



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

I start my newsletter this week with special thanks to everyone who made last weekend's PTA 'Glow Ball' so memorable. It was a wonderful event which I thoroughly enjoyed as did all the staff who also went along. We are particularly grateful to Mark Mason who, for the fifth year, masterminded everything, ably assisted by Kate Winrow-Davies and there were others on the team who were also involved in the planning and execution. Many people donated fantastic prizes which made up our silent and live auction all of which led to some spectacular fund raising and, of course, lots of you came along. Thank you all for your contribution. You, as part of our PTA, continue to do a sterling job ensuring the very best for the children.

I hope your child has enjoyed this week's book activities which ended on a high today with everyone dressing up. We have met a number of authors, Chrissie Sains, Liz Flanagan, Michael Rosen and Jo Clarke all of whom have guided the children through tasks and encouraged them to be confident in their writing. With their support, everyone has been brave in allowing their imagination to run wild.

David Gilbert, who was in last week with the Friends of Cookham Abbey, returned to read the book he is currently writing about an Anglo-Saxon child who lived in the village and local author, Aurelia Young, spoke to Year 6 about the book she wrote which tells the fascinating story of her father.

We are very grateful to a number of parents, Ms. Collins, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. McLaren and Mrs. Russell who came in to read to the children sharing with them some of their favourite childhood stories; thank you. On Wednesday the Eco-Council did a wonderful job organising the 'Book Swap' and the trip to the Little Bookshop was the highlight for many. For those of you able to come along, thank you for your help in walking them there and back safely. It was wonderful to see the children afterwards spending their lunchtime in the sunshine reading the books they had purchased. The photographs we took weren't quite as spectacular as those of the children reading in unusual places of which we had many! All were rewarded with a prize.

We fitted in a buddy reading session when children from different classes read to each other and some were lucky enough to meet Sadie, a PAT (Pets A Therapy), dog. Today we all enjoyed a travelling theatre production of 'The Secret Garden', one of my favourite childhood books which the children also became engrossed in as the action unfolded before their eyes.

In lessons we've shared a lovely picture book, 'The Bridges' written by Tom Percival, which was the choice for some when they filled in book review cards soon to appear in the book shop. It was a perfect choice; it told the story of Mia who finds herself alone in a dark world. Things change when one day she receives a book. As she reads it, she notices bridges appear and the more she reads the stronger the bridges become, opening up a world of connection and hope. The message is simple but powerful. We hope that the week, which you also made happen through your financial contribution to our five themed weeks that run throughout the year, has excited and inspired the children in lots of different ways.

With all that going on, there wasn't much time for anything else, but we did manage to find time for Father Stephen to visit every class on Ash Wednesday and our football squad enjoyed a 2-1 win against Cookham Rise on Monday. They played spectacularly!

Remember that while our week has finished, the Maidenhead's Big Read is about to start so do take a look at the flyers explaining what is on over the weekend. All events are free to attend with no advance booking required.

Parents' Evening:

Thank you for finding time to attend Parents' Evening. 95% of parents made appointments to meet with staff in meetings that we hope you found useful. There will be another opportunity for you to see your child's books and speak less formally with class teachers in our next 'Open House' coming up in May.

Bags to School Event – Tuesday 11th March:

The bags to school event next week marks the start of our Lent campaign in support of Partner for Change, Ethiopia. This week your child was given a bag in which to collect items which the company will turn into money. Please refer to the details on the packaging. Filled bags should be dropped off at Mrs. Ransome's house next door to school (not at the school office as the bag indicated) by 9am on Tuesday.

Starting next week, classes in turn are organising fund raising events. We begin with Year 6 doing a sponsored walk and on Thursday and Friday lunchtime Year 3 will be selling pocket money toys. Your child is welcome to bring in a small amount of money on either of these two days in a named purse/wallet which they will take responsibility for.

Clubs:

For details of the clubs running this term, please refer to last week's newsletter.

Choir:

I am thrilled that choir continues this term with your support and the generosity of Mrs. Brown. Given the importance many of you place on it, I share with you details today of Holy Trinity Church's Boys' and Girls' Choirs. The choirs sing for one or two services a month and Sara Wood, Director of Music, is always pleased to hear from potential new choristers. They practice on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:05pm so if your child is interested contact Sara on 01628 522593.

Thank you for all your support again this week. Have a lovely weekend and we'll see you on Monday.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

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| 10 th March | Nursing team in to carry out National Child Measurement Programme (EYFS) |
| 11 th March | Bags to School event for Partners for Change, Ethiopia |
| 12 th March | A and B team netball matches vs Holyport (away), selected children informed by letter |
| 12 th March | Year 3 PFC charity event at lunchtime |
| 13 th March | Year 3 PFC charity event at lunchtime |
| 20 th March | Ascot Bake off Event for Y5 (details tbc) |
| 20 th March | Y4 Trip to Busy Buttons (details tbc) |
| 20 th March | A and B team boys football matches vs All Saints Junior (away), selected children informed by letter |
| 21 st March | Year 5 boys football tournament (pm), Claires Court Junior School, selected children informed by letter |
| 27 th March | Y3 Trip to the Henley River and Rowing Museum (please refer to letter) |
| 27 th March | A team boys and A team girls football matches vs Lowbrook (home), selected children informed by letter |
| 31 st March | Girls A team football match v All Saints Junior (home), selected children informed by letter. |
| 2 nd April | PTA Meeting |
| 3 rd April | B team boys and A team girls football matches vs Furze Platt Junior (home), selected children informed by letter |
| 2 nd April | Rock Steady Concert am |
| 4 th April | Come to school dressed in colours of the Ethiopian flag (green, yellow, red & blue) in support of Partners for Change |
| 4 th April | PTA Easter Event (details tbc) |

7th April – 21st April Easter Holiday

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| 22 nd April | First day of term |
| 24 th April | B team boys and A team girls football matches vs Waltham St Lawrence (home), selected children informed by letter. |
| 1 st May | Year 4 Trip to Starlight Express, Wembley Park Theatre |
| 6 th May | KS2 Open House |
| 7 th May | EYFS & KS1 Open House |
| 8 th May | VE Day 80 th Anniversary (details of how we will mark this occasion will follow) |
| 12 th – 15 th May | KS2 SATs |
| 17 th May | PTA Eurovision Song Party |

26th May – 30th May Half Term Break

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| 9 th – 13 th June | Arts and Culture Week |
| 7 th June | Royal Windsor Flower Show |
| 8 th June | Special Eucharist to Celebrate the Opening of Holy Trinity Church, Cookham 11am |
| 13 th June | Arts and Culture Week Performance pm |
| 17 th June | EYFS Trip to Braywick Nature Centre |
| 18 th June | Arthur Burgin Science Exhibition – Year 6 |
| 23 rd – 27 th June | Y6 Residential Trip |
| 23 rd – 3 rd July | Sports Fortnight |
| 4 th July | Sports Day |
| 5 th July | HT Fest |
| 9 th July | Rock Steady Concert am |
| 17 th July | Last day of term & Leavers' Service |