



School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Drawing on our Vision:

After the work we did last week, perhaps your child has told you that Snapper now takes pride of place on our Christmas tree as a reminder to us all of how important it is to be inclusive and kind. He has become a really special part of our community!

This week we were thrilled to welcome to school Richard Simmonds, a Lay Minister at Holy Trinity Church. He spoke to the children about Advent and since then we have thought more about this important time in the church's calendar. Today, having spoken about its significance, we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath. Christmas trees are going up, Nativity scenes are out and today elves have been creating mischief in classrooms; excitement is certainly building.

That said, we have used our time in Collective Worship to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and how the light of our Advent wreath reminds us of the light God brings to the world. Year 6 had a fantastic session today with Wayne Dixon of Christian Connections in School. He came to deliver his 'Christmas Unwrapped' workshop and had the children looking at Biblical texts to unravel the facts and myths around the Christmas story. He did a fabulous job engaging and inspiring the children.

With Christmas on the horizon, our Partners for Change ambassadors have now launched our next fundraising project. Starting on Monday our Christmas Post Office will be open every day at lunchtime in the library. Your child is invited to use our internal delivery service to send Christmas cards to their friends at a cost of a penny per card. **If they choose to do so, please help them to write the full name of the child the card is for on the front and the year group they are in so our post men and women know exactly where to deliver it.** In the post office there will also be a stall with different stock in each day. These stalls have been organised by the children who have made things to sell and who are keen to do their bit to support the charity. Each day a different group will be setting up a stall so your child might like to bring in a small amount of pocket money, no more than a £1 to make a purchase. Stock is limited but there should be enough time between now and the end of term for everyone to find something they like.

There will be buckets to drop loose change in after each of our Nativity performances next week so we thank you in advance for helping us support the charity and making a difference to the lives of children in Ethiopia. To find out more about the work they do, go to: [Partners for Change Ethiopia | Empowering Communities | England \(pfcethiopia.org\)](https://www.pfcethiopia.org)

Nativity:

We can see from the number of requests for tickets that you have received the email about next week's Nativity performances! We are looking forward to welcoming you to school. Please take note of the information on the email containing details of drop off and pick up etc. Thank you.

Enhancing the Learning Experience for the Children through School Trips and Themed Weeks:

Thank you for your support in granting consent and making payment for trips coming up in the next couple of weeks. On Monday Year 1 had a wonderful time at Windsor Castle. They enjoyed touring the ground, seeing many state rooms inside the castle, visiting St George's Chapel and taking part in a workshop. I was thrilled to come away with the words of three ladies, who were also visiting, ringing in my ears. They made a point of speaking to me about how impressed they were by the way all the children conducted themselves and how impeccable their behaviour was.

Next week, Year 6 are off to Bletchley Park and other trips are listed below in the calendar section. If you have a child in Year 4, please don't worry, plans are afoot for a visit, details of which will be shared in due course.

Thank you also for your support in making payment for the themed weeks we organise throughout the year. Recently we enjoyed Maths and Computing Week and your contributions allowed us to book 'Brickies' to work for two days with the children. Every class had a session with the team. The older children learnt about stop motion animation and used their workshop to make movies using this technique. To see how their films turned out, click on the links below:

[Holy Trinity - Year 4 - Ocean Clean Up Stop Motion Animation Workshop 2023 - YouTube](#)
[Holy Trinity Year 5 - Ocean Clean Up Stop Motion Animation Workshop 2023 - YouTube](#)
[Holy Trinity - Year 6 - Stop Motion Animation Workshop 2023 - YouTube](#)

Sporting News:

It was with regret that we had to postpone a football and netball fixture this week. Many apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. We did, however, manage to play one football match against Furze Platt on Monday. A 6-1 loss off the back of a win last time, was a little difficult to take but the team remain in good spirits proud of how they conducted themselves and eager to chase a win next time.

Swimming:

If you have a child in Year 3, many apologies that the swimming lesson this week was disrupted. We were just as disappointed as the children when the coach didn't arrive to take us. That said, as you will have seen from the email earlier in the week, we have managed to arrange a double session next week so, on Tuesday, do send your child in again with pyjamas or other loose clothes to swim in as well as the usual swimming costume, goggles and swimming hat. Their final lesson will be the week after that, 12th December.

Thank you to Hilliers and Mr Mathurin:

We were delighted to receive a beautiful Christmas tree this week, kindly donated by Hilliers in Marlow and delivered to school by Lola's father, Mr Mathurin. It really brightens up our hall so we are grateful for the generosity shown.

Christmas Cards:

As I wrote on last week's newsletter, there is still time to order the Christmas card your child has designed as part of this year's PTA 'My Child's Art' project. Simply go to www.mychildart.co.uk, following the instructions using our unique school code and confirming your child's name.

Username: HolyTrinity3**Password: vQKkBA7d**

I hope to see you at Cookham's Christmas Street Fayre on Sunday where our PTA will have a stall. The event following that is Carols in the Courtyard on 14th December when we will celebrate Christmas in style. Please see the flyer emailed out today.

Clubs:

For details of clubs running next term, please refer to last week's newsletter: [Newsletter 3 11 23 draft.pdf \(holyltrinitysch.co.uk\)](http://www.holytrinitysch.co.uk/newsletter-3-11-23-draft.pdf)

I am thrilled to be able to inform you that next term we will be offering a new experience for children in Key Stage 2. Mrs Hyslop will be running two art clubs for Years 3 & 4 on one day, and Years 5 & 6 on another. These will begin on 8th and 9th January. A flyer has been handed to each child in KS2 today.

Rock Steady Concert:

Next week our rock bands will be performing for your pleasure. If you have a child who has lessons with Rock Steady, you are very welcome to come to our concert on Wednesday for a 9:30am start.

Christmas Lunch:

Please note the deadline for ordering a Christmas lunch for your child has now passed. If you have not placed an order, please be sure to send your child in with a packed lunch on 13th December. Thank you.

Christmas Church Service:

On the morning of 13th December, we will be going to Holy Trinity Church for our Christmas Service. You are warmly invited. We will leave school at approximately 10:10am ready for a 10:30am start. If you are able to help us walk the children there and back we would be most grateful. Simply arrive at the front of school around 10am and we will come to meet you.

Christmas Jumper Day in Support of Save the Children:

If you missed the notice, we will end the term on Friday 15th December by inviting the children to wear a Christmas jumper to school. If they would like to make a donation, we will be collecting for Save the Children. Thank you.

Cookham Kids Christmas Concert:

This annual concert which many of our pupils will be performing in will be taking place tomorrow (2nd December) at Pinder Hall. For more details and to book tickets go to:

[Buy tickets – THE COOKHAM VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT – PINDER HALL, Sat 2 Dec 2023 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM \(tickettailor.com\)](http://www.tickettailor.com)

Attendance:

Following a meeting with the attendance lead in the borough, Education Welfare Officers and several other head teachers on Wednesday I'd like to share a link with you to an NHS website which I was shown and which I feel could be incredibly useful for you. It shows common illness in children offering advice on what to do if they show symptoms. To find out what it's all about go to:

[Should my child go to school/nursery today? :: Frimley HealthierTogether \(frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](http://www.frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk)

Attendance at school is compulsory unless a child is poorly so requests for holidays even if it's just one day out, should not be made; they cannot be granted. As I'm sure you can appreciate, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive. A lesson missed puts a pupil at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. With the DfE requiring schools to place a greater focus on attendance, we now have an allocated Education Welfare Officer who comes to school on a regular basis to check attendance registers. Poor attendance could trigger a visit from her. We are committed to working with you to provide the best possible learning experience for all the children so we rely on your support in this matter. Thank you.

SIAMS Inspection:

I trust you are in receipt of my email informing you that next Thursday, because we are a Church of England school, we will be receiving a visit from an inspector who will be carrying out a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. As the letter sent to you explains, the inspection is designed to highlight the impact that the school's Christian vision has on the flourishing of the whole school community. After the visit, we hope to have a report to share with you in the new term.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

3 rd December	Cookham Christmas Street Fair
4 th December	B team football match v Waltham St Lawrence (home) - selected children informed by letter
5 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm
6 th December	Rock Steady Concert
6 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 6pm
7 th December	A and B Team Football Matches v Courthouse (away)
8 th December	Y6 Trip to Bletchley Park
12 th December	Y5 Trip to Harry Potter Studios
13 th December	Christmas Service in Holy Trinity Church 10:30am
13 th December	Christmas Lunch
13 th December	pm EYFS & KS1 Christmas party – details to follow
14 th December	EYFS trip to Norden Farm (am) & KS1 Trip to Windsor Theatre's Pantomime (pm)
14 th December	pm KS2 Christmas Parties planned by the children around a theme chosen by them – details to follow
14 th December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
15 th December	End of Term – Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas break begins - normal finish time: 3:15pm)
16 th December	PTA Christmas Trail around the village begins
18 th December – 2 nd Jan	Christmas Holiday
3 rd January	Start of Spring Term
9 th February	Term ends for half term break (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
12 th – 16 th February	Half Term break
19 th February	Term starts
24 th February	PTA Ball at Odney – save the date!
4 th – 8 th March	Book week
5 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
7 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
28 th March	End of Term – Easter break begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
29 th March - 12 th April	Easter Holiday
15 th April	Start of Summer Term
13 th – 16 th May	KS2 SATs
24 th May	Term ends for half term break (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
27 th – 31 st May	Half Term break
3 rd June	Term starts
10 th – 14 th June	Arts and Culture Week
24 th – 28 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
24 th – 4 th July	Sports Week
5 th July	Sports Day
6 th July	HT Fest
19 th July	End of Term – Summer Holiday begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)