



#### 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

### Drawing on our Vision:

Our vision was thoroughly scrutinised this week when our SIAMS inspector visited. We were delighted to talk to her about our current Christmas campaign in support of Partners for Change, Ethiopia. Each day this week our Christmas post office has been open and the children have set up stalls selling beautiful things they have made with all proceeds going to the charity. Drawings, toys, paper weights and football cards have been on sale. Everyone has been so kind supporting one another and raising money for the children in Chole School. The project continues next week.

We were also grateful for the kind donations many of you dropped into the bucket after each Nativity performance and there will be another chance to donate after our church service next week. All the money we raise will go, we hope, some way in helping the charity reach the £5000 target they have set.

You may have seen news of the work we are doing in the Maidenhead Advertiser. If not, go to: <https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/gallery/cookhams/190001/young-cookham-school-ambassadors-for-charity-take-up-the-mantle.html>

And to find out more about the charity, go to: [Partners for Change Ethiopia | Empowering Communities | England \(pfcethiopia.org\)](http://Partners for Change Ethiopia | Empowering Communities | England (pfcethiopia.org))

or if you would like to donate having not yet done so, you can by using the link:

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/mamaharmonychristmascampaign>

In Collective Worship on Wednesday led by our Year 6 House Captains, we thought about how to target our mental and physical wellbeing over Christmas. The children were full of ideas for how we can look after ourselves and others. Some have been set challenges to complete over the holiday which we hope you will support them in doing.

Our SIAMS inspector has now gone away to write up her reporting outlining her findings. It should be ready in the new year for us to share with you.

### Nativity:

We hope you enjoyed our show this week. I was enormously proud of the children who told the story of Jesus' birth in such a magical way.

### Rock Steady:

We hope you also enjoyed our rock concert on Wednesday. The children have certainly been working hard this term as their performances proved. It was a wonderful way to celebrate their achievements.

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

Thank you for your quick response to letters that have gone out about trips happening next week. It is essential that we receive communication from you at least 48 hours before departure so we can complete the required risk assessments well ahead of time. Do take a look at the calendar below to remind yourself of when trips next week are happening.

Today Year 6 had a wonderful time at Bletchley Park, a trip organised to enhance their understanding of the computing curriculum. A tour of the place and a work shop plus a visit to the shop, made for a fabulous day out!

### Christmas Parties:

Next week on Wednesday, KS1 and EYFS will be having their Christmas party when they are invited to bring in party clothes to change into. We ask that you send your child in with £1 on Monday so we can buy party food for them to enjoy.

On Thursday it is the turn of KS2. The children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 have already spent some time planning their party. This is designed as a team building activity. In small groups the children have decided on a theme which determines their costume, their table decorations and the food they bring in. They may ask for your help. When sending your child in with snacks on the day of their party (Thursday), please be very mindful that we are a no nut and no sesame school. We also ask that you limit the quantity brought in. Your child and all the others in the group will have eaten lunch just before the party and they are only catering for a very small number. We do not want to finish the event throwing lots of food away!

**Sporting News:**

Our football squad had a successful time when they travelled to White Waltham for a match on Monday. The team were delighted with their 2-0 victory!

**Swimming:**

On Tuesday Year 3 have their final swimming lesson. This week they should come with just their costume, goggles and hat; pyjamas are not required.

**Christmas Church Service:**

On Wednesday of next week, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Lunch:**

Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday to those children who have pre-ordered. If you have not placed an order, please be sure to send your child in with a packed lunch on 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Christmas Jumper Day in Support of Save the Children:**

If you missed the notice, we will end the term on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PTA News:**

Thank you everyone who supported the PTA by manning our stall last weekend at the Cookham Christmas Street Fayre; it was a wonderful event.

There are a number of PTA events coming up including Carols in The Courtyard next week and the start of the PTA Christmas Trail. Do keep an eye out for news of these events.

**Internet Safety:**

With the Christmas festivities just around the corner, children are looking forward to receiving gifts. For many, this may be devices that allow them to go online. Do you have a true sense of how to keep your children safe and secure when on the internet? For help with this, please see an attachment sent out today designed to support you in this matter.

Have a wonderful weekend and thank you for all your support for our SIAMS inspection.

Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

12 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 Trip to Harry Potter Studios
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service in Holy Trinity Church 10:30am – all welcome
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch – for those who have pre-ordered
13 <sup>th</sup> December	pm EYFS & KS1 Christmas party – please send in £1 on Monday
14 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS trip to Norden Farm (am) & KS1 Trip to Windsor Theatre's Pantomime (pm)
14 <sup>th</sup> December	pm KS2 Christmas Parties planned by the children around a theme chosen by them – see above
14 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
15 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term – Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas break begins - normal finish time: 3:15pm)
16 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Trail around the village begins
18 <sup>th</sup> December – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Christmas Holiday
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Start of Spring Term
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 – save the date!
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Book week
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Parent Consultations
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Parent Consultations
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
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week
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
19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term – Summer Holiday begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)