



Our fantastic Year 4 Cross Country runners who took part in a competition at St Piran's last week

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been another busy week in school as we gear up for SATS week next week. Before that though, we have the Cox Green Village Fayre. This takes place tomorrow at Brill Green.

You will remember that this year, all proceeds will be donated to us to put towards our OPAL journey. So please do get yourself down to Brill Green tomorrow to join in the fun and take part in our Nerf battle or Sweet Pong stalls.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils take part in their SATS tests. It feels like **SATS week** is always where leaving primary school starts to be a reality. We know how hard the children have worked with their learning this year and congratulations must go to the Year 6 staff team this year for their teaching skills, passion and belief in the children. Year 6 parents will receive an email with more information about next week.

Thank you to all parents and carers who enquired about the recent **Parent Governor** vacancy and expressed interest in the role. The Governing Body was very pleased with the level of engagement from the parent community and appreciates everyone who took the time to find out more and submit an application.

Following a review of the two strong applications received, the Governing Body has now successfully filled both the Parent Governor role and an additional co-opted governor position. We are pleased to welcome the successful candidates to the Governing Body and look forward to the positive contribution they will make to the school.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who showed interest in supporting the school in this way.

We are pleased to share that Berkshire Music Trust has a fantastic new drum teacher who is currently looking for students in East Berkshire. **Drum kit and percussion lessons** can be offered in school, with engaging 30-minute group lessons costing £10.50 per pupil. Please contact the school office or see the details in the enclosed information sent with this newsletter.

Congratulations to the many pupils in Year 4 who have shown increased effort and participation with TTRockstars, both in school and at home these past few weeks. It has been great to see so many children and parents understanding the importance of knowing times tables and putting in extra practice as we approach the Times Tables Check next term. We will continue to celebrate this effort in assemblies and in class, with an extra break each week awarded to the class with the highest participation.

We have restricted timings of when TTRS is open for pupils to play: 7am - 8pm. Whilst we are really pleased that pupils are keen to practise and develop their tables knowledge, we also want the healthy balance between screen time, bedtime routines and sleep!

Last week, Year 5 were fortunate enough to welcome the Wonderdome for an immersive space workshop. Linking to their topic of space, the children were transported through our solar system and beyond, exploring planets, stars and the wider universe. They engaged brilliantly with the presenter, Matt, asking thoughtful questions. Both classes were respectful, enthusiastic and fully absorbed in the experience, with a few even leaving the session inspired to become astronauts one day.

Mr Beavan

Quotes of the week

"My favourite thing about Opal is the toys and dressing up because it's something I can do with my friends"
Jessie, Reception

"I got a Headteachers award this week as I did a really good stop motion" Aiden, Year 2

"I've really enjoyed the trim trail this week because it challenges me" Keya, Year 2

"I am enjoying swimming lessons as we get to practice diving"
Jude, Year 4

"I have shown the value of positivity this week because I did not give up" George, Year 4

"I enjoyed learning about space and how rockets are launched!" Penelope, Year 5

"I loved the dome experience, as it felt like I was in space and the planets are real and so close to me" Alessia, Year 5

"I am feeling positive and I am in a good mindset for SATS next week" Annabel, Year 6

Diary dates coming up



Monday 11th May to Friday 15th May
Y6 SATs week

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May
Walk to School Week

Friday 22nd May
Break the Rules Day
Last Day of Term 5 - 3.20pm finish

Monday 25th to Friday 29th May
HALF TERM

Monday 1st June
INSET DAY - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 2nd June
Start of Term 6 - 8.45am to 8.55am

Good News Certificates



FS2: Finley and Henry

Year 1: Henry and Harris

Year 2: Jessica B and Adam

Year 3: Tallula and Alina

Year 4: Greyson and Alex

Year 5: Flossie and Mia

Year 6: William and Isla

Attendance

Lower School: Birch class winners with 99.3%

Upper School: Pine class winners with 99%

School attendance this week

95%



Last week = 94.6%
Last year average = 95%
Aiming for 97%

School Values



This week's assembly focused on **Responsibility**, linked to our celebration of Sir David Attenborough and his lifelong commitment to protecting the natural world. Pupils reflected on how caring for the planet starts with small, everyday actions and how each of us can make a difference by showing respect for the world around us. The assembly encouraged children to think carefully about their role in looking after shared spaces and the environment.

OPAL updates

We're excited to invite parents and carers to a special DIY Day on Saturday 30th May from 10am onwards. We're looking for a team of enthusiastic volunteers to help us create some fantastic new additions for our OPAL lunchtimes, including imaginative mud kitchens that all of our children will enjoy.

If you have DIY skills—or simply a willingness to get involved—we'd love your help. We're especially looking for people who can bring their own tools and support with building, painting, sanding, and lifting. We're also hoping to create a small stage area for our budding performers.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community and make a lasting difference to our outdoor play spaces. Any time you can offer will be greatly appreciated!

Do remember that we regularly update the [OPAL section](#) of the school website with information, pictures and more relating to OPAL. Do take a look.

Please get in touch with the office if you are able to attend the DIY day if only to make cups of tea for anyone.

Character Curriculum

Our character curriculum focus this week is Respecting the school environment. Children are being encouraged to look after classrooms, playgrounds and shared spaces by using resources carefully, keeping areas tidy and taking pride in our school. This helps pupils understand that responsibility for the wider world begins with how we treat our immediate surroundings.

Respecting our school environment



- Tidying books
- Tidying up a cloakroom
- Not dropping litter
- Picking up litter (using correct equipment)
- Tidying table pots
- Telling an adult about displays



Positivity



Honesty



Respect



Pride

BREAK THE RULES DAY

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

50P PER RULE BROKEN
HOW MANY CAN YOU BREAK??

- #1 HAVE WACKY HAIR!
- #2 WEAR CRAZY SOCKS!
- #3 PAINT YOUR NAILS!
- #4 NON-UNIFORM!
- #5 FACE PAINT!
- #6 BRING A TEDDY TO SCHOOL!
- #7 WEAR A HAT ALL DAY!
- #8 SQUASH IN YOUR WATER!
- #9 TEMPORARY TATTOO!
- #10 A SWEET OR SAVOURY SNACK FOR THE AFTERNOON (NO NUTS)!

MONEY CAN BE PAID VIA ARBOR OR
COLLECTED IN THE
CLASSROOM ON
THE DAY!

Start learning drum kit or percussion at your school!

Lessons now available

We're excited to announce that a limited number of music lesson spaces are now available for your child to learn drum kit or percussion.

These spots fill quickly, so if your child has been thinking about starting their musical journey, now is the time to secure a place!

Meet The Teacher

Lessons are led by George Jones, an experienced and passionate music teacher who brings energy, creativity and a love of music into every lesson.



George Jones is a professional drummer and percussionist who makes lessons fun, friendly, and confidence-building for young musicians. George has played everything from jazz to musical theatre and orchestral

percussion—including covering the drum kit chair on the UK tour of The Lion King and even performing at the Royal Albert Hall in a charity concert featuring Pete Townshend. He studied Music at the University of Bristol and completed postgraduate performance training (MMus & PGAD) at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London, and he's also a qualified teacher and Director of Music at a Berkshire prep school.

In lessons, George loves making music alongside students—helping them build great timing, learn exciting grooves and fills, and experience the buzz of performing live. (Fun fact: when he's not behind the kit, he's usually thinking about planes—he's working towards his private pilot's licence!)

Try a Free Taster Lesson



If your child would like to give it a try, simply register using the link below and enter the code FREE TASTER in the comments box.

You will not be charged for any lessons until you confirm that you wish to go ahead.

[Register](#)

Lesson Information

Fees start from just £10.50 per lesson.

Discounts available for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium or families receiving benefits.

No need to purchase an instrument – we offer affordable instrument hire!

[Fees](#)

Why Learn a Musical Instrument?

Learning an instrument is not only a valuable life skill – it's also fun, rewarding and a great way for children to express themselves.

Studies have shown that learning music can help children:

🎵 Boost confidence, memory and coordination

🎵 Build confidence and creativity

🎵 Develop perseverance and resilience

🎵 Support emotional wellbeing

🎵 Improve listening skills and teamwork

Questions?

If you have any questions or experience any difficulty registering, please contact us at:

admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk

FAQs

We would love to welcome your child into the world of

Laura Bridger

Berkshire Music Trust



100 Stoneham Court, Cockney Hill, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4EZ

Registered in England No. 1673689

Registered Charity No. 284555

Come to Recorder Rookies!

A friendly Saturday morning ensemble for complete beginner recorder players!

- Ages: Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3
- When: Saturday mornings 11:05–11:35
- Where: Space to Thrive Music Centre, Newlands Girls School, Farm Road, Maidenhead
- Fee: £70 per term

[All About Fees](#)

Free Trial Session

Come along and try a session for free to see if you like it!

[Register Now](#)

Need more information?

If you have any questions, just let us know – we're always happy to help.

Email admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk

You'll also find answers to many common queries on our website's FAQ page.

[View FAQs](#)

