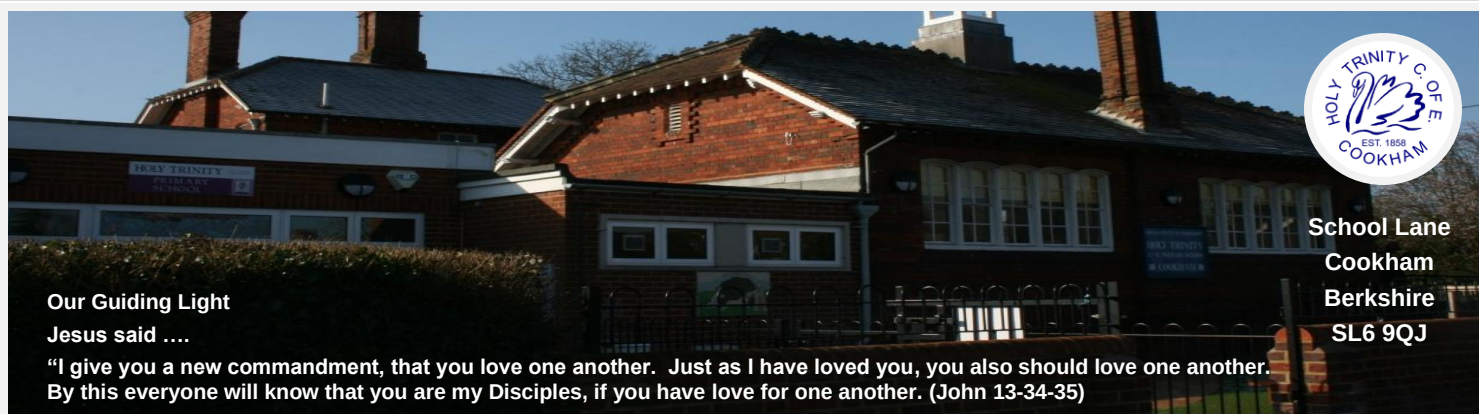




Our Guiding Light

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 start the newsletter this week with thanks to the PTA and in particular Mr and Mrs Mellors who organised a wonderful event last Friday. The Quiz Night was a huge success; if you came along, I hope you enjoyed it as much as those on the staff team did. The next PTA event is another for adults. On Tuesday 4th November at 7:30pm David Fettes, renowned and widely travelled photographer and author, will be speaking about his experiences travelling the world. David has been in to speak to the children during our themed weeks so I can guarantee it will be an interesting and entertaining session. Tickets are now on sale. See the flyer sent out today for details. Also that week there is a PTA Pyjama and Popcorn Night for the children. More information will follow.

Parent Consultations:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with your child's teacher this week. Next week you are invited to come in to school to see their work. Staff will be available in classrooms to speak to you more informally so we hope you can make it. Open House for Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) is on Tuesday and Open House for EYFS and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) on Wednesday. You are welcome to drop into classrooms at pick-up; the gate will be closed at around 4pm. **Please note, the 'Stay and Play' session for those of you with children in EYFS starts at 2:45pm.** During all sessions we ask that your child stays with you and does not wander off on to the playground or trim trail as there will be no supervision. Thank you.

Science and Technology Week:

I do hope your child has come home this week excited about the Science and Technology Week activities which have taken place; it really has been a fabulous five days! Classes have used Lego to build structures with 'Build to Learn' (Jamie will be back with his other company 'Brickies' to work with the younger children during our next themed week), we have all learnt about space and the Wild Workshop Company introduced us to a number of tiny creatures who helped us understand habitats, life cycles and food chains. Building habitats was on the timetable when Donna from 'Green Skills' came in (thank you for sending in cartons for the project) and everyone seemed to love meeting Truffle and his alpaca friend, Artie, mid-week! They were a real hit as were the Wild Cookham crew who had some of the children dissecting owl pellets to see what they could find. The children have also enjoyed many interesting and varied workshops provided by some of you. Thank you Mrs Ransome, Mrs King, Mrs Awoyemi, Mr Heywood, Mrs Wingfield, Dr Johnson, Mrs Garwood and Mr Cuin-Wood for sharing your knowledge and passion on a whole range of topics. You have all helped to enrich the children's experience.

Throughout the week every class has worked hard on a specific area of the science curriculum to complete a topic and some have found time to get busy in the kitchen. There has been plenty of food tasting as a result. Each class has studied a notable scientist and the staff would like to thank you for your support in guiding your child through completing their technology project set last week as homework. We have had great fun testing them out. All in all, it has been a fabulous week which the children have embraced with real energy.

Like trips to places away from school, themed weeks come at a cost which our budget does not allow for yet we know how powerful they are in generating interest and enthusiasm. It is for this reason that we ask you for a contribution so we can continue to run them. If you have already made payment, thank you very much. If not, we would be most grateful if you could do so by Friday 24th October via your Scopay account so we can start planning Maths and Computing Week. Thank you.

Book Fair:

If you were able to come to our travelling book fair on Wednesday and today, I hope your child found reading material which has interested them. The last day of the book fair will be on Monday; please note cards not cash are required.

Secondary School Applications:

If you have a child in Year 6 please be aware that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place for September 2026 is 31 October 2025. We have been notified that any applications not received by 31 October 2025 will be treated as late and will not be processed until the second round after National Offer Day. This could affect your child receiving a place at your chosen school.

School Photos:

On Monday the school photographer is in to take individual photos of the children. **Regardless of when P.E. lessons are, your child should come to school on Monday wearing full school uniform.** They are not required to bring P.E. kit with them.

Pupil Voice:

We were thrilled that so many children put themselves forward to be a PTA Junior Ambassador recently. Elections will be held next week for Year 6 House Captains and the first week back after half term we will be electing Eco Reps. Do encourage your child to get involved. They need to think about their election campaign and what they will say to encourage their class mates to vote for them. We wish those of them who put themselves up for election well.

Shoe Box Appeal:

Today in assembly the children learnt about the shoe box appeal run by the charity, Blythswood: [Shoe Box Appeal | Blythswood](#) which we have decided to support this year.

Last year the charity sent over 85,000 shoeboxes to eight different countries – Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine and since their first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 they have sent more than 2.8 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

If your child would like to get involved they should fill a shoe box with small, new and practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing. Small toys are also welcome. The details can be found in the leaflet your child has brought home this evening. We need the boxes back in school by next Friday (24th October) so they can be collected in time to be packaged up and sent off to countries across Europe ready for Christmas. We do hope you will get involved; the children certainly seemed excited about the project when we filled a shoe box together earlier. Thank you.

With only one week to go before the half term holiday, there is still lots happening next week including some sporting fixtures for the older children. Take a look at the calendar below where everything is listed.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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 will be added on a regular basis as events come up. **Any new additions (or any changes and deadlines) are highlighted in blue.**

20 th October	Individual school photos
21 st October	KS2 (Year 3-6) Open House Session to view classrooms 3:15pm - 4pm
22 nd October	EYFS 'Stay and Play' 2:45pm
22 nd October	KS1 (Year 1 & 2) Open House Session to view classrooms 3:15pm - 4pm
22 nd October	A and B team netball matches v Holyport (away) - selected children informed by letter
23 rd October	Boys A and Girls A team football matches v St Edmund Campion (home) - selected children informed by letter
24 th October	Deadline for themed weeks payment
24 th October	Deadline for bringing in Shoe Boxes for the Blythwood appeal

27th – 31st Oct

HALF TERM

3 rd November	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle (details to follow)
4 th November	PTA event (details to follow)
7 th November	PTA Pyjama and Popcorn Night
11 th November	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
12 th November	PTA AGM 7:30pm in school
13 th November	Year 3 trip to the Chiltern open Air Museum (details to follow)
13 th November	Boys A team football match vs Cookham Rise (home) - selected children informed by letter
14 th November	Children in Need
17 th November	Year 6 Height and Weight with the School Nursing Team
17 th – 21 st November	Maths & Computing Week
17 th November	Childnet Education meeting for parents 3:45pm
19 th November	Open Evening
3 rd December	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
5 th December	Year 5 Trip to the Harry Potter Studios
6 th December	Cookham Christmas Street Fayre
9 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm
10 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 6pm
15 th December	Carols with the Choirs in Holy Trinity Church
17 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party
17 th December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
18 th December	Christmas Service in Holy Trinity Church
18 th December	EYFS & KS1 trip to the pantomime in the Wycombe Swan (details to follow)
18 th December	KS2 Christmas Party

22nd December – 2nd Jan Christmas Holiday

2 nd – 6 th March	Book week
3 rd March	Virtual Parent Consultations
5 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
11 th – 14 th May	KS2 SATs
8 th – 12 th June	Arts and Culture Week
22 nd – 26 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
22 nd – 2 nd July	Sports Fortnight

