



School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

Our Guiding Light

Jesus said

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my Disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13-34-35)

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

As we come to the end of a busy term, on behalf of all the staff thank you for your support over the last few weeks. We hope your child has enjoyed the activities and events they have experienced and are proud of all they have achieved. It was lovely that so many of you were able to attend Open House this week. I know how much it means to the children to be able to show you their books and talk through the things they have been learning about. If you were unable to make it this time, please don't worry; there will be another chance to see their work in the Spring Term.

Themed Weeks:

Following my plea in last week's newsletter there are still a few outstanding payments for our themed weeks. Contributions towards themed week workshops which had already been made allowed us to book 'Sublime Science' and 'Wonderstruck' which I hope you agree enhanced the learning experience last week for the children. We would like to book 'Bubbly Maths' and 'Brickies' for our Maths and Coding Week coming up after half term so if you could make payment via Scopay as soon as possible, we will be able to go ahead and secure some dates. The letter outlining what is required is attached again for your convenience.

Are We Alone in the Universe?:

Year 5 and Year 6 enjoyed an extension to Science and Technology Week when Mr Cuin-Wood came in on Wednesday to speak to them on an interesting topic; 'Are we Alone in the Universe?' It certainly gave them food for thought!

Year 3 Trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum:

On the same day Mr Cuin-Wood was in talking to upper Key Stage 2, Year 3 were out visiting the Chiltern Open Air Museum. They had a fantastic day travelling back in time to the Mesolithic period of the Stone Age. Their first workshop focused on life in the Stone Age during which they built tents, made fire, aimed spears at a giant woolly mammoth and used charcoal to face paint. After lunch they made their own mini spears using Stone Age glue! There was just enough time to make friends with a squirrel and have fun in the playground before returning to school.

Netball Match:

On Wednesday our netball team played a match here against Cookham Dean. Our squad of Year 5 and Year 6 players, boys and girls, did a terrific job dominating the court before securing a final score of 12-1. Our thanks go to Mr Lucas for refereeing and Mrs Weller for cheering from the side-lines. Thank you to those of you who also came along to support.

Saying Goodbye to Mr. Simmonds:

For a long while Mr. Simmonds, Licensed Lay Minister at Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, has been coming into school to lead us in Collective Worship. This week we said goodbye to him when he visited for the last time with Father Stephen. While Richard is not leaving the parish, he will be stepping back a little so we took the opportunity to thank him for all he has done over the years. He was presented with a card which all the children contributed to and a book, 'The Boy, The Mole, The fox and the Horse' which we often take inspiration from in school. Richard will not be forgotten; hanging in our library we have a beautiful framed picture of William Holman Hunt's; 'The Light of the World' which he presented to the school a while ago. Do pop in to see it.

Smartphone Free Childhood:

As a follow up to the Smartphone Free Childhood meeting which took place a fortnight ago, I received an email from one of the organisers this week. Having been at the meeting myself, the comment from one parent, 'Why DO we give our children smartphones?' seemed an obvious one given the shocking data and information that was shared. As another parent said, 'The smartphone free childhood event, with guest speaker Tanya Goodin, afforded the expertise and research to support our own instincts that smartphones are damaging to our children's wellbeing and mental health. There is strength in numbers and the numbers of Cookham parents in support of this initiative helps us feel more empowered to make a stand to safeguard our children's childhood. Huge thanks to the team driving this forwards.'

If you were unable to attend the meeting but are interested to find out more, the slides Tanya shared have been sent again as an attachment along with a 'Cookham Smartphone Free Childhood' poster offering QR codes to take you directly to our school's WhatsApp group where you can find further information and sign the pact.

On the evening of the workshop The Little Bookshop sold out of copies of Tanya's 'Teenage Guide to Digital Wellbeing' but you can order her books if you are interested, as well as the Jonathan Haidt 'Anxious Generation' must-read, using the following link:

<https://www.thelittlebookshop.info/search?q=smartphone+free&options%5Bprefix%5D=last>

PTA AGM:

As a reminder, the PTA AGM takes place on 6th November. Last week Mrs. Winrow-Davies circulated a letter on WhatsApp and Facebook inviting you to attend. If you missed it and want to find out more, go to: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:1947452c-1f52-49c3-a070-ca812b07b519>

Confirmed Case of Chicken Pox:

For your information, we have received a confirmed case of chicken pox in Year 2.

Sunday Services at Holy Trinity School:

Sunday Eucharist services continue at Holy Trinity School and it was lovely last weekend to see a number of past and present Holy Trinity singing in the choir. If you are able to join us this weekend, the service starts at 11am. All are welcome.

Remembrance Day Service:

When we return after the half term break we will have a week to think about Remembrance before our Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial in the village on Monday 11th November at 10:50am to which you are invited. On the run up, we will be supporting the Royal British Legion; your child is welcome to bring in a donation for a poppy or other poppy paraphernalia during the first week back.

The church will be holding their Remembrance Day service here on Sunday 10th November when our choirs have been invited to sing. If your child is in either the Junior or Senior Choir, please refer to the letter from Mrs. Laraine Brown which went out today. She would be most grateful if you could respond as soon as possible so we can be sure how many children are able to attend. Thank you.

Thank you once again for all your support over the last eight weeks and a special thank you to those of you who have been in to school running workshops or leading clubs; we are enormously grateful to you for giving up your time to bring interesting and exciting experiences to the children. Have a wonderful half term break.

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.

19 th October	PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
28th Oct – 1st 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
14 th November	A and B team football matches vs Courthouse (away) Selected children informed by letter
15 th November	Children in Need
16 th November	Lions Club of Maidenhead School Talent Show (see flyer for tickets)
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
20th December – 6th 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