



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

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I do hope that you and your family had a happy and relaxing break. The last few days have gone well with everyone working together to support each other. I do hope your child has spoken positively about their return to the classroom and the new topics they are going to be studying.

I trust you received my email which was sent to you on Tuesday, outlining the measures we have in place this term to tackle the pandemic and containing information which I hope you will find useful. Details about what to do if your child tests positive for covid, if someone else has covid in the house and the reduced period of isolation were all explained in it.

We began the week with nine children from classes across the school isolating because of confirmed cases of COVID-19 over the holiday. This rose to eleven on Thursday after two children who had initially returned to school without any symptoms received positive results on lateral flow tests. Please continue to remain on heightened alert especially, at the moment, if your child is in Year 3 or Year 4.

This week it has become very clear how important daily lateral flow tests are for people (including children) who don't have Covid themselves but are living in a household where someone else does. Positive cases have been picked up very quickly through Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs). Not sending children in who test positive on LFDs is essential in helping us reduce any spread in school. From next week a positive LFD means immediate isolation without the need to seek a PCR test **if the patient is experiencing no covid symptoms**. However, **if someone does experience symptoms a PCR test should still be taken**. In these circumstances, **if you have symptoms and are awaiting the result of a PCR test, as part of your isolation, you must not enter the school site to pick up your child**. Please make arrangements for someone else to collect your child and inform the office. (See below for specific details of changes to confirmatory PCR tests).

It is incredibly helpful if you can test your family regularly, preferably twice weekly, using LFDs. These LFDs can be ordered by using the link: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) The staff continue to do this as instructed to by the DfE.

This week, the value of wearing a face mask on the school site has also become apparent. While I am reluctant to strictly enforce this, we would all be most grateful if you could use a face covering when picking your child up at the end of the day. Encouraging others to do so would also help us. It is preferable to email or phone the office but if you need to speak to the office staff please buzz then wait outside and they will come to you.

At the beginning of the week I also outlined what you can do to help us run safely and efficiently. In particular, please ensure you send your child in every day with a coat and preferably gloves, hat and scarf to wear outside. To ensure there is good ventilation in the building throughout the day, as we are instructed to do in the latest publication for schools on how to manage COVID-19, windows are open and therefore classrooms get quite cold. Inconspicuous under garments are encouraged. We continue to monitor the temperature inside and make amendments to our policy when necessary but we are worried about limiting the amount of fresh air in classrooms for obvious reasons. Our ultimate aim is to follow the guidance, keep everyone safe, avoid the spread of the virus and prevent the closure of 'bubbles' which would mean a return to online learning.

If your child is not attending school for whatever reason please ensure you either email the school office to explain their absence (office@holyltrinitysch.co.uk) or telephone (01628 523766). Please do this before 9:30am. Thank you.

Please note that from next week:

- Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow test result are to be temporarily suspended
- COVID-19 prevalence is high which means the chances of a false positive from a positive LFD result are very low
- This approach reflects evidence on the very high accuracy of LFD testing
- Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should continue to take a PCR test

To be clear, from 11th January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed.

The new approach reflects similar changes made this time last year in January 2021, when there was also a high prevalence of infection meaning it was highly likely that a positive LFD COVID-19 result was a true positive. This meant confirmatory PCR tests were temporarily paused and reintroduced in March 2021 following a reduction in prevalence.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

Last term it was unfortunate that a handful of events, notably sporting fixtures, had to be cancelled. This term we have tentatively timetabled in a number of activities including another opportunity for you to come into your child's class to view their work and see assembly presentations. We hope that these will be able to go ahead but that you will understand if circumstances mean we have to postpone them. This could also be the case with curriculum events and sporting activities. Swimming lessons for Year 3 which begin next week are scheduled to go ahead as is the Dance Festival for Year 4. Mr. Whittle, with the support of Mr. Burn and Mr. Lucas, is trying to arrange football and netball matches and plans for a Book Week in March are being formulated. Weekly newsletters will inform you if and when all these things are happening.

Supporting a Child Required to Isolate at Home:

Once we are aware that a child is isolating at home having tested positive for COVID-19 we will make every effort to post work on Google Classroom for them to complete while they are away. There may be a slight delay before this work appears as staff during the day will be focused on teaching children in the classroom. While you wait for tasks to be posted there are a number of things you could guide your child towards completing.

- **Reading:** Each day your child should bring home a reading book. Reading is never a wasted activity and this term again we are making this part of the curriculum a focus. Your child, particularly if they are in KS2, is encouraged to make their own entries in their reading diary. These comments should vary from day to day. They might summarise the text they have read, they could pose a question for the author; they might note an unfamiliar word they have found the meaning of. The list is wide and they will have their own ideas from discussions in class as to what to record. We have sent out today recommended reading lists for each year group and booklets which are designed to support parents in hearing a child read. These have been circulated before and can also be found on Google Classroom.
- **Spelling:** Your child will have a set of weekly spelling words to learn plus a new set of Spelling Star words to familiarise themselves with during the term. They could spend some time learning these. It is best to write each word out using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' method. However, it is also a valuable exercise if they compose a sentence containing the word they are learning. This helps them to see it in context and at the same time they are focusing on sentence construction. Spelling booklets have also been sent to you today which contain lists of key words, spelling patterns to focus on and lots of ideas for how to support your child.
- **Maths:** Maths booklets have been emailed to you today which will guide you and your child in addressing specific areas of the maths curriculum. Revisiting times table facts and/or maths competency areas (often posted on Google Classroom) would be a useful place for your child to start if learning from home. There are also many useful websites which they can access free which focus on specific areas. We use several in school so your child will know which ones to search out. Some they might like to try are:
 - [IXL | Maths and English Practice](#)
 - [KS2 Maths - 65 Enjoyable Quizzes for Children aged 7 to 11 \(educationquizzes.com\)](#)
 - [Counting, Maths, Foundation - Interactive Whiteboard Resources - Topmarks](#)
 - [Most Popular Free Maths Games - Mathsframe](#)
 - [Math Games | Math Playground | Make Learning Fun](#)
 - [Games and Interactives \(maths.org\)](#)
- **Other curriculum areas:** There are also very many good learning platforms which have emerged since the pandemic began which we have directed the children to before during periods of remote learning. These include:
 - [Primary Teaching Resources - BBC Teach](#)
 - [KS1 - England - BBC Bitesize](#)
 - [KS2 - BBC Bitesize](#)
 - [All subjects - Early Years Foundation Stage - Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)
 - [All subjects - Key Stage 1 - Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)
 - [All subjects - Key Stage 2 - Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](#)

We hope that this will be of use to you and your child if they are unable to attend school for whatever reason.

P.E Timetable:

Thank you for taking note of the days that your child has P.E. and sending them in wearing the correct school kit. Please note, the P.E. timetable has slightly changed this term. Class P.E. lessons will take place on the following days:

EYFS : **Tuesday** and Thursday

Year 1: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 2: Monday and Tuesday

Year 3: **Monday** and Thursday (swimming lessons on Tuesday)

Year 4: Monday and Thursday

Year 5: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 6: Monday and Tuesday

For information on the correct P.E. kit and regular school uniform, please follow the link to our website: <https://www.holytrinitysch.co.uk/policies> Thank you for your support in naming all your child's kit.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Information for clubs where a booking needs to be made to secure a place has already been circulated. Please refer to the flyers sent out. The start date for all extra-curricular activities running this term and the arrangements for drop off/pick up are as follows:

Club	Year Group	Beginning:	Time	Arrangements for drop-off/pick-up
Breakfast Club	All	Currently up and running	Start time 8am each day of the week	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Spanish Club	Year 4	Monday 10 th January	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Playball	EYFS & Year 1	Monday 10 th January	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Junior Choir	Years 3 & 4	Tuesday 11 th January	Before school at 8am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Netball	Years 5 & 6	Tuesday 11 th January	Before school at 8am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Spanish Club	Year 2	Tuesday 11 th January	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Football Club	Years 5 & 6	Tuesday 11 th January	Finish time : 4:30pm	Collect from the back gate
Little Samurai	EYFS, Y1 & Y2	Tuesday 11 th January	Finish time: 4:00pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Spanish Club	Year 1	Wednesday 12 th January	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Spanish Club	Year 5	Wednesday 12 th January	Finish time: 3:50pm	Collect from the front entrance of school
Playball	EYFS & Year 1	Wednesday 12 th January	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Senior Choir	Years 5 & 6	Thursday 13 th January	Before school at 8am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Young Samurai	Years 3 - 6	Thursday 6 th January	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the back door of the school hall
Spanish Club	Year 3	Friday 14 th January	Before school at 8.20am	Arrive through the back door of the hall
Sewing Club	Year 2 – 6	Friday 7 th January	Finish time: 4:35pm	Collect from the front entrance of school
Knitting Club	Year 6	Friday 14 th January	Finish time: 4:15pm	Collect from the front entrance of school
IPro Football	Years 1 - 6	Friday 21 st January	Finish time: 4:30pm	Collect from the back gate

Some booster classes will also be restarting but you will be contacted directly by staff if your child is invited to attend.

Rock Steady Music School:

During curriculum time on a Wednesday morning some children work with Rocksteady playing in their own rock band. These lessons provide an opportunity for children to learn new skills, improve their understanding of the music curriculum, develop friendships and work as a team. The cost of lessons is £34.85 each month. To find out more go to <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/watch-video/> to see a short video outlining the programme and if you are interested in securing a place for your child in one of the sessions, either call the company's customer service line on 0330 113 0330 or email info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

Supporting the Royal British Legion:

This week we received a certificate and letter from the Royal British Legion thanking us for the £376.73 we raised in November. Thank you for your generosity.

Vacancy:

Finally, as you may have seen from the email at the beginning of the week, we have a vacancy for lunchtime cleaning and supervision. We are looking for someone five days a week from 10:45am – 1:15pm. If you or anyone you know may be interested in the role please contact Mrs. Streames-Smith in the school office. Thank you.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and that your child gets plenty of rest after working so hard this week.

Anna Smith

CALENDAR DATES

21 st January	Y6 Class Assembly (tbc)
28 th January	Y5 Class Assembly (tbc)
4 th February	Y4 Class Assembly (tbc)
8 th February	Internet Safety Day
11 th February	Y3 Class Assembly (tbc)
17 th February	Borough Dance Festival (Year 4)
Week beginning 14 th February	Open classrooms to view work



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