



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
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

COVID-19:

Following the three cases of COVID-19 I reported last week, there have been no further cases this week in school. Thank you for taking the time to read through, and take note of, the measures which I outlined in last week's newsletter that have helped to keep us free of further infection. As a staff, we are hugely grateful of all you are doing to help us keep our community safe.

This week all schools received a letter sent jointly from Stuart Lines, Director of Public Health, Kevin McDaniel, Director of Children's services, and Duncan Sharkey, Chief Executive, outlining the fact that COVID-19 infection rates have been steadily rising in school aged children since the start of the academic year with current rates being the highest the borough has even seen. This has led to an increased number of schools meeting the Education Contingency Framework's threshold for additional monitoring and support. In response, members of the East Berkshire Health Protection Board have reviewed the current guidance to ensure that everything possible is being done in education settings to reduce the risk of transmission. Following an extraordinary meeting of the Board on 14th October, several additional measures have been identified with the aim of reducing transmission in borough schools and Head Teachers have been strongly advised to implement these.

For us, the changes which have been recommended will not have any major impact as many remain in place already. However, after half term the children may see more staff wearing face coverings in classrooms and communal areas. We will continue to meet for assemblies outside or via Zoom with class collective worship remaining on the timetable to limit the time different year groups come together. Our staggered break times mean only one class is often out at any one time and we will continue to use maximise the space on the field at lunch time to give the children plenty of room to play. There will be no change to the current drop-off and pick-up procedures. However, if you would consider wearing a mask when on site, that might help us; we will be asking visitors who come into the building to wear one.

We have been asked to remind you of the value of undertaking regular lateral flow tests on a twice weekly basis. While these tests kits are a little harder to come by, they can be ordered for collection the next day by logging onto: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

You are also requested to complete daily lateral flow tests for a period of 7 days when a child or another member of a household tests positive for COVID or if anyone is identified as a close contact of a positive case via the NHS Test and Trace service. As I indicated last week, staff continue to test themselves twice weekly regardless.

The letter specified that these measures should remain in place until the end of the Autumn Term. They remain under regular review with any decision to amend or remove the measures being based on a number of key factors. We will of course keep you informed of how the situation develops through newsletters next term. You have been sent today a letter from Cllr Carroll and Clive Haines about the situation.

Science and Technology Week:

We do hope that your child has spoken positively about the things that have been going on during Science and Technology Week. Our thanks go to those of you who delivered workshops and we are grateful for the support you have given your child in completing their design challenge. Pictures of all the things that have been happening have been tweeted throughout the week and posted on Google Classroom in the classwork section under a heading called 'Science Week 2021'. Do take a look.

If you are yet to contribute and help us pay for the different providers who came in, please do so as soon as you are able. Payment should be made through your Scopy account.

Open House:

As a staff we were delighted to hear the many positive comments you made while visiting classrooms this week and when looking at your child's books. Thank you for taking the time to come in. A strong and supportive relationship between home and school is crucial in helping the children learn so we look forward to working with you again next term in sharing the same objectives.

Back to Competitive Sport:

On Thursday, the Year 5 and 6 football teams travelled to Lowbrook Academy to begin the start of their football league season.

Captained by midfield maestro, Rhys, the Navys started proceedings and in a tight first quarter neither side could gain an advantage. The second half became very stretched with Lewis, our goal keeper, pulling off some big saves right up until Lowbrook scored a goal on the counter attack. Undeterred by this, Holy Trinity responded quickly with an excellent goal from Harrison who beat the opposition left back for pace before unleashing a quick shot that took their goalie by surprise. Despite more heroics from Lewis and last ditch defending from Cerys and Matthew, Lowbrook scored two further goals, one of which hit an unexpected mole mound and flew into the roof of the net! Player of the match was Lewis for making so many unbelievable saves!

In their match the Royals started brightly with pressing the opposition high and forcing Lowbrook's very tall keeper into some early saves. Both Williams showed some nice touches on their respective wings and linked up well with Hayden and Kyan. The team (and coaches) were disappointed to finish the first half 0-0. Lowbrook came into the game more during the second half and both Harry and Jacob had to be on their guard to keep them at bay. The teams started to tire and there were several 3 v 2 situations that neither team could capitalise on. Kyan, Hayden and Oscar had good chances to sneak a late winner but with 5 seconds of normal time remaining, Lowbrook exploited a 2 v 1 opportunity and their striker finished well to secure an undeserved late winner! Player of the match was Jacob Wingrove for his excellent defending and being disciplined about staying in his position all match.

Both matches were played in an excellent spirit and it was fantastic to see our pupils enjoying the opportunity to represent our school again for the first time in over 18 months. Their sportsmanship was superb. We look forward to organising some more league matches after half-term.

Mr Whittite and Mr Burn

If your child played in the matches, please could you wash their kit and return it to the school office straight after half term if you haven't already done so. Thank you.

Lost Property:

There are a handful of unnamed items of clothing hanging on the wooden posts on the playground just outside the Year 2 classroom. Please take a look. It would be helpful if you could check that any things brought into school by your child, clothing or otherwise, are named clearly during the half term break. This really helps us to return lost items quickly.

Supporting the Royal British Legion:

After half term, there will be an opportunity to support the Royal British Legion in their annual Poppy Appeal. Your child may like to bring in some pocket money to donate. There will be poppy keepsakes to collect.

Squid Game:

You may have heard of a South Korean survival series, 'Squid Game', currently streaming on Netflix. During the week we have become increasingly aware of some children either talking about 'Squid Game' or playing imitation like games despite its 15 rating. This is not appropriate and while we have dealt with it in the classroom, you may wish to speak to your child about it and other matters related to film and video game ratings in the coming days.

Specific information about this particular programme, its graphic content and the consequences of children being exposed to it can be found at [Squid Game TV Review \(commonsensemedia.org\)](https://www.commonsemmedia.org)

Have a wonderful half term break, stay safe and we shall look forward to welcoming the children back to the classroom on Monday 1st November.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

25 th – 29 th October	Half Term Holiday
1 st November	Return to school
3 rd November	Road Safety – Year 3
11 th November	Remembrance Service at the war memorial (TBC)
13 th November	World kindness day
19 th November	Children in Need
24 th November	School Nurse (Year 6)



Follow us on twitter and see more of what we are up to!
@HTSchoolCookham