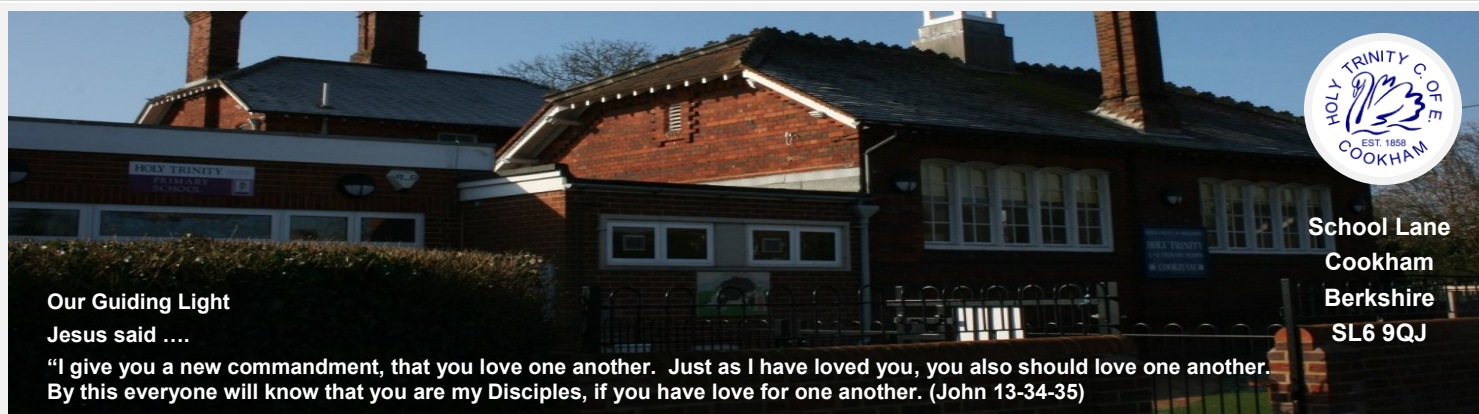




School Lane
Cookham
Berkshire
SL6 9QJ

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 this week's newsletter by sharing how wonderful it was to see so many of you and your children in Holy Trinity Church last Sunday to celebrate this year's Heritage Open event. I was incredibly proud of everyone who took part; they read and sang with great confidence managing to charm the congregation. The art work produced by Year 6 and our Art Club was also much admired.

Following the occasion, I received an email from Sarah Stockdale who coordinated the event. She wrote:

I had difficulty believing that most of your singers were so young as they sang very clearly and their actions were beautifully co-ordinated. Everyone commented on how easy it was to hear your speakers, and the poppies produced by the art club have been greatly admired. Well done to everyone concerned - you made a fabulous conclusion to our special heritage celebration.

Thank you for giving up your time to come along.



Confirmation Classes with Father Stephen:

Father Stephen has been in school again this week leading confirmation classes. On Sunday 4th October seven children from our school will be confirmed by the Bishop of Reading in a very special service at the church. I am sure you will join me in wishing them a very happy day.

Harvest Festival in Holy Trinity Church:

We will all be going to church next week, on Thursday, for a festival of harvest. The service will start at 10am and likely last about an hour. We will leave school at 9:45am so if you are coming to the service and would be willing to walk the children there safely, we would be grateful for your help. Arrive at school for 9:45am and we will come and meet you at the front entrance. **Please note, the children should all be dressed smartly in full school uniform for the event regardless of PE lessons or any clubs they may have after school.**

Every year we support Maidenhead Foodshare and this year is no different. Your child is invited to come to school on Friday with groceries which we can send off to the charity. We will take a selection of donated items to the church leaving the rest at school for collection. Non perishable items are best, tins, pasta, coffee etc

Macmillan Coffee Morning Event:

We were disappointed to postpone today's cake sale. We have moved it to next Friday (2nd October) so if you are able to send cakes in next Friday morning we would be grateful. The sale will be on the back playground at 3:15pm. Save the date!

Year 6 Residential Trip:

Thank you for noting today's deadline and returning your slip expressing an interest in your child participating in this year's residential trip to CRS Adventures in Devon. Now we have numbers, we can begin to finalise details including the cost which will be shared with you in due course. The link to the presentation which was delivered last week, if you wish to see it again, can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luaaWqaMQBA>

PTA Meeting:

If you were able to attend Monday's PTA meeting, I hope you found the discussion interesting. The team continue to do a marvellous job fund raising for the school. The next get together will be on 11th November when the annual general meeting will be held in the school hall.

Themed Weeks:

We are enormously grateful to those of you who have already responded to our letter about the themed weeks we hope to run this year by making payment. Please refer to the letter that went out last week.

Science and Technology Week:

Our first themed week of this new academic year will be our Science and Technology Week which runs from 12th to the 16th October. If you are able to help us make this an interesting and varied week for the children, do get in touch with Mrs Weller via the school office. You will have seen her letter which was emailed to you on Monday and which has been sent again today for your convenience. Mrs Weller is grateful to those of you who have already made contact. Thank you.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Mornings continue to be calm and purposeful with the vast majority of pupils arriving in time to walk independently through the gate. Thank you for noting the drop-off window now being between 8:45am and 8:55am. If your child arrives after the gate has been locked, please park and accompany them to the main office so that Mrs Lewington can sign them in in our late book. This will be in operation from Monday. Please refer to the email that was sent to you on Tuesday.

Individual Healthcare Plans:

IHPs are documents written in conjunction with parents and health care practitioners to ensure that all children with medical conditions, in terms of both physical and mental health, and dietary needs are properly supported in school so that they can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential.

Parents of children with medical conditions are often concerned that their child's health will deteriorate when they attend school. This is because pupils with long-term and complex medical conditions may require ongoing support, medicines or care while at school to help them manage their condition and keep them well. Others may require monitoring and interventions in emergency circumstances. It is also the case that children's health needs may change over time in ways that cannot always be predicted, sometimes resulting in extended absences. It is therefore important that parents feel confident that schools will provide effective support for their child's medical condition and that pupils feel safe. In the case of children with asthma or severe allergic reactions which require the use of an epi-pen an IHP may be appropriate, for instance.

This week, parents of children who had IHPs last year have been emailed as we are in the process of updating them. If your child is new to the school and/or you feel your child might benefit from an IHP and you have not been contacted, please email the school office to inform us. We will then discuss the process with you and, with your help, compile an IHP to help us all manage their condition safely. Thank you.

Benedict's Law:

In assembly this week we have discussed what it means to be allergy aware. You may know that a new law, Benedict's Law, has come into force which requires all schools to ensure that children with allergies are safe and supported by minimising the risk of an allergic reaction. This week the children have learnt what an allergic reaction is and what measures we can put in place to reduce any danger. The most important message is not to share food so if you can reiterate this at home, we would be most grateful. Continuing to support us by ensuring no item containing nuts or sesame are brought on site is essential. More information about this will be shared in due course.

National Testing Programme 2026-2027:

I trust you saw my letter which was sent out earlier today about this academic year's national testing programme. You were also sent a number of DfE leaflets designed specifically for parents to guide you in the following:

- Reception Baseline Assessment
- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Optional KS1 tests for Year 2
- Year 4 Multiplication Check
- KS2 Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) for Year 6

These have also been sent out as an attachment with the link to the newsletter and will be posted on our website for you to refer to in the future. Please do take a moment to read and digest the information. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, thank you for your support this week as we dealt with the incident yesterday that none of us was expecting. We were immensely proud of the children who, despite some changes to the usual run of the day, didn't make a fuss, followed instructions superbly and looked after each other. They couldn't have been better behaved. We are immensely grateful for your words of thanks emailed in or delivered in person.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and we shall look forward to seeing you on Monday.

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.

30th September	Home netball match v Oldfield (selected pupils informed by letter)
1 st October	Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity Church 10am
5 th October	Start of Y6 Cycling Proficiency course
9 th October	PTA Quiz
12 th October	Start of Science and Technology Week
13 th October	Parent Consultations
15 th October	Parent Consultations
20 th October	Flu Vaccinations
20 th October	KS2 Open House
21 st October	EYFS & KS1 Open House
21 st October	School Photos
26 th October to 30 th October	Half Term Break
2 nd November	Start of Term 2
9 th November	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle
11 th November	Whole School Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
11 th November	PTA AGM 7:30pm
16 th November	Start of Maths and Computing Week
18 th November	Open Evening
20 th November	Children in Need
24 th November	Choirs performing at the Royal Albert Hall
27th November	PTA Popcorn and Pyjama Party
8 th December 2pm	Nativity Performance
9 th December 6pm	Nativity Performance
9 th December	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
15 th December	Final swimming lesson for Y3
15th December	Carols with the Choirs 6:30pm
16 th December	EYFS & KS1 Trip to the pantomime at the Wycombe Swan
16 th December	KS2 Christmas Party
16 th December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
17 th December	Christmas Service at Holy Trinity Church 10am
17 th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party
18 th December	Last day of term
21 st December to 1 st January	Christmas Holiday
4 th January	Start of Term 3
29 th January	PTA Disco
2 nd February	KS2 Open House
3 rd February	EYFS & KS1 Open House
10 th February	Safer Internet Day
15 th February to 19 th February	Half Term Break
22 nd February	Start of Term 4
27 th February	PTA Black Tie Ball
1 st March	Start of Book Week
2 nd March	Parent Consultations
4 th March	Parent Consultations
4 th March	World Book Day
5 th March	Book Week Dress-Up Day
19 th March	Comic Relief
24 th March	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
25 th March	PTA Make the Rules Day and Easter Trail
26 th March to 9 th April	Easter Holiday
12 th April	Start of Term 5
22 nd April	Earth Day
27 th April	KS2 Open House
28 th April	EYFS & KS1 Open House
3 rd May	Bank Holiday
10 th May to 13 th May	KS2 SATs
17 th 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