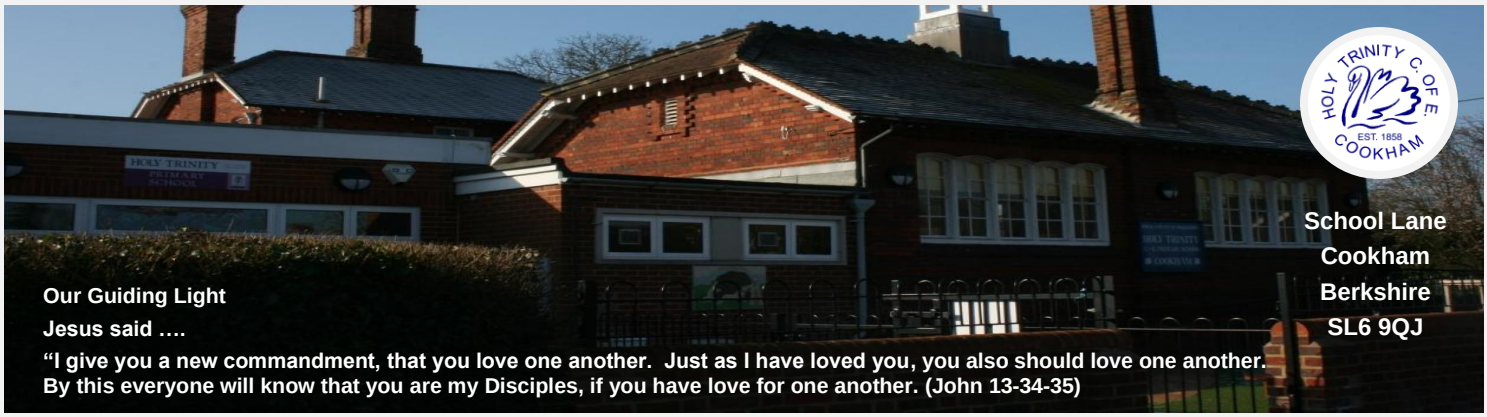

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Welcome back to the start of a new term. We hope you had a lovely half term break and are ready for the weeks leading up to Christmas! It won't be long before we're marking it with church services, nativity performances and Christmas jumper days!

Christmas has already arrived in classrooms this week as the children have been designing Christmas cards for a PTA fund raising project. Their cards will be on sale before the end of term so watch this space for more details of how to place an order.

In other PTA news, we will be holding our annual general meeting in the school hall on Wednesday at 8pm, when we will discuss the PTA Ball which takes place on 27th February. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy cheese and wine with the team. Come and find out what has been happening, where your money has been spent and what is proposed for the coming months. Please refer to the flyer for details.

Sporting News:
Term has kicked off with some sporting fixtures. On Tuesday our netball squad went over to Courthouse Junior School. They played two games and despite putting up a good fight, we lost one game 17-10 but the other we drew 5-5. All played well but particularly skilled were Alice and Isla and everyone was grateful to Rosie for stepping into the Year 6 team when we were a player down. It was a real show of sportsmanship.

Yesterday Oldfield came to us for two football games. The boys squad were disappointed to lose 3-0 but the girls were triumphant with a 1-0 win. Again, everyone played with tremendous team spirit and we are proud of them all.

Collective Worship:
The week began with Year 6 pupils leading class assemblies using our 'Space Makers' resource, a programme containing five contemplative practices to assist children in navigating the world around them. For the rest of the week, we have been thinking about Remembrance. Remembrance Sunday is this weekend but we will hold our own special service of Remembrance, as we do every year, at the War Memorial in the village on 11th, Wednesday of next week. You are very welcome to join us. We will leave school at 10:50am and walk in silence to the War Memorial for the service which Year 6 will lead. The expectation is that the children then return to school also in silence to reflect the poignancy of the event. They should be dressed smartly in full school uniform. In the meantime, we continue to collect donations for the Royal British Legion through our poppy appeal which we are grateful to Year 6 for overseeing. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this. Poppies will remain on sale for the first part of next week.

School Admissions September 2027:
If you have a child due to start in EYFS in September 2027, please refer to the leaflet sent to you today as an attachment about how to apply for a place. The window for applying opens on 11th November and runs until 15th January.

Open Evening
In less than a couple of weeks, on Wednesday 18th November, we will be holding our Open Evening. This is an event to which prospective parents are invited. Our Year 5 and Year 6 children attend and are on hand to show parents around and share their thoughts on our schools. Many have now returned the letter that was sent out indicating if they are able to attend. The same letter has been sent today as an attachment for your information. **Please note, no clubs (including no Wrap Around) will run on this day.**

If you know of anyone looking for a September 2027 place who might like to come along, do direct them to details on our website.

School Photographs:
If you wish to order photographs, the discounts on orders run until Sunday 8th November. Please refer to the QR code your child brought home on the last day of term for details.

School Elections:
We recognise the importance of giving the pupil in our school a voice and we do this in a number of ways. On 23rd November we will be marking UK Parliament Week during which we will hold elections for Year 6 House Captains, Eco-Councillors and PTA Junior Ambassadors. The children were informed of this in assembly today. All have been invited to consider putting themselves up for election and if they take up the challenge, they should start preparing election speeches. As always pupils will be selected democratically so campaigns are important! House Captain positions are available for Year 6, PTA Junior Ambassadors are chosen from KS2 classes and every class is invited to put forward an Eco-Councillor.

Maths and Computing Week:
In just over a week, we will be celebrating Maths and Computing Week. If you are able to come in, in the way that several of our parents did during Science and Technology Week, please refer to the letter attached from Mr Redjeb and Mr Reynolds. We would love to welcome you in.

Smart Watches:
We are enormously grateful to you for your support in us becoming a smartphone free school. The positive benefits felt in school have been considerable. The ban applies also to Smart watches. For safeguarding reasons, please do not send your child into school wearing a Smart watch or any other device that can record or take photographs.

We work hard to instil in the children the importance of being safe online and through a number of lessons during the year, they are taught about internet safety. We are grateful to you for supporting this and overseeing your child's use of the internet.

Having met this week with the school's Education Welfare Officer, I was yet again made aware of how dangerous playing online games like Roblox can be. Such games have age restrictions, but in the case of some, children can still access platforms with parental supervision. A recent news article by the BBC indicated how such games are putting children at potential risk from being groomed BBC Link

Story Writing Competition:
The Booker Prize are running their first ever children's book prize to celebrate the best contemporary fiction for 8-12 year olds. The judging panel is made up of 3 adults and 3 children and the shortlist will be announced on the 24th November.

To mark this The Little Bookshop are running a short story competition. There is no theme as the prize itself will be across all fiction genres. The word limit is 500 words, it can be shorter but no longer and the winner will receive a book token for themselves and will also win the entire shortlist for their school library. Entries should be taken to the bookshop (please include a name, age and school).
The closing date for entries is Sat 14th November.

Design a Christmas Card for MP Josh Reynolds:
As a reminder, the closing date for entries is Monday, November 30. Entries for the competition should be marked '**Josh Reynolds' Christmas Card Competition'** and sent to Maidenhead Advertiser, 48 Bell Street, Maidenhead, SL6 1HX. Please refer to the attachment for details.

The Gruffalo and The Gruffalo's Child coming to the big screen at Holy Trinity Church – Saturday 5th December 2:30pm:
Step into the deep, dark wood and enjoy a cosy festive double-bill cinema experience coming up soon at Holy Trinity Church. Before the films begin, children can decorate their own woodland animal masks inspired by the much-loved characters from *The Gruffalo* and enjoy festive colouring activities. There will also be opportunities for family photos, Christmas music, and even a chance to meet the Gruffalo himself!

A refreshment servery will be open throughout the afternoon, serving hot chocolate, tea, coffee, juice cartons and sweet treats. Families can also take part in a Christmas hamper raffle, with all proceeds helping to support Holy Trinity Church. Put the date in your diary!

Have a wonderful weekend and I do hope you might set aside time on Wednesday to join us for our annual service of Remembrance.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

While some key dates appear below, please continue to refer to this section in our newsletter throughout the year as new dates are added in order to keep abreast of what is coming up in school. Any additions or any changes highlighted in blue.

9th November	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle
11th November	Whole School Remembrance Service at the War Memorial (smart school uniform expected)
11th November	Netball match vs Riverside (home) – selected pupils informed by letter
11th November	PTA AGM 7:30pm (see accompanying letter sent out 09.10.26)
16th November	Start of Maths and Computing Week
18th November	Open Evening – No Clubs including no Wrap Around provision
20th November	Children in Need
24th November	Choirs performing at the Royal Albert Hall
27th November	PTA Popcorn and Pyjama Party
8th December 2pm	Nativity Performance
9th December 6pm	Nativity Performance
9th December	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
15th December	Final swimming lesson for Y3
15th December	Christmas Lunch
15th December	Carols with the Choirs 6:30pm
16th December	EYFS & KS1 Trip to the pantomime at the Wycombe Swan
16th December	KS2 Christmas Party

21st December to 1st January	Christmas Holiday
4th January	Start of Term 3
29th January	PTA Disco
2nd February	KS2 Open House
3rd February	EYFS & KS1 Open House
10th February	Safer Internet Day
15th February to 19th February	Half Term Break
22nd February	Start of Term 4
27th February	PTA Black Tie Ball
1st March	Start of Book Week
1st March	Year 5 Trip to Warner Bros Studios
2nd March	Parent Consultations
4th March	Parent Consultations
4th March	World Book Day
5th March	Book Week Dress-Up Day
19th March	Comic Relief
24th March	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
25th March	PTA Make the Rules Day and Easter Trail
26th March to 9th April	Easter Holiday
12th April	Start of Term 5
22nd April	Earth Day
27th April	KS2 Open House
28th April	EYFS & KS1 Open House
3rd May	Bank Holiday
10th May to 13th May	KS2 SATs
17th May	Start of National Walk to School Week
31st May to 4th June	Half Term Break
7th June	Start of Term 6
11th June	PTA Disco
14th June	Start of Arts and Culture Week
18th June	Arts and Culture Week Show
21st June	Y6 Residential Trip
28th June	Start of Sports Week
2nd July	Sports Day
3rd June	HT Fest
14th July	Rock Steady Concert
15th July	Y6 Leavers' Service 10am
15th July	Last Day of Term