



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

Welcome to the beginning of the academic year and a particularly warm welcome to those of you who are new to our school. I have enjoyed meeting you and your children. We hope you've all had a lovely summer break.

Several projects were completed over the holiday, perhaps most notably the installation of LED lighting across the school and the redecoration of the hall. The site is looking smart and welcoming. This term staffing remains constant although we are delighted that Miss Ford has returned to join the team and Mr Reynolds will be working alongside Ms O'Reilly and Y3 this term gaining a deeper knowledge of primary education. I know you will do all you can to make both of them feel welcome.

Thank you for your support this week in helping us to ensuring a smooth transition back to the classroom for the children. I do hope your child has spoken positively about the week. We have used the time to establish classroom routines, introduce new topics and design a new School Charter, a set of statements which guides us in ensuring the year ahead is happy for everyone. The children came up with the most wonderful ideas which reflect our vision and values perfectly. They have demonstrated throughout the week how strongly embedded our message of love and kindness is.

The usual system for dropping off children in the morning, Reception children arriving at the front everyone else making their way to classrooms by entering at the back of the school, continues to run smoothly as does the afternoon pick-up so we will continue to follow these procedures in the coming weeks. Please note, the window for dropping children off in the morning is between 8:45am and 9am after which the gates are locked. Do make every effort to be here between these times preferably ensuring your child is through the gates by 8:55am; we want to restrict footfall through the main reception and ensure the children are in the classroom in plenty of time to complete important early morning work. We have noticed how difficult it can be for some children walking in late to a classroom when everyone else is seated and settled. It creates unnecessary anxiety. Thank you for your support.

Meet the Teacher Meetings:

Over the next two weeks we will be inviting you to attend virtual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings. This will give you an opportunity to hear from your child's class teacher(s) about specific matters related to the term ahead. These will be at 4pm according to the following timetable.

Monday 9th – Year 6

Tuesday 10th – Year 2

Wednesday 11th – Year 5

Thursday 12th – Year 3

Tuesday 17th – Year 4

Wednesday 18th – EYFS (Reception)

Thursday 19th – Year 1

A link to the Google Meet session will be posted on Google Classroom by your child's class teacher which you simply click on to gain access. For those of you with children new to the school, instructions on how to access this learning platform will be sent to you so do familiarise yourself with how to log on before the meeting. Please note **that in order to gain access to the site you must log in using your child's school email address not yours**. This is sometimes where parents become unstuck. If you follow the instructions on the letter the office sends you, you should have no issue. I do hope you will be able to attend these sessions as they will provide you with relevant information which will ensure a smooth journey for your child through the Autumn Term.

Google Classroom is a learning platform primarily for the pupils. The 'Stream' allows us to post messages to the children and them to share news with their class mates. The 'Classwork' section is separated out with headings where homework is posted along with other things like Collective Worship. We also use the 'Classwork' section to post stories and photographs of special events which have happened in school. It's a lovely way to bring the whole school together through shared experiences. Do take a look!

How You Can Help your Child Manage the Routines of the Day and Access Learning:

At the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings, the class teacher will offer you a range of specific strategies to support your child. Some important ones include sending your child to school each day with the correct equipment including a water bottle. When ordering a lunch for your child get them involved in choosing from the menu. Reading to them or hearing them read every day has an enormous impact. Please feel free to write in their reading diary-we enjoy seeing your positive comments. And do help them to access Google Classroom. You will start to see homework tasks posted and we encourage you to get involved in supporting your child to complete these tasks. Everything they do in school is supported by teacher input so doing the same at home helps to broaden their knowledge. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year to help your child reach their full potential.

P.E. Timetable:

This year the children will continue to come to school wearing P.E. kit on the days when P.E. lessons fall. Therefore, on these days please send your child in wearing the correct school P.E. kit, looking as smart as they did on sports day! This requires them to wear **navy** shorts/skort (or **navy** tracksuit trousers/leggings) with a white polo shirt with or without the school logo on. Only **navy** hoodies/tracksuit tops are permitted. For information on the correct P.E. kit and regular school uniform, please follow the link to our website:

[Policies \(holyltrinitysch.co.uk\)](https://www.holytrinitysch.co.uk)

If your child attends a sports club, for instance Play Ball and iPro Soccer School, they may also come to school wearing school P.E. kit on the day the club meets if they wish to speed up the hand over at the end of the day. However, if they prefer to wear alternative gear like football kit **they must come to school in uniform and change before the club begins**. This will ensure they are smart and in the correct kit at all times during the school day.

This term P.E. lessons will take place on the following days:

EYFS (Cygnet Class): **Tuesday and Thursday**

Year 1 (Swan Class): **Tuesday and Thursday**

Year 2 (Kingfisher Class): **Monday and Tuesday**

Year 3 (Gosling Class): **Monday and Thursday** (in Term 1 & 2, swimming sessions will be on Tuesday – please refer to the swimming letter. Your child should come to school with their swimming gear wearing their usual school uniform **not** PE kit on Tuesdays.)

Year 4 (Teal Class): **Monday and Thursday**

Year 5 (Cormorant Class): **Monday and Tuesday**

Year 6 (Moorhen Class): **Tuesday and Thursday**

Thank you for your support in naming all your child's kit and sending them in looking smart and ready for learning whatever day of the week it is.

On a regular basis throughout the year our PTA will be running pre-loved uniform sales. Look out for details of when these will be on PTA WhatsApp. You may have noticed a black bin outside at the back of the hall. If you have any uniform to donate to the PTA, it can be placed here. Please ensure items of clothing are washed and in a good state of repair. Many thanks go to the PTA for managing this for us.

PTA News:

Our PTA do a wonderful job fundraising for the school and bringing the community together. I hope that those of you with children in Reception Class who went to the coffee morning organised by them on Wednesday enjoyed the event and appreciated the welcome gift.

For more PTA news, please see the following message from Kate Winrow-Davies, our PTA Chair:

*1) As a school, we're members of 'Parentkind', which is an umbrella organisation that supports PTAs across the country. As part of our membership we have access to FREE webinars for ALL parents and they have some brilliant ones available this term!
To book, you just need to enter our school postcode: *SL6 9QJ**

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars>

2) On 4th October, dust off your lederhosen and get ready for our first event of the academic year! Compete for the highly coveted 'Quizzly Shield' with a Bavarian twist! Extra points for your team if you dress up! 😊 (Dressing up is optional!)

Teams of up to 10 people.

<https://forms.gle/QmQnzRmNAPNnzQ7CA>

3) 'Parentkind' have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started!

For more PTA comms please join our information sharing WhatsApp group or Facebook page!

WhatsApp - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LRoarm1Tr5O8h8kmfSdfir>

FACEBOOK – <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1558444401073300/?ref=share>

Details of those things mentioned have been sent to you today as an attachment.

Attendance:

As some of you will be aware from newsletters last year, the expectation of the DfE is that attendance for every child should be above 95%. If a child's attendance is below 90% he/she is regarded as persistently absent and anything below 50% is classified as severely absent. Attendance figures are reported on end of year report cards and low absence can trigger involvement from the Borough's Education Welfare Team and an officer making a visit to a home. Absences for anything other than examinations, illness or medical appointments are not permitted. If you have a need to take your child out of school for any one of these things you must complete a 'Request for Absence' form which you can get from the office. Absences for anything else will be marked as unauthorised.

Before the holiday many children received a certificate for 100% attendance during the Summer Term with several having an attendance figure of 100% for the whole year. This is a fine achievement for which they were congratulated.

Next year we hope to see more children on the list. While I appreciate how difficult it can be to arrange appointments outside school hours, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive and days out of school for family events or holidays are not allowed. A lesson missed puts a child at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. We ask for your support in helping us focus on ensuring those children who are absent because of genuine illness are helped to catch up.

To help you plan, this year's term dates have been sent out as an attachment.

Nut Free/ Sesame Free:

Please note, we have a very strict No Nut, No Sesame policy because of a number of children with severe allergies. When sending your child in with a packed lunch or snacks to eat at breaktime, please also be very vigilant on this matter. This policy must also be adhered to if you choose to send your child in with treats to hand out to the class on their birthday.

As part of our science and Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) programmes, we promote healthy eating. To support us in delivering a consistent message please send you child in only with healthy snacks, i.e. fruit to eat at break time. We provide the children in Reception and KS1 (Y1 & Y2) with a healthy snack.

Hot meals are of course available every day from our catering team. Thank you for taking note of the fact that meals need to be ordered at home at least 24 hours before they are required. This helps our catering team when placing orders.

Contact and Medical Details:

In the interests of safeguarding, please ensure you keep the office informed on any changes to your child's medical or dietary needs and emergency contact details.

Clubs:

We are delighted to be able to offer a number of extra-curricular clubs again this year which we hope will interest and excite the children. Do look out for flyers from club providers which the office will send out periodically. Some have gone out already. Please note, places get booked up quickly, so to secure a place and avoid disappointment book as soon as you are able.

Some clubs have already met this week including our Yoga and Mindfulness Club. Mrs Neal and her team will also be running our Maths Club for selected children in Year 2 and Year 3 on Friday before school. Today she met with a handful of children in Year 4 and 5 who will be helping her run the club this term by supporting their friends lower down the school. We are enormously grateful for their help. Next week a full list of clubs will be included on the newsletter.

Pick – Up:

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please email or phone the office in plenty of time to inform us. Do also let us know in writing if you grant permission for your child to walk home on their own.

Parking:

Because of the narrowness of School Lane and the lack of parking space along it, from time to time issues arise. If there is need to park a vehicle either in the lane or somewhere close by, please be considerate of our neighbours and avoid parking across driveways. Please also avoid parking close to junctions or on pavements which forces those walking, sometimes with younger children in buggies, to step onto the road. Thank you.

Buckinghamshire Transfer Tests:

If you have a child in Year 6 and you have registered them with Buckinghamshire Country Council, you will be aware that transfer tests are scheduled for next week. The familiarisation test will be carried out on Tuesday 10th and the transfer test two days later. The children will be taking the test in a number of classrooms in the morning once registers have been done. We expect to receive the results of these tests in October.

Plea from the Office:

Mrs Lewington, our officer manager, with the support of Mrs Streames-Smith does a wonderful job keeping things running smoothly. Both are incredibly obliging and keen to assist you in any way they can. A lot of their time this week, however, has been taken up delivering items to children which they have forgotten to bring in in the morning. This has prevented them from dealing with other more pressing issues. Please can you do your utmost to send your child in with everything they need for the day so the office staff are able to focus on school matters, notably checking morning registers to ensure that all who should be here are. Thank you.

Happy Birthday Holy Trinity:

Tomorrow Holy Trinity School turns 166. Do remember to raise a glass!

Cookham & Cookham Dean Flower and Produce Show:

On 21st September you are invited to the village's Flower and Produce Show. Please see the flyers sent out today for details of how you can get involved.

Maidenhead Boundary Walk:

Another local event, the Maidenhead Boundary Walk, is taking place on 6th October. Again a poster about it has been sent out to you today. Why not sign up and support Alzheimer's Dementia Support.

Finally, while it has been a positive three days in school, just before we welcomed the children back, we received some desperately sad news. Last week Mr Chris Harris, former governor and hugely respected colleague and friend to many, died.

Up until very recently when he stepped back from the role of governor, Chris had been heavily involved in school life. He took great pride in supporting and guiding the team particularly in financial matters but a whole lot more besides. We have been deeply affected by the news and ask that you keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

9 th – 19 th September	'Meet the Teacher Meetings'
10 th September	Bucks CC Familiarisation Test (11+)
12 th September	Bucks CC Transfer Test (11+)
17 th September	Year 3 Swimming sessions begin
20 th September	Flu Vaccination Programme
23 rd September	Meeting about the Year 6 Residential Trip in the summer (4pm)
25 th September	PTA Virtual Meeting 8pm
27 th September	Macmillan Bake-Sale
30 th Sept – 3 rd October	Year 6 Cycling Proficiency
4 th October	PTA Quiz Night
7 th October	School Photographer in
9 th October	EYFS Curriculum and Phonics Workshop 4pm
14 th – 18 th October	Science & Technology Week
15 th & 17 th October	Virtual Parent Consultations (information to follow)
22 nd October	KS2 (Year 3-6) Open House Session to view classrooms 3:15pm -4pm
23 rd October	EYFS & KS1 Open House Session to view classrooms 3:15pm -4pm
19 th October	PTA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
28th Oct – 1st November	HALF TERM
6 th November	PTA Annual General Meeting
8 th November	Year 1 Trip to Windsor Castle
11 th – 15 th November	Maths & Computing Week
11 th November	Remembrance Service at Cookham War Memorial
15 th November	Children in Need
22 nd November	PTA Pyjama and Popcorn Party
1 st December	Cookham Christmas Street Fayre
3 rd December	Year 5 Trip to the Harry Potter Studios
4 th December	Year 6 Trip to Bletchley Park
10 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm
11 th December	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 6pm
12 th December	PTA Carols in the Courtyard
18 th December	EYFS & KS1 Trip to the Braywick Pantomime
19 th December	Christmas Lunch
20th December – 6th Jan	Christmas Holiday
3 rd – 7 th March	Book week
4 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
6 th March	Virtual Parent Consultations
12 th – 15 th May	KS2 SATs
9 th – 13 th June	Arts and Culture Week
23 rd – 27 th June	Y6 Residential Trip
23 rd – 3 rd July	Sports Fortnight
4 th July	Sports Day