



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)

School Lane
Cookham
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KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Following the news since Monday of three more cases of COVID-19 among our pupils, we ask you again to be vigilant in helping us fight any potential outbreak. A number of Christmas events are planned for the end of term which we hope can still go ahead although we review this on a daily basis.

In case you missed the information on last week's newsletter, to reflect the emergence of the Omicron strain of the virus, the schools' COVID-19 operational guide has been updated and of course we now face a number of new restrictions nationwide. The following remains relevant:

- While the wearing of face coverings amongst primary aged children is not stipulated, we will not deter pupils wearing masks if that is your preference. Some staff are doing so. We have also asked that you consider wearing a face covering when coming on site to pick up your child at the end of the day. We are grateful to those of you who are doing so.
- The rule remains that individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is **not** a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is **not** a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, and any of the following apply:
 - they are fully vaccinated
 - they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. All individuals are encouraged to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

- **All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and will be provided with details about self-isolation.**
- Changes to travel arrangements have now come in. **Please be especially mindful of this if booking a trip abroad over the Christmas period.** Particularly significant for us as we think about the start of the new term is that all travellers arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. All Red list arrivals will enter quarantine.

Thank you for taking the time to email in or telephone when your child is absent which helps us to monitor the situation. It is our hope that the letter which is always circulated when we are informed of new cases in school gives you the information you require to deal appropriately with the situation, but if you are ever in doubt about anything, please do not hesitate to call the office. We will do our very best to guide you.

EYFS & KS1 Nativity:

Thank you once again for observing the measures we put in place to increase the safety of everyone during our Nativity performances. We were thrilled that the event could go ahead and delighted that we raised £402.33 for the Thames Hospice. Thank you for your generosity. Photos of the event have been posted on GC with, hopefully, a video to follow.

Bikeability (Year 6):

Year 6 have been busy this week learning how to stay safe on the road. Those who participated were awarded certificates and badges in recognition of their achievements. They have also been given information booklets containing all the things they learned which you may like to look through with them.

RockSteady:

We were disappointed not to be able to invite you in to hear our rock bands perform this year but videos of our superstars have been posted on Google Classroom for you to enjoy.

Christmas Jumper Day:

On the same day that Christmas dinner is served (Thursday 16th December) your child is invited to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper. This is in support of Save the Children. They should bring in a donation which we will send to the charity.

KS1 & EYFS Christmas Party:

We hope this event will be able to go ahead on Tuesday. The children are invited to bring in party clothes for the afternoon and £1 to allow the staff to purchase finger food. This should be passed to their class teacher by Monday.

KS2 Christmas Party:

If you have a child in KS2 they may already have spoken to you about their plans for their class Christmas party. These will be on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th. In teams they have decided a theme and are invited to bring in costumes, table decorations and finger food. There will be prizes awarded for ingenuity! If sending your child in with food, please remember our strict NO NUT policy and bear in mind they will be feeding no more than about five, having already eaten lunch; we would like to avoid waste! Please do not send them in with drinks or expensive items for fear of them getting damaged.

Christmas Service:

It has again proved difficult to organise a visit to Holy Trinity Church for our end of term Christmas Service. Instead Father Nick and his team will be linking with us via Zoom on the morning of 15th December. We are sorry that this is not an event we can invite you to.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

As I reported in last week's newsletter, some of our club providers are starting to think ahead to next term. Do look out for flyers as they are circulated.

Most clubs have now finished although a handful will be meeting next week. These are:

- Junior Choir – Tuesday 14th December 8am
- Samurai – Tuesday 14th December pick up at 4:00pm
- Senior Choir – Wednesday 16th December 8am
- Samurai – Thursday 16th December pick up at 4:15pm

Football Matches:

Mr. Whittle and Mr. Burn have been desperately trying to arrange football matches before the end of term. We have a game here on Tuesday against Oldfield and another on Thursday against Freith which we hope will be able to go ahead. Please refer to the letter you will have been sent if your child is selected to play and apologies that the date for the Freith match was changed without much notice.

Cold Weather Provision:

As you will be aware, classrooms are well ventilated during the day as one of our measures against COVID-19. Please send your child in with a coat at least, but preferably wearing layers as well.

Parking:

Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking your vehicle at pick-up or drop off and do not block driveways. If you are struggling to find a place please do not worry, we will keep your child safe until you arrive even if that means you having to park a distance from the site and arriving here after the window for picking up.

PTA Events:

Various events which the PTA are planning this side of the Christmas holiday have already been published in newsletters. These include:

- 'Carols in the Courtyard' (thank you for any tombola items you dropped off today - please see details about this event in the email sent today)
- 'Christmas Eve Trot'
- Christmas cards and gifts designed by your child (to order go to www.mychildsart.co.uk, follow the instructions using our unique school code and confirm your child's name.
 - Username: **HolyTrinity**
 - Password: **XcTNVD29**
- Christmas trail

Do support them in their ventures!

Finally, you may have seen The Sunday Times Schools Guide which was published last weekend. We were thrilled to be listed 47th in the country out of over sixteen thousand schools. As a staff we are delighted with this and proud of our children who worked so hard to achieve some outstanding results.

We finish for Christmas next Friday. The arrangements for pick up remain the same; the gate will be open at 3:15pm for you to pick up your child from their classroom. We return to school on Tuesday 4th January. Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

14 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party (please send your child in with £1 to cover the cost of light snacks)
14 th December	Home Football Match against Oldfield School (please refer to letter sent to individual Y5 and/or Y6 pupils)
15 th December	KS2 Christmas Party (this will be planned by the children who may ask for your help – if sending them in with in food, please be mindful of our strict no-nut policy)
15 th December	Christmas Church Service (led by Father Nick over Zoom linked directly to classrooms)
16 th December	Football Match away at Freith School (please refer to letter sent to individual Y5 and/or Y6 pupils)
16 th December	Christmas Dinner (booking required)
16 th December	'Wear a Christmas Jumper Day' (proceeds to Save the Children)
16 th December 5 – 6:30pm	PTA 'Carols in the Courtyard' event (see flyer & email sent today)
17 th December	Last day of term – normal finish time: 3:15pm
24 th December	'Christmas Eve Trot' (see flyer)
Tuesday 4 th January	First day of the new term



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