



### 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

### Drawing on our Vision and News from Around the School:

Having reached the end of Book Week, we hope your child has spoken positively about all the events which have taken place. Andrew Clover, actor, comic and author, made a huge impression on Monday. By the end of the day, every child had created a story from the scaffold he gave them with some awarded prizes for their efforts. Kate Cunningham, author of the Vlad series of books brought the Great Fire of London to life for Year 1 and 2 also on Monday and then on Tuesday all but two classes enjoyed an outing to the Little Bookshop in the village. We are enormously grateful to Chantal and her staff for the warm welcome they gave us.

On Wednesday, poet and author Simon Mole, who has visited our school before, spent time in every class guiding the children on a range of tasks which all led to every child creating a poem. We had great fun hearing some of the poems he has written and then having a go ourselves. After his visit, Cygnets completed a treasure hunt which took them around the school searching for pages from his book, 'I Love My Bike', a great story all about resilience. They needed plenty of it to complete the trail! In the afternoon it was the turn of Year 5 and 6 to visit the Little Bookshop. Whilst there they met author Nicki Thornton who has recently published her latest book, 'The Floating Witch Mystery'. As well as talking about her journey to becoming a writer, she was very happy to answer questions and sign books. Several left with a copy under their arm. Yesterday we heard from author Kate Poels who shared insight in to her personal connection with the characters in her latest book, 'On Wings to The Stars'. She gave us a signed copy before leaving which lots of the children are keen to borrow. This morning Reception Class met author Donna David, author of 'Trains, Trains, Trains' among many others. She read from her books and spoke about her love for writing.

During the week we have received some wonderful support from parents who have been in to share their skills and interests. Year 5 and 6 had a thought provoking session with Mr Cuin-Wood on Wednesday when he spoke about plot flaws in literature and film. A passionate debate ensued over specifics in J.K. Rowlings, 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'! Yesterday Jessie's and Teddy's grandmother, Aurelia Young, spoke to Year 6 about her father, sculptor Oscar Nemon, who she wrote about in her book, 'Finding Nemon'. He is remembered as one of the twentieth century's greatest sculptors, who met famous figures such as Winston Churchill, Sigmund Freud and Queen Elizabeth II. The children were fascinated by her stories. Ms. Castell was also in, reading from 'The Worst Witch' and as a writer of the TV show, explaining to the children the differences in writing a book and a script. The children took on acting and directing roles during the session considering what characters might say.

Collective Worship has taken us on a journey finding out about holy books. Every day, a book special to each of the main world religions was explored. These can be found on Google Classroom where all our assemblies are posted on a weekly basis.

Throughout the week every class has focused on the book, 'Our Tower' by the Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, to complete a range of cross-curricular activities. It contains beautiful illustrations and tells the story of three friends who feel the call of the wild as it whips past the high windows of the tower block where they live. They creep out of the block in search of adventure only to find that the magic of the ancient forest which they find themselves in is not so different from the magic right at home in their Tower. In essence, it shows that nature is everywhere and for everyone if only you look closely enough. Cygnets designed and labelled their own secret worlds, some with candy floss floors and colourful rainbows while Cormorants build dioramas to represent these magical worlds but also the flats in the tower block below which these strange lands can be found. Teals have enjoyed drama lessons in which they created urban and rural soundscapes to make sound collages inspired by the 'rustle and whoosh' in the book and Kingfishers used salt dough to make the stone necklaces which were so significant in the story. Goslings also made 'stone' viewfinders to help them spot the magic acts of kindness in our community. They hope to keep the magic alive! Moorhens spent time analysing the characters and themes in the book before choosing a quote from it that linked to our school vision. Working in teams, they then created a collaborative piece of art much like the pages in the book. Swans also had a go at recreating pictures from the story then thinking of adjectives to describe the scenes. They explored feelings associated with the colours used in the art work and used similar colours in their creations to evoke the same feelings. Every task was interesting and varied and to heighten the children's engagement.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Brittain and Mrs. Macmillan for coordinating our pre-loved book sale after school on Thursday. We are enormously grateful to them for providing the children with another opportunity to dive into a book. During the week, many have written book reviews on their favourite books which we have passed to Chantal. Pop in to her shop to see them displayed on book shelves. The older children also enjoyed sharing some of these books with the younger ones when we paired up for a buddy reading session earlier today. Our Key Stage 2 children did a great job testing the comprehension of their partner by asking a range of questions on the text they read together. We suggested they used some of the ideas on our 'Guide to Reading' booklet which has been emailed to you again should you find it useful when reading with your child.

Today we welcomed a professional string ensemble and ballerina in to school to deliver a concert based around Kenneth Grahame's children's classic, 'The Wind in the Willows' with music by Elgar performed by Toscana Strings and ballerina Laura Tye. The children appeared mesmerized by the performance which captured the story in a way they hadn't experienced before. It was magical.

If your child would like to see Toscana Strings perform again, they will be back as part of the Cookham Festival when they will be performing 'Monkey Puzzle' in the Odney Club on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. To book, go to: [Toscana Strings and Concertini present: Stories Set to Music - Monkey Puzzle at Sir Bernard Miller Centre event tickets from TicketSource](#)

We ended the week with a celebratory assembly at which the children looked magnificent dressed in their costumes. It was fun to spot all the characters appearing to walk out of the pages of the books they had chosen to represent. As well as celebrating our sports achievements and Stars of the Week as we always do, back by popular demand today was our book mark prizes. These were presented to the children who through their own love of reading promote the joy of diving into a book for others. It has been a wonderful week which we hope your child has spoken excitedly about.

For news and images of all the things which have happened during the week, go to our social media page on the social media platform X where stories are regularly posted.

#### **Parents' Evening:**

I hope you found the chance to speak to your child's class teacher(s) useful this week. We certainly enjoyed sharing with you news of their progress which we hope was evident when you came in to see their books during our most recent Open House three weeks ago. There will be other opportunities to come in to school next term and our open-door policy means that you are always welcome to speak to staff at the end of the day. Please don't hesitate to ask.

#### **Bags2Schools Event in Support of Partners for Change, Ethiopia:**

Our thanks go to Mrs. Ransome for coordinating our Bags2School event on Tuesday and to everyone who dropped clothing off. I was delighted to learn that your donations meant we raised £126.40 for Partners for Change, Ethiopia, which will go towards supporting the most disadvantaged communities in a bid to end child poverty.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March one of the charity workers will be coming to Holy Trinity to give us all an update on how the money we raised at Christmas has been spent supporting the children in Chole School. She is sure to have lots of good news to share.

#### **Extra-Curricular activities:**

For information about the clubs we are offering this term with details of club providers, please refer to last week's newsletter: [Newsletter 23\\_2\\_24.pdf \(holytrinitysch.co.uk\)](#)

#### **Mothering Sunday:**

This Sunday, (10<sup>th</sup> March), there will be a service at Holy Trinity Church at 11am and one at St John the Baptist at 4pm. Everyone is welcome. At each service the children will receive a small gift to give to their mum. The service at Holy Trinity Church is followed by tea and coffee in the Parish Centre and Families@4, at which some of our pupils will be performing, is followed by a buffet tea for the children in the vestry. A flyer has been sent to you today with details. Our thanks go to Angus, Y5, Daniel, Y4, Grace, Y3, Roderick, Y2, and Freddie in Y1 who will be taking part in the service and representing our school.

#### **Comic Relief:**

Next Friday is Comic Relief. To mark the event and help raise money for the charity, your child is invited to come to school in their usual school uniform but wearing odd socks and odd shoes. Buckets will be at the gate to collect donations. All the money we raise will be sent off to the charity to support them in their quest to create a just world free from poverty.

#### **Consultation on new SEN provision in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead:**

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is consulting local pupils, parents and community groups on proposals to add new provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). You can find out more about the proposals and give your views [here](#). The consultation will be open until midday on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### **Music Evening – 22<sup>nd</sup> May:**

As we have done in the past, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May we will be having a musical evening at which our choirs will perform. Mrs. Brown is also looking for children who have lessons in playing a musical instrument to entertain you. If your child would like to be part of our concert, now is the time for them to decide on which piece they might play. Auditions will be held at the end of April so there is still time for them to get it performance-ready.

Have a wonderful weekend celebrating Mothering Sunday.

Anna Smith

## CALENDAR DATES

12 <sup>th</sup> March	B team netball match vs All Saints Junior (home) - selected children informed by letter
14 <sup>th</sup> March	A team football match vs Lowbrook (away) - selected children informed by letter
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief event – odd socks and odd shoes day
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 afternoon Football Tournament at Claire's Court Junior School - selected children informed by letter
20 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Meeting (details tbc)

21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 5/6 A and B team football matches vs Holyport (away) - selected children informed by letter
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Inter PTA Netball Tournament (details tbc)
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert – 9:30am
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church (tbc)
28 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term – Easter break begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)
29 <sup>th</sup> March - 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holiday
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Summer Term
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
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Musical Evening at school 6:30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> May	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
7 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Disco (details tbc)
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Arts and Culture Week
10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Window for completion of Year 1 Phonics Screening
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 Week
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	End of Term – Summer Holiday begins (normal finish time: 3:15pm)