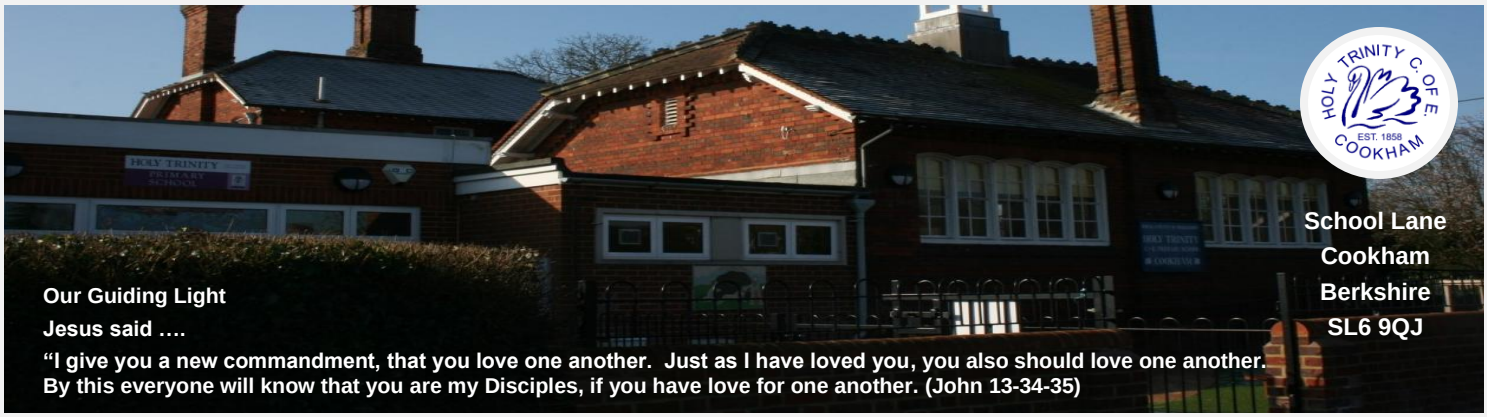

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

Pyjama and Popcorn Party:
The booking for this evening's PTA Pyjama and Popcorn party has now closed but if you have previously booked a spot for your child, we are looking forward to seeing them later. The event for EYFS and KS1 children starts at 4:45pm which means that if your child is attending an after-school club, you should pick them up from it in the usual fashion then bring them back to school once changed, arriving at the front entrance. Their event finishes at 6pm. **Please collect your child from the back door of the hall.**

KS2 pupils who have booked a space should arrive at the front entrance at 6:15pm. There may be a slight delay in letting them in while we focus on handing over the younger children at the back but we will be as quick as we can. Thank you for your patience. **The KS2 event finishes at 8pm when you should also pick your child up from the back door of the hall.** If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child, please inform the PTA organisers. Please also inform the PTA of any medical or dietary needs your child may have to ensure safeguarding requirements are covered.

We would be most grateful if you could ensure your child takes home with them at the end of the night everything they have brought along. We don't want to be left with lots of lost property! Please note, no mobile phones are permitted nor are any food items. They will be given popcorn.

Finally, thank you for supporting the event especially those of you who are coming along to supervise the children.

Celebrating UK Parliament Week with a series of School Elections:
This week we have been marking UK Parliament Week and learning about the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. To support us in this work, we were thrilled to welcome local MP, Joshua Reynolds, to school. He spoke to Year 6 ahead of their House Captain elections. The questions they asked him were phenomenal. No topic, including the conflict in Palestine, nuclear armament, and the role of NATO, was off limits.

This week we have also elected Eco-Councillors and PTA Junior Ambassadors. Inevitably some children may be disappointed not to have been elected but we congratulate everyone who put themselves forward. The process has helped everyone better understand democracy and the children have been really supportive of one another regardless of who won the most votes.

Barnardo's Young Supporters' Concert at the Royal Albert Hall:
On Wednesday I had the pleasure of accompanying our Junior and Senior Choir to the Royal Albert Hall to take part in a charity concert. The children sang with over one thousand other young performers in a musical event based around the theme of 'Hope'. The choirs were accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra who entertained the audience with a number of familiar and well-loved pieces. The event was hosted by Barnardo's President, Natasha Kaplinsky OBE, who spoke about the incredible work the charity does changing the lives of children living in poverty. It was a truly spectacular night during which our pupils shone and it was wonderful to have so many of you there supporting us.

Sporting News:
Yesterday a squad of footballers went to Courthouse Junior School for a football match. When our team of Year 5 players arrived, they discovered that they were facing a team of much bigger Year 6 children. The game was tough and they lost but despite the defeat they all seemed happy to be chosen to play for the school. We are proud of them nonetheless especially given their grit and determination to play on regardless.

This morning eighteen Year 4 pupils and this afternoon eighteen Year 6 pupils took part in a Sportshall Athletics event at Braywick Leisure Centre. They competed against a number of schools in a range of indoor athletics disciplines. The team had a fantastic time participating competitively and perfecting their skills in a range of sports. Thank you for your support in getting them there and back especially after such short notice. We were only notified that we had a place very recently.

We are very proud of the sporting opportunities we offer the children and the success they achieve. Many of you will be aware of the borough's Dance Festival which we take part in every year as many schools do. However, we are especially proud that ten of our girls in KS2 were, following auditions, accepted into an elite dance group which also performs at the festival. This group is made up of girls from schools across Maidenhead so to have ten from our school in it is quite something. They are working towards a performance piece ahead of this year's event. We hope that the boys' dance group, made up entirely of boys from Holy Trinity, will also be performing

Road Safety:
At the start of the week, Year 3 had a visit from the borough's road safety officer who led a workshop during which the children learnt about keeping themselves safe on the road. He was back today to work with Year 6. This is a project we engage with every year as we recognize the importance of teaching the children these important life lessons. The sessions were fun and informative with a focus on specific key messages including the importance of wearing bright clothing and finding safe places to cross.

Parking:
Thank you for taking note of my request in last week's newsletter to ensure dogs are tied up a distance away form entry and exit points to our site. Today I ask for your help in another matter related to parking. It would appear that at drop off and pick up, vehicles are parked on the zigzag lines outside school, sometimes with engines left running. Please refrain from doing this.

Year 3 Swimming:
If you have a child in Year 3, please send them to school on Tuesday with their usual swimming kit plus pyjamas or loose clothes. They will be learning about water safety and experiencing swimming in clothing as part of the lifesaving element of the course.

Nativity:
If you have a child in Reception or KS1 you will have seen an email from the office this week informing you of the fact that our Nativity will be professionally filmed this year. To help us plan, please send your permission forms back to school; we need them urgently.

Tickets for our two performances listed below will be distributed next week. Look out for an email explaining how to claim yours.

Christmas Lunch:
Don't forget to pre-order your child's Christmas lunch which will be served on Tuesday 15th December. Use your Scopay account to do this referring to last week's email for details. Note the deadline is today, Friday 27th November.

Caterlink Survey:
If you haven't yet completed the Caterlink **Parent and Pupil Survey** please do so with your child at home. It takes approximately nine minutes to complete and will provide the team with valuable feedback on what they are doing well and, importantly, where they can improve their service. The survey will remain open until **20 December**, and once all responses have been reviewed in the New Year, a summary of the feedback and key findings will be shared. Do refer to the email sent out previously which contains the link to the survey and a QR code you can use.

Story Writing Competition:
You may remember me writing about the Booker Prize a couple of weeks ago. It's their first ever children's book prize to celebrate the best contemporary fiction for 8-12 year olds. The judging panel is made up of 3 adults and 3 children and the shortlist has already been announced.

To mark this The Little Bookshop have been running a short story competition. There is no theme as the prize itself will be across all fiction genres and the word limit is 500 words. It can be shorter but no longer and the winner will receive a book token for themselves. They will also win the entire shortlist for their school library. The closing date for entries was 14th November but this has been extended. If your child wishes to take part, they should take their story to the bookshop (including a name, age and school).

Young Carers:
On Monday Mr Redjeb, Mrs Sewell-Hatch and I attended a safeguarding network meeting when young carers were on the agenda. Young carers, any one looking after someone by cleaning regularly, helping them move around indoors or outdoors, or supporting them with their personal needs, is entitled to help. To access this help, we need to know who is a young carer. If your child falls into this category, please do let us know. The information can be treated in the strictest confidence.

Inclusion Survey:
We, like all schools across the country, are currently putting together our Inclusion Strategy a requirement from the DfE which will outline how we spend new inclusive mainstream funding (IMF). The IMF forms part of the government's commitment to support the development of a more inclusive mainstream system. The aim is to ensure schools are places where every child is included and supported to achieve and thrive in their learning regardless of their needs or background.

Recently we have compiled a document which outlines our Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP), a set of strategies and adaptations that every child in our school can expect to receive. These strategies, and there are many, create an inclusive learning environment where every pupil can succeed. We are very proud of our offer but are always looking for ways to enhance it. This is where you can help. Next week we plan to send out an inclusion survey. We would be enormously grateful if you could find time to complete it as your views will help shape our vision. It will come to you by email so do look out for it.

Finally, this Sunday (29th December) at Holy Trinity Church in Cookham the beginning of Advent will be celebrated in an Advent Carol Service starting at 5:30pm. This annual service of hymns, readings and carols amidst candlelight will include music led by the Girls' & Men's Choirs. A collection in aid of Elizabeth House will be taken. You are all welcome to attend.

Have a lovely 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 are added in order to keep abreast of what is coming up in school. Any additions or any changes highlighted in blue.

30th November	EYFS & Y1 Phonics Virtual Workshop for Parents 4pm
8th December 2pm	Nativity Performance
9th December 6pm	Nativity Performance
9th December	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
15th December	Final swimming lesson for Y3
15th December	Christmas Lunch
15th December	Carols with the Choirs 6:30pm
16th December	EYFS & KS1 Trip to the pantomime at the Wycombe Swan
16th December	KS2 Christmas Party
16th December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
17th December	Christmas Service at Holy Trinity Church 10am
17th December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party
18th December	Last day of term
21st December to 1st January	Christmas Holiday
4th January	Start of Term 3
18th January	Year 6 trip to Bletchley Park
29th January	PTA Disco
2nd February	KS2 Open House
3rd February	EYFS & KS1 Open House
10th February	Safer Internet Day
15th February to 19th February	Half Term Break
22nd February	Start of Term 4
27th February	PTA Black Tie Ball
1st March	Start of Book Week
1st March	Year 5 Trip to Warner Bros Studios
2nd March	Parent Consultations
4th March	Parent Consultations
4th March	World Book Day
5th March	Book Week Dress-Up Day
19th March	Comic Relief
24th March	Rock Steady Concert 9:30am
25th March	PTA Make the Rules Day and Easter Trail
26th March to 9th April	Easter Holiday
12th April	Start of Term 5
22nd April	Earth Day
27th April	KS2 Open House
28th April	EYFS & KS1 Open House
3rd May	Bank Holiday
10th May to 13th May	KS2 SATs
17th 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