharing vapes. People may be offered preventive antibiotics if they have had significant, close contact with someone with meningococcal disease in the last 7 days.

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

Although meningococcal disease is uncommon, it is important that staff, parents and pupils are aware and alert to the signs and symptoms of invasive meningococcal disease.

## Signs and symptoms

Meningococcal disease can progress rapidly, so it's important that parents and pupils are aware of the signs and symptoms. You should seek urgent medical help if you or your child develops any symptoms of meningococcal disease.

- a rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass
- sudden onset of high fever
- severe and worsening headache
- stiff neck
- vomiting and diarrhoea
- joint and muscle pain
- dislike of bright lights
- very cold hands and feet
- seizures
- confusion/delirium
- extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking

For more information, visit the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/> or see the information available from two charities who offer free support via their websites and helplines:

**The Meningitis Research Foundation** [www.meningitis.org](http://www.meningitis.org) 080 8800 3344

**Meningitis Now** [www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org) 0808 80 10 388 or [helpline@meningitisnow.org](mailto:helpline@meningitisnow.org)

Thank you for your kind attention. We have included some useful information and resources later in this newsletter.

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## **Mobile Phones, Smart Technology and Social Media Usage - WhatsApp**

We would like to remind families of our expectations around mobile phones and digital devices. Children should not bring mobile phones into school unless this has been agreed in advance with the school as per our policy and protocol, and only then for Year 5 & 6. Our preference is always for simple 'brick' type phones, rather than smartphones.

We also ask for your continued support in ensuring that children use technology and social media safely and responsibly at home. I urge you to continue checking with your children on their use of social media platforms, particularly WhatsApp groups, as we have been made aware of group conversations which are not consistently upholding our values of Love, Kindness and Respect. Whilst it is your responsibility as parents to monitor children's use of technology and social media outside of school, we will engage in conversations with you should any child fall short of our school expectations. A reminder that, as part of the terms & conditions for using WhatsApp, the minimum age to use WhatsApp in the UK is 13 years old. For children under 13, WhatsApp now offers parent-managed accounts. These must be set up and controlled by a parent or guardian via linked devices.

Working together, we can help children develop positive habits that reflect our shared values of respect, kindness and responsibility. Please take a look at our policies on our school website:

<https://www.stmichaelseasthampstead.com/policies>

## **Screen time guidance for under 5s**

We are again sharing some newly published government guidance before half-term for parents on screen time for younger children, available via the Best Start in Life website. This evidence-informed advice offers practical, non-judgemental support to help families build healthy screen habits in a digital world. It highlights the importance of balance, encouraging more time for play, conversation and interaction, which are vital for children's development in the early years.

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

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## **Free School Meals, Pupil Premium & Holiday Support**

Families may be eligible for Free School Meals, which also provides additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support your child. If eligible, you can also access the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, offering funded holiday clubs with meals.

We encourage all families to check eligibility and apply online:

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals>

HAF Programme: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

Bracknell Forest Council are currently finalising the full list of holiday clubs running over the summer. Once all providers are confirmed, this will be shared.

In the meantime, parents can view currently available clubs on the EEQU booking system, which will continue to be updated as additional providers add sessions closer to the booking date.

**Booking Go-Live Date: 1 June**

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A message from the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza

First of all, congratulations to Year 6 pupils on completing their SATs!

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children take part in my new survey, The Big Future. Pupils can take part here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

As Year 6 pupils will have recently finished their SATs, this could be a great opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words.

I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today.

Schools with particularly high participation rates will receive formal recognition for helping amplify children's voices, along with a summary of their pupils' responses, and an invite to my final Festival of Childhood.

I'll publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Thank you very much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner for England

**MAY HALF TERM  
CAMP**

**WILDRIDINGS  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**9AM TILL 3PM**

**£20 PER DAY**

**TUESDAY 26TH MAY  
FRIDAY 29TH MAY**

**AGE 5 TO 11 YEARS**

**BOOK NOW:  
[www.prestigesportscoaching.com](http://www.prestigesportscoaching.com)**

**PRESTIGE SPORTS  
COACHING**

- ✔ Multi-Sports
- ✔ Football
- ✔ Basketball
- ✔ Dance Games

### 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.

Prestige currently have space available for a Thursday after school club



## Head Teacher Award Winners

- Acorns - Frankie – for being so helpful and working hard
- Year 1 - Paulo – for settling so well in to our Year 1 class
- Year 2 - Chloe – for working super hard on her times tables!
- Year 3 - Astrid – for working really hard on her magazine article and remembering her loveliest handwriting
- Year 4 - William – for working especially hard in English lessons to produce neat, accurate writing
- Year 5 – Elise – for showing a positive attitude and commitment to writing her story in English
- Year 6 - Arthur – for working hard to up-level his writing

# Well done to all!

**Remember:** With the warm weather finally being with us please provide the following:

Water Bottles (no squash)

Sun Hats

Sun screen

## Michael's Easthampsted KS2 Stationery Guide 2025-26

Please take a look at this short stationery guide which includes the items you will need for the start of the new school year. **Please ensure each item is named or initialled** as this will help items from becoming lost. You should check with your child regularly to see if any items need replenishing or replacing.

### Bags, Folders and Pencil Case Guidance

You will need a pencil case large enough to contain the items below in, but this does not need to be too large! A plain coloured or translucent, flexible plastic-style pencil case is sufficient.

Be realistic about the size of the bag you bring in to school as our cloakrooms are restricted! You only need a bag big enough for your pencil case (which could stay in your tray), lunch, a water bottle and an A4 plastic folder to hold your reading record and book.

Whilst bags and pencil cases from stores such as Smiggle look attractive, they are very expensive, large and take up a lot of desk space. Please avoid pencil cases from stores such as this and avoid large pencil cases with multiple pop-out or zipped storage areas.

**Please make sure that pencil cases, bags, folders and as much equipment as possible (particularly Glue Sticks) are all NAMED – children will be responsible for their own belongings!**

### ✘ What Not To Bring In

Some items, such as these below, we will provide for you:

- Protractors
- Scissors
- Tippex/ Correction Fluid
- Calculators, as these are not required
- No keyrings or toys to be fixed to bags or to come into school

### What You Should Bring In

Your pencil case should contain the following items, named or initialled:

- Plain Colour or Translucent Standard Pencil Case
- HB Writing Pencils
- Blue Ink Handwriting Pens – **NOT BLUE BIROS OR BLACK INK**
- Glue Sticks
- Black Ink Whiteboard/ Dry wipe Pens
- 30cm Ruler (or folding version)
- Sharpener
- Purple Ink Biro
- Colouring Pencils and Felt Tip Pens\*
- Yellow and Green Highlighter
- You should also have an A4 plastic folder to hold your Reading Record, Reading Book and Home Learning in. Letters can also come to and from school in this.

*\*You may want to bring in a separate set of colouring pens in your bag, but you do not need to bring them into the classroom.*



PTA will be collecting donations towards the summer fete. All donations can be dropped off into the school office.

Thank you for your support!

## Supporting Your Children Workshops 2026

To book a space email [Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)




Each course is a **standalone 2-hour session**, is universal (not specific for SEND), and is for the adults supporting **not** the children themselves so **please arrange childcare if needed**


Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

**Please only book if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out.**

**All sessions unless stated otherwise take place at The Bracknell Open Learning Centre**

<p><b>Supporting Children to Overcome their Anxious Thoughts and Worries</b> Exploring how anxiety affects primary aged children using simple, effective techniques to support them to overcome their Anxious Thoughts &amp; Worries.</p>	
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	<b>6.30 – 8.30 pm</b>
<p><b>Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way</b> Supporting parents of primary aged children develop positive behaviour strategies and handle challenging behaviours with confidence and care.</p>	
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026</b>	<b>6.30 – 8.30 pm</b>
<p><b>Parenting your pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13)</b> An insight into parenting, looking at positive behaviour strategies, different ways to strengthen communication / connection with your pre-teen child.</p>	
<b>Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates</b>	
<p><b>Parenting your teen in a Positive Way (aged 13 – 16)</b> A session focused on using positive approaches to guide teenage behaviour, building stronger communication and connection during the teen years.</p>	
<b>Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates</b>	
<p><b>Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back</b> Gain practical tips, leaving you inspired and equipped to help primary aged children bounce back stronger; no matter what life throws their way</p>	
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	<b>6.30 – 8.30</b>
<p><b>Transition to secondary school</b> Gain practical tips, share experiences, and learn how to support your child through the exciting, sometimes challenging transition to secondary school.</p>	
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 (@ Owlsmoor School for Owlsmoor parents)</b>	<b>9 – 11 am</b>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (@ The Pines School for The Pines parents)</b>	<b>9 – 11 am</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (@ St. Michael's EH for St. Michael's parents)</b>	<b>9 – 11 am</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (@ Meadow Vale for Meadow Vale parents)</b>	<b>9 – 11 am</b>
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre)</b>	<b>6.30 – 8.30 pm</b>
<p><b>Transition: Reception to Year 1 and beyond</b> The move from Yr R to 1 is a big step in your child's learning journey. Session helps parents understand what the transition involves and how to support.</p>	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	<b>6.30 – 8.30 pm</b>
<b>(fully booked – let me know if you would like to book for future sessions)</b>	
<p><b>A healthy night's sleep</b> Support for parents of primary aged children to gain practical tips to help children build healthy, lasting sleep habits</p>	
<b>Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates</b>	

<p><b>Reducing Sibling Rivalry</b> A supportive session giving parents of primary aged children the tools to strengthen sibling bonds and create a calm, connected family environment.</p>	
<p><b>Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates</b></p>	
<p><b>Family Dynamics</b> Family life comes in many forms for primary aged children. Session offers practical guidance navigating varying dynamics.</p>	
<p><b>Let me know if you would like to be on the list for future dates</b></p>	
<p>To book a space or get further information email <a href="mailto:Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk">Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk</a> Each toolkit is universal (not SEND specific) aimed at primary aged children &amp; not suitable for younger siblings to attend and will be held at the Bracknell Open Learning Centre Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed Please only book if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out.</p>	
<p><b>EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance)</b> A 2-week toolkit (you are expected to attend both sessions) <b>Week 1 – parent only</b> session looking at - What EBSA is, how to support your child to build 'being in school' resilience and what you can expect schools to do. <b>Week 2 – parents + child</b> (need school's permission for child to attend) looking at supporting children to challenge 'What if's?' produce resilience tools and next steps.</p>	

 <b>June 2026 Timetable</b>	
<p>All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long</p>	
<p><b>£24 each or FREE with School Membership</b></p>	
<p>Book online at <a href="http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk">facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a></p>	
<p>Recordings available for 48 hours</p>	
<p>Understanding Anger</p>	<p>1 June 10am</p>
<p>School Anxiety</p>	<p>1 June 7pm</p>
<p>Facing Defiance</p>	<p>2 June 10am</p>
<p>Supporting Healthy Screen Use</p>	<p>2 June 7pm</p>
<p>Anxiety Explained</p>	<p>8 June 10am</p>
<p>Cannabis &amp; Ketamine Awareness</p>	<p>8 June 7pm</p>
<p>Introduction to OCD</p>	<p>9 June 10am</p>
<p>What is ACT?</p>	<p>9 June 7pm</p>
<p>Decreasing Depression</p>	<p>15 June 10am</p>
<p>Raising Self-Esteem</p>	<p>15 June 7pm</p>
<p>Understanding the Teenage Brain</p>	<p>16 June 10am</p>
<p>Supporting Healthy Sleep</p>	<p>16 June 7pm</p>
<p>Improving Family Communication</p>	<p>22 June 10am</p>
<p>Autism-Improving Communication</p>	<p>22 June 7pm</p>
<p>Supporting a Child with ADHD</p>	<p>23 June 10am</p>
<p>Understanding Addictive Behaviour</p>	<p>23 June 7pm</p>
<p>ADHD and Homework</p>	<p>25 June 7-8pm</p>

VILLAGE  
BRACKNELL

# Share the LOVE RESALE

SUPPORTING RAFI'S FAMILY

Sunday, 24th May 2026 | 10am – 3pm  
Village Bracknell Hotel

Preloved items for sale | Stalls £10

The £10 stall fee will go to  
"Rafi's Family Fund".  
(Not the proceeds from  
your sold items.)

Enjoy a day  
shopping for  
a great cause!



## OUR MISSION:

To have a positive impact on the communities we operate in, both environmentally and socially.

We know that a more **sustainable future is within reach**, and we want to play our part in getting there.

We strive to be responsible members of the community, while acting as a hub for the local community where people can thrive.



## ETON COLLEGE COLLECTIONS



## Family Learning Event: Eton's Elephants

Free half-term family activity at Eton's Natural History Museum.

Join us for a fun range of activities themed around 'Eton's Elephants' on Tuesday 26th May. Come along to explore our elephant trail, learn some amazing facts about elephants, and take part in a fun range of craft activities – including making your own elephant mask!

The museum will be open 1 – 4 pm.

Free entry – no need to book.

For more information: [Family Learning Event: Eton's Elephants - Eton College Collections](#)

mapac  Your Official School Uniform Supplier

# WELCOME TO MAPAC

We are delighted to be working with your school who have entrusted us with providing your children's school uniform.

## 1. HOW TO REGISTER & ORDER

- CLICK THE UNIFORM LINK FROM YOUR SCHOOLS WEBSITE...or...
- Visit [www.mapac.com/education/parents](http://www.mapac.com/education/parents) or search online for 'Mapac find your school'.
- Use the "LOGIN/REGISTER" tab at the top of the page and fill in your details (even if you don't need to order straight away, it means you'll start receiving Mapac updates and offers!)
- Once on your dedicated school page, simply add everything you need to your basket, register (if you haven't already) and then check out.

## 2. ORDERING GUIDE

Under normal circumstances we aim for all orders to be sent out within 10-15 working days. During our busier periods (especially over the summer) or if anything unexpected occurs, it can take longer, so please allow us some extra time to get your order to you.

**Delivery to your home / work all year round!**

or

**FREE delivery to your school**

(This service will not operate during any school holiday this includes the 6 week summer holiday – order out off date is 26th June for last delivery in to school before the end of term. Our aim will be to resume in September, you will be informed when this happens.)

## IMPORTANT SUMMER ORDERING INFORMATION

**To receive your order before the start of term please order by 31st July.**

We do everything we can to send out all items as soon as possible but a high volume of orders or unforeseen circumstances may occasionally lead to delays.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to call or email us. We are happy to help!

**T:** 01923 255525 | **E:** [parentcustomerservices@mapac.net](mailto:parentcustomerservices@mapac.net)

We strongly advise, to ensure uniform is received in time for back to school, that orders are placed online by **Friday 31st JULY**.

Please note, the last ordering date for free delivery to school is **Friday 26th June**. This allows Mapac to send any outstanding orders in the system through to school before School closes for the summer. (Last delivery into School on or around **17th JULY**. Delivery to home / workplace are of course still available).

The Free delivery to school option will then be reinstated for parents to select from **SEPTEMBER**. First delivery into School on or around **MID / END OCTOBER**.