



### 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)**

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## KEY INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK

I trust you have received our emails during the week informing you of all of the new cases of COVID-19 in school. Despite the challenges we have faced, school has remained open and the children have continued to learn.

At a virtual meeting on Wednesday led by the East Berkshire Health Protection Board which over ninety local head teachers attended, it became very clear that the high number of cases reported in our school community this week is a familiar story in virtually all schools across our borough and neighbouring boroughs. In the press this week it has been reported that one in eight pupils are out of school as covid worsens: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-60126783>. The good news is that the infection is milder in children than adults and that their antibody protection is also higher.

The general advice is that schools should continue to operate with appropriate restrictions in place. At Holy Trinity, classes continue to operate largely as bubbles using their own entrance and exit into their classroom. Playtimes remain staggered and provision is made at lunchtime to separate year groups as much as possible when inside the building. Assemblies continue to be delivered in classrooms or on line to avoid the whole school coming together. An enhanced cleaning regime is in place during the day and the children are regularly reminded about good personal hygiene. We do not propose a return to staggered starts and ends to the day or measures like eating lunch in classrooms and cancelling clubs. However, the situation is reviewed on a daily basis and further measures may be introduced if they are deemed necessary.

With five members of the teaching staff and one teaching assistant isolating this week all with confirmed cases of covid, the day-to-day management of school has been complex. However, with part-time staff to call on and highly skilled teaching assistants in our team, systems have run smoothly. Teaching staff have continued to plan lessons at home which have, in some cases, been delivered by teaching assistants in the classroom. This is far preferable than calling in supply staff who are difficult to find, who don't know the children, who are unfamiliar with school routines and who may have been in five other schools with cases the previous week. Remote learning has been posted on Google Classroom for those children who have tested positive and are also having to isolate at home.

Having been informed in the meeting on Wednesday that we face possibly another month, maybe two, of high numbers of cases, we will do all we can to keep school open for those who are able to attend. You should send your child in every day as long as they are well. For information, support and advice go to: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

Thank you for either emailing the school office ([office@holyltrinitysch.co.uk](mailto:office@holyltrinitysch.co.uk)) or telephoning (01628 523766) before 9:30am if your child is unable to attend and for continuing to support us by testing regularly and acting quickly when necessary.

Do remember that information about how to support your child if they are having to isolate at home was shared in our newsletter on 7.1.22 [Newsletter 7\\_1\\_22\\_.pdf \(holyltrinitysch.co.uk\)](#) when a selection of useful booklets were also circulated. If you have difficulty accessing this, please email the school office. Remote learning will be posted on Google Classroom at regular intervals. Any help you can give your child in accessing this is gratefully received.

### News from around the school:

The children have worked hard this week and continued to learn about a number of interesting topics. Moorhens have travelled, with Michael Morpurgo and the characters in his book 'War Horse' to the battlefields of WW1. This has inspired them to write creatively about Joey's troubles after being captured by the Germans. Alongside this, they have been filming their house captain speeches to share with others on Google Classroom in place of doing so in a house meeting. The process has been delayed slightly because several who were keen to put their name forward have been away. Once all campaigns have been captured and shared, the voting will begin!

Cygnets have been learning all about the work of vets in their newly created vet's surgery. Some wonderful pet carriers have been constructed from recycled materials. They have also been enjoying the outside space where they have measured and compared the mass and capacity of a variety of objects. Challenges included counting the number of objects that can fit inside a matchbox and measuring ingredients for making playdough.

Also thinking about animals, Swans have loaded rucksacks with everything from inflatable boats to tasty treats to ensure that they were prepared for a visit to Antarctica where they hoped to meet penguins. Their work has laid the foundations for postcard writing which has enabled the team to send word back home from base camp!

Closer to home, Kingfishers have been writing a guide to Holy Trinity School contrasting formal and informal language in the style of Salvatore Rubbino's 'A Walk in London'. Look out for the link to this text on Google Classroom. They have also been rocking out in music lessons listening to the pulse of songs in order to clap along to a beat. Communities were the focus in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and what makes a community function successfully.

Cormorants have had fun with toilet paper this week! The playground became the solar system with the children measuring and using sheets to show how far away each planet was from the sun. Mercury was two sheets and Neptune one hundred and forty-nine sheets away which sent Kaia way up the netball court! Each planet was represented too with Mercury as small as a peppercorn and Jupiter the size of a netball. The visual representation really helped the children understand the vastness of our solar system.

It's all been about DRAGONflies in Teal Class with the children getting some research under their belt before taking on the complex tasks of transforming what they had found out into a poem. With their facts as inspiration, they continued to explore figurative language and used their creative writing skills to produce poetry full of imagination which really captured the essence of these kings and queens of the insect world.

I had the privilege of taking Goslings swimming this week. It was a wonderful experience. The quality of the lessons are excellent and the children worked incredibly hard under the close supervision of the four coaches, one for each of the four groups they've been put in, perfecting different swimming strokes. They used a variety of equipment in the pool to help them and then finished the lesson learning how to jump in safely. The facilities are superb and everyone seemed to enjoy the session.

The children in KS2 seem to be really enjoying their language lessons with Mrs Thandi. This week Year 3 have been learning about families while Year 4 have started a new topic, 'Le transport'. They have discovered how some children come to school 'en velo' or 'en voiture'! It's German for Year 5 & Year 6. Cormorants have worked out how to describe the weather and been constructing short sentences, 'Heute regnet es', 'Gestern war es sonnig'. In their study of my home, 'Mein Zuhause' Moorhens have been answering the question 'Where do you live?' using the German expressions for the countryside, in town, at the coast, in the mountains, before combining their knowledge of different styles of house. Some of their conversation work became quite complex with responses like, 'I live in a detached house in a village' or 'I live in a flat in a large town'! They all seemed keen to know where their studies would take them next.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities:

Despite the rising number of covid cases this week clubs will continue to operate as normal next week. Drop off and pick up arrangements are as follows:

Club	Year Group	Time	Arrangements for drop-off/pick-up
Breakfast Club	All	Start time 8am each day of the week	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Spanish Club	Year 4	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Playball	EYFS & Year 1	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Junior Choir	Years 3 & 4	Before school at 8am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Netball	Years 5 & 6	Before school at 8am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Spanish Club	Year 2	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Football Club	Years 5 & 6	Finish time : 4:30pm	Collect from the back gate
Little Samurai	EYFS, Y1 & Y2	Finish time: 4:00pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Spanish Club	Year 1	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Spanish Club	Year 5	Finish time: 3:50pm	Collect from the front entrance of school
Playball	EYFS & Year 1	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Senior Choir	Years 5 & 6	Before school at 8am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Young Samurai	Years 3 - 6	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Spanish Club	Year 3	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Sewing Club	Year 2 – 6	Finish time: 4:35pm	Collect from the front entrance of school
Knitting Club	Year 6	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the front entrance of school
IPro Football	Years 1 - 6	Finish time: 4:30pm	Collect from the back gate

#### NCMP and School Entry Screening – Reception Parents:

If you have a child in EYFS you have already been sent information about the National Child Measurement Programme and School Entry Screening. This week a Child Health Questionnaire was also sent home. Please ensure this is completed and returned to school no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> February. If you wish to opt out of the programme you are required to email the nursing team directly at [school.nursing@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:school.nursing@achievingforchildren.org.uk) Thank you.

#### RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch:

Do look out for the instructions and recording sheets for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch which takes place this weekend; they can be found on Google Classroom. If your child would like to take part he/she should simply record the number of birds they see for a total of one hour over the weekend. The hour can be broken down into smaller chunks of time over both days for ease. The important thing is that birds are recorded for 60 minutes in total to ensure a fair test. Results can be brought back to school after the weekend, where they will be submitted as a whole.

To find out more go to:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

I hope you have a good weekend and our very best wishes go out to those children currently isolating. We sincerely hope that if they have any symptoms they are mild and that they remain in good spirits. We have missed them all this week. For details of when it is safe to send them back to school do refer to the government guidance.

Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

4 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 Class Assembly (postponed)
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Internet Safety Day
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Y3 Class Assembly (postponed)
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 Road Safety
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Y4 Road Safety
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Borough Dance Festival Postponed from 17<sup>th</sup> February by the organisers (Year 4)</b>
Week beginning 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Open classrooms to view work



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