



#### 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

### Class Newsletters and National Testing Programme explained:

We hope you found the class newsletters, sent out to you last week along with the information about this term's national testing programme, helpful. If you require any more information about this term's curriculum or the tests your child may be taking, please do not hesitate to speak to staff.

### Celebrating Earth Day with a Magnificent Achievement:

On Monday we marked Earth Day. It came immediately after the weekend when six of our climate conscious Year 6 students walked the 14 miles from Cookham to Henley along the river collecting litter as they went. The boys, Ben Brittain, Monty Garrett, Rafferty King, Rory MacMillan, Fred Mellors and Drake Powell, took nine hours to complete the challenge during which they filled thirteen bags of rubbish. Through their efforts they have raised over £1350 in sponsorship for the World Wildlife Fund. The story has already featured in the Maidenhead Advertiser and you can also read about it in the latest edition of Trinity Times which went on sale today. If you haven't yet bought your copy, the paper can be purchased for the bargain price of 50p from the news team at the back gate at the end of every day. This time, the money they raise from sales will be given to WWF.

### Farewell, Little Ducklings:

After a fortnight in school, the four ducklings which the children saw hatch will be returning to the farm they came from this afternoon. Children from across the school have enjoyed popping into Cygnet Class, where they have lived for the past two weeks, and seeing them grow. We have grown rather attached to them so we hope to hear from the team at [www.incredibleeggs.co.uk](http://www.incredibleeggs.co.uk) to find out how their progress continues. Our thanks go to our PTA who have funded this project.

### The School is Alive with the Sound of Music:

Yesterday Mrs. Brown was incredibly busy auditioning children who are all keen to perform at our Music Concert on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Some of the performances were spectacular; clearly many of the children have worked hard to get performance ready. We have enough enthusiasm to bring you a concert that could go on long into the night! We don't, however, have that amount of time so, in the next couple of weeks, we will be making our selection and informing the successful musicians.

### It's a Goal:

On Monday ten Year 4 boys headed off with Mr. Whittle to Braywick Leisure Centre for a football festival. During the course of the morning they faced teams from nine other local schools in matches which were hotly contested. Their early success meant they qualified for the semi finals but losing in the play-off meant they ended fourth out of ten. They returned to school content with their performance.

### Time for the Girls to Shine on the Football Pitch:

This afternoon another ten children from Year 4, this time girls, took part in a Festival of Football which was held at St Pirans. Mrs. Lucas took on the mantle of team coach and was pleased to report how proud she was of the girls. They showed fantastic team work and as a result won three of the four matches. Well done girls!

### A Final Hurrah for our Netballers:

Last week I shared news of our success in winning the netball league this season. On Wednesday, our squad played their final match, this time against Furze Platt Junior School. The result would not have affected the league result but the team were determined to finish on a high. They did just that, winning the game 13-6 which means they remain undefeated.

Netball practice has resumed this week with Mr. Lucas and Mrs. Parker now inviting Year 4 and Year 5 to come along. For information about when the team train and for details of all clubs which are running this term, please refer to last week's newsletter. [Newsletter 19\\_4\\_24.pdf \(holyltrinitysch.co.uk\)](#)

### **Going for Gold on the Hockey Pitch:**

I was thrilled to learn this week that two former pupils, Elvie Rayner and Molly Keegan, will be going to Nottingham on 11<sup>th</sup> May to take part in the national finals of the State School Championships with their team mates from Marlow Hockey Club. They qualified after winning the U12 South Central Area Hockey Tournament last weekend. They are up against seven other teams all vying for the title of National Champions. To get to this stage is already an enormous achievement so I am sure you will join me in wishing them lots of luck in the final stage of going for gold.

### **Success on the Rugby Field:**

It seems that Holy Trinity pupils are doing rather well in a range of sports at the moment. Wilf Konn in Year 4 brought a magnificent trophy into school to show me this week which his rugby coaches had presented him with. We have a proud tradition of sport at Holy Trinity so it's always fabulous to hear that pupils are excelling in clubs away from school as well.

### **Enjoying the Outdoors:**

If you've been keeping up with us on social media this week, you'll have seen how we've enjoyed taking the learning outdoors. Cygnets have been conducting mini beast hunts, Cormorants have explored angles and there's been lots of art work going on. We are lucky to have plenty of outside space enhanced by our wildlife area at the bottom of the field. We hope that the weather improves so we can continue to make the most of the great outdoors.

### **Cookham Festival News:**

We are delighted to be on the bill at this year's Cookham Festival. As you may have seen in last week's newsletter, with the three other Cookham schools we will be performing a cantata telling the story of Toad and his friends through a modern adaptation of 'Wind in the Willow'. Tickets for this and many other events during the fortnight are on sale. Please refer to the flyers which you'll find in book bags.

### **Parking:**

This week I received an email from a neighbour complaining about inconsiderate parking around the village; I trust you saw my request yesterday to park thoughtfully. This was followed up by another four emails, some containing photographs, from parents with children at our school sympathizing with the lady who felt the need to write in initially. All four pointed out very clearly the issues we have:

- Drivers park on the junction of roads, namely School Lane and Sutton Road creating a blind spot for those in vehicles trying to pull out.
- Drivers park on double yellow lines which makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross Sutton Road safely because of the blind spots created.
- Drivers park on pavements which means pedestrians, especially those pushing prams, have to step out into the road to pass.
- Drivers, in an attempt to park as close to school as possible, hold up the traffic on Sutton Road causing those passing through the village to become impatient and aggressive often resulting in them accelerating at points where pedestrians are trying to cross.
- Drivers park directly opposite the gate to the school car park where parents queue at pick up and where children and parents exit. This makes the road very narrow and therefore dangerous for pedestrians, many of whom are children.

The overriding concern of the parents who wrote in, those who spoke to me, all of us in school and you I'm sure, is that if this behaviour is not corrected it could result in a serious accident happening.

From speaking to people and from what I know already, it appears that one of the biggest problems is that there is not enough safe (and legal) parking close to school. Instead of parking safely and legally a little further away, some are choosing selfish parking behaviours over considerate ones. Unsafe, illegal and inconsiderate parking is at the root of the problem.

That said, I am mindful of the fact that the vast majority of parents do abide by the rules and factor in additional time to park further away at drop-off and pick up times. If we were able to create more parking spaces we would, but unfortunately, it's not an option. Therefore, I hope the following might help.

#### **Drop-Off:**

- Rather than having one time that everyone must arrive by in the morning, we have a window of 15 minutes (from 8:45am to 9am) which is in place to ease the congestion.
- Our Early Bird Club operates from 8am which increases the window by half an hour giving you another option.

#### **Pick-Up:**

- It is impractical for us to introduce a staggered pick-up at the end of the day because so many families have children across more than one key stage. This worked during the flooding and during periods of lock-down but longer term it's not viable. However, although the gate is opened at 3:15pm it is not shut until gone 3:30pm so if you arrive and have to park a little distance away, arriving at 3:30pm is not a problem. We would rather you were a little late to pick up your child than you park illegally or inconsiderately.

#### Parking Options:

- The National Trust car park on the moor operates free parking for 30 minutes.
- The car park next to the garage on Sutton Road has a number of spaces which can be used for up to 3 hours.
- The Kings Arms has very kindly offered you their car park at drop off and pick up times. However, please vacate the car park quickly once you have collected your child to allow space for their customers.

#### Walk to School Week:

- We will be promoting National Walk to School Week which runs from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May. Every year we take part by encouraging parents and children to ditch vehicles or, if this is impractical, to park away from the centre of the village and walk at least some of the way. We notice that this always promotes good habits which often continue beyond the official week so we hope it will be the same this year.

I have spent a considerable amount of time this week talking to local councillors, including our Cookham Parish Councillor, to share concerns and seek solutions. It would appear that wheels are in motion to make positive changes which I trust will be shared with you soon but, in the meantime, I hope some of the solutions I have offered help in allowing us all to act in a safe, legal and considerate manner.

The fact that most of you do all you can to work with our neighbours and ensure a safe environment for our children as they walk to and from school makes writing about this issue difficult; it is not something I relish doing. However, another complaint and a general feeling that others are equally exasperated by the actions of some meant raising it again was necessary. If you have any further solutions, please write in and I will share them with the local councillors who have more power than me to put things in place. Thank you as always for your support.

Have a lovely weekend and we'll see you on Monday

Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

30 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 Mixed Dynamos Cricket Skills Festival at Pinkney Green Cricket Club – please refer to letter (members of Junior Choir should attend choir practice at 8am and be collected to go to cricket from the front of school at 8:45am - thank you for all your efforts in making this work, we really do appreciate it)
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5/6 Girls Football Match v Holyport (home) - selected children informed by letter
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	A and B team football matches v Holyport (away) - selected children informed by letter
7 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Open House
8 <sup>th</sup> May	EYFS & KS1 Open House
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Boys and Girls Football matches vs Oldfield (home) - selected children informed by letter
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Cookham Festival: Joint Concert with Cookham Schools
13 <sup>th</sup> May	EYFS Health Screening
13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 Busy Buttons Trip
20 <sup>th</sup> May	National Walk to School Week
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
21 <sup>st</sup> May – 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Book Fair in school
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Musical Evening at school 6:30pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Non-Uniform Day (in exchange, please donate an item to our PTA ahead of our HT Fest – more details to follow) Term ends for half term break (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term break
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Term starts
3 <sup>rd</sup> June – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Window for completion of Year 4 Multiplication Check
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Trip to the West End (details yet to be confirmed in letter)
7 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Disco (details tbc)
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Royal Windsor Flower Show
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 at Junior Music Festival Rehearsal (tbc)
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week performance pm (tbc)
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Window for completion of Year 1 Phonics Screening
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Arthur Burgin Science Exhibition (tbc)
21 <sup>st</sup> June	PTA Quiz Night tbc
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	The Big Cookham Wildlife Weekend
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Residential Trip
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Junior Music Festival Year 3
24 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Weeks
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
6 <sup>th</sup> July	HT Fest
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Spanish Assembly – 9:30am
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Service (tbc)
19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term – Summer Holiday begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)