



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

I begin with some excellent news that we're keen to share with you. At the end of last week, I received a letter from the Rt Hon Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools. He wrote to congratulate the staff and children on our school's achievements in the 2023 multiplication table check. This is a national test which all children in Year 4 are required to do to determine how well they can recall times table facts. To read more about the test, go to: [Multiplication tables check - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/multiplication-table-check)

The average pupil score of 24.1 out of 25 which our children achieved last year makes Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Cookham one of the top 200 performing schools in England for the multiplication tables check. We are incredibly proud of these current Year 5 pupils who tried so hard throughout the year to learn their tables and the staff who worked tirelessly providing motivation and encouragement. We are also incredibly grateful to you for the help and support you give your child as they approach these key milestones in their learning journey. A partnership between home and school is essential in providing the best outcomes for them. The letter we received has, of course, been shared with the children and sent to you today as an attachment.

### Drawing on our Vision and News from Around the School:

This week in collective worship, our journey through the Bible has taken us back to Canaan and the story of Joseph. On Tuesday Lay Minister, Richard Simmonds, led assembly and spoke about Candlemas. To help the children understand its meaning, he used the painting 'The Light of the World' by English Pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt. The image now hangs in every classroom.

Modern Foreign Language lessons have continued for Key Stage 2 pupils and Year 3 and Year 4 seem to be enjoying taking on Spanish. Children in Mrs. Pow's Spanish Club are on hand to help others master that tricky authentic accent!

Following the completion of Round 1 last week, Year 5 are now heavily ensconced in preparing for the Learning to Work 'Junior Ascot Bake Off Competition'. This is an event we have entered twice before, winning the first time round. Local schools are tasked with creating and baking a 'Tray Bake' around the theme "A celebration of Royal Ascot with Berkshire sourced ingredients". The Grand Final of the competition will be held at Ascot Racecourse on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and will involve the winning team from each school showcasing their entry to a panel of judges. In celebration, the winning team's tray bake will be promoted and available for sale on the retail menu during race meets this summer. Year 5 are now onto Round 2 so we will keep you informed of our progress.

The big news story of the week has to be the publication of our school newspaper, Trinity Times. When Ben and Rafferty came up with the idea of producing a school newspaper I had no idea just how committed they were. Completely independently, they have put together the newspaper which is incredibly well written and professional in its appearance.

The boys have made the conscious decision to cover only positive local news stories (they felt the news in papers and on television is sometimes rather depressing) and in putting articles together they have gathered facts and interviewed various people. It contains an advert for the Little Bookshop in Cookham after Chantal gave them £10 towards producing the newspaper, and an advert for Print 'n' Projects, the printing company in Cookham who have printed the paper for free. This is an incredibly kind gesture and a real show of community spirit - a good news story all round! If you happen to be passing (27a Station Parade, Station Hill, Cookham), do pop in and tell owner, Steve Evans, how much this has meant to the children.

As those of you who have bought it know, the newspaper costs 50p with all proceeds going each month to a charity, linked to one of the articles published, which the boys choose. This month the money is going to RSPB, following the story about how birds were affected by the recent flood in the village. With 120 copies printed, the boys hope to be able to give £60 to the charity. Do get yours and help them reach this target.

Already they are planning what will go in February's edition but if your child has any ideas for stories they would like featured, they must share their ideas with our fabulous Junior Journalists, Ben and Rafferty. For now you can read about their success in this week's edition of the Maidenhead Advertiser or by going to: [Pupils launch 'good news' charity newspaper for Cookham community - Maidenhead Advertiser \(maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk\)](https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk)

### Fundraising for Georgia:

Thank you for your help in supporting Izzy to raise money for her friend and former Holy Trinity pupil, Georgia Carmichael. Georgia was hoping to come to school today to thank everyone in person but sadly she has been admitted again to hospital. She did, however, send a lovely video message to the children which we played in assembly on Wednesday and which can be found on Google Classroom. When she is feeling better, we will invite her in to meet the children; her story is truly inspirational.

Next week we will inform you of how close we have got to purchasing a power-assisted custom-made wheel chair for Georgia. A few cakes were left over today and will be on sale again on Monday along with the wrist bands. Do drop by.

#### **Sporting Events:**

On Monday our girls' football team took on Braywick Court School in a match here. They played well and had it not been for one particular player on the opposing team, the end result could have been very different. However, they didn't secure a win but we were proud of their performance nonetheless.

Yesterday the netball team was in action in an away game against Courthouse which they won 11-7. This was after the Maidenhead Advertiser dropped into school to take a picture of them in their new kit. Look out for the article in next week's edition of the paper. The football team also played away in a game against Riverside. They played brilliantly but couldn't quite find the extra goal they needed to win. The final score was a 0-0 draw.

Next week there are other fixtures planned, including the Year 5 and 6 cross-country event at the Alfred Major Recreation Ground at which 20 of our children will be competing. We will share news of how they got on in next week's newsletter.

#### **Year 6 Residential Trip to Devon:**

If you have a child in Year 6, next week your child will bring home a letter outlining a payment plan. You will also be given a kit list of things to start putting together for your child ahead of our departure in June. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Streames-Smith in the office.

#### **Year 4 Dance Festival:**

Next week Year 4 will be performing in the borough's Dance Festival which this year has the theme, 'A Splash of Colour'. They have worked incredibly hard to perfect a fabulously choreographed piece put together by Mrs Lucas. If you have a child in Year 4, a number of emails have been sent to you including one informing you that the time to arrive at Braywick Leisure Centre on Thursday has changed to 8:55am. Please be prompt and ensure your child has everything they need for the day. When putting together snacks and a lunch for them, please remember to avoid nuts at all costs.

#### **'Diamonds are Forever' – PTA School Ball – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February:**

With only three weeks to go until the PTA ball, the staff are getting ready to party with those of you who have already booked. If you are yet to do so, tickets cost £65 per head for a 3 course meal and entertainment. Tables can still be booked by going to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyTS1buw8xPWEzvR8JRF--NUvI4oOrLyORe72PEho-BeWvqg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2KF31Nq-8lx25Qt7B1bN1U1qFbS2uGfrgXW2CbatS8POxN6HyKV5nWTnI>

Please see last week's newsletter for how you can get involved in helping the team prepare for the big night.

#### **Book Week – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March:**

If you missed information in last week's newsletter, at the moment we are busy planning Book Week. It runs from 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> March to coincide with World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Already we have booked a number of events and, like last time, we will be visiting Chantal at the Little Bookshop in the village. If you would like to be involved in celebrating books and the power of reading by coming in to talk to the children about something related to this topic we would love to hear from you. In the past, parents who work as journalists, or in publishing have spoken. Others who are involved in the theatre have come in and some have simply given up their time to read from their favourite children's book. Our aim is to give the pupils a range of experiences to ensure the week is memorable. Do get in touch if you can help.

#### **Attendance:**

As we approach the end of another term, I'm writing to remind you that attendance at school is compulsory unless a child is poorly. Requests for holidays, even if it's just one day, should not be made; I am not permitted to grant them. Absence because a holiday has been taken goes down on a child's record as an unauthorised absence. These unauthorised absences are scrutinised by the school's Education Welfare Officer who meets with me on a regular basis and who requests meetings with parents when attendance becomes a concern.

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. You may be interested to read findings from some DfE research, published in 2022, which highlights the link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4.

[The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4, Academic year 2018/19 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-data-and-analysis/articles/the-link-between-absence-and-attainment-at-ks2-and-ks4-academic-year-2018-19)

You may find the NHS website below, which shows common illness in children offering advice on what to do if they show symptoms, useful in determining what action to take when your child is poorly.

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

Please help us to provide the best possible learning outcomes for your child by taking them out of school only for genuine reasons and not for holidays. Thank you

#### **Parking:**

I am thrilled that I have not received any complaints about inconsiderate parking this week. Perhaps the leaflets which have been distributed, along with your helpful reminders to those who, from time to time, forget the rules of the road, have really helped. Do please keep vigilant; together I am sure we can make our local community happy and the roads safer for everyone.

## The Big Cookham Wildlife Weekend – June 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>:

If you missed news of this community project coming up in the summer, do refer to last week's newsletter where all was explained:  
[Newsletter 26\\_1\\_24.pdf \(holyltrinitysch.co.uk\)](#)

### Kidwell Park Upgrade:

Please see a message below from Rosanna Sansom, Community Development and Volunteer Officer which we have been asked to share along with a leaflet sent today as an attachment.

*Kidwells Skate Park in Maidenhead has been popular with adults and young people since it was opened over 25 years ago. The skate park is now in need of an upgrade and is currently closed to the public, as we work with national bodies, community partners and residents to update it. We want to make sure that we get feedback and ideas from as many skate park users, visitors and dutiful grown-ups who stood at the side lines in all weathers, as the kids had a whale of a time on the ramps! The consultation is running on our website RBWMTtogether until 23<sup>rd</sup> February, please click [here](#) to give us your feedback.*

**We will also be running a drop-in engagement session at Maidenhead Library this Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> Feb) 4pm-7pm.**

If you have any other questions or queries please email [outdoor.facilities@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.facilities@rbwm.gov.uk)

### Junior Touch Rugby Camp for Boys & Girls at Maidenhead Rugby Club - Feb Half Term:

A leaflet has been circulated today about the Feb Half Term Touch Rugby Camp at Maidenhead RFC on Mon 12th and Tue 13th February (9.30am to 3pm). To book a place for your child, please click on the link below.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSduy2fUqlku72Z-Q80V\\_EaFTLJsaE6MzmUwIUviexmf6qNSIQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSduy2fUqlku72Z-Q80V_EaFTLJsaE6MzmUwIUviexmf6qNSIQ/viewform)

The camps teach non-contact rugby so children of all ages/genders can play together and experience the fun of playing with a rugby ball! Participants will learn key movement skills such as passing, catching, running agility and kicking, as well as key personal skills such as teamwork, leadership, creative problem solving and resilience.

### School Website:

Our website is in the process of being updated. Please bear with us while we complete the process.

Finally, after today's email, you will be aware that we have received further reports of head lice and threadworm. Please use this weekend to check and then treat your child if necessary. Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday at 8:45am.  
Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

6 <sup>th</sup> February	Open House (KS2) 3:15pm to 4:00pm
6 <sup>th</sup> February	A team netball match v Holyport (away) – selected children informed by letter
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 & 6 Cross Country Event – Alfred Major Recreation Ground – selected children informed by letter
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Open House (EYFS & KS1) 3:15pm to 4:00pm
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Dance Festival (Year 4)
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Term ends for half term break (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term break
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Term starts
24 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Ball at Odney
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Book week
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Parent Consultations (no after school clubs running other than WrapAround4U)
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Parent Consultations (no after school clubs running other than WrapAround4U)
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Week Dress Up Day
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief event (details tbc)
20 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Meeting (details tbc)
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Inter PTA Netball Tournament (details tbc)
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert – 9:30am
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church (tbc)
28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term – Easter break begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
29 <sup>th</sup> March - 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Summer Term
13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Term ends for half term break (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term break
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Term starts
3 <sup>rd</sup> June – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Window for completion of Year 4 Multiplication Check
7 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Disco (details tbc)
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Window for completion of Year 1 Phonics Screening
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	The Big Cookham Wildlife Weekend
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential Trip
24 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Week
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
6 <sup>th</sup> July	HT Fest
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Spanish Assembly – 9:30am
19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term – Summer Holiday begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)