



Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 27

24th April 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

4th: Bank Holiday
5th: Governors In School Day
8th: Y5 @ Cookham Festival
11th: Y6 SATs Week
12th: Y5 @ Ashmolean Museum
15th: Class Photos
15th: Y5 STT Meeting @ 3.30pm
17th-23rd: Y6 @ Rhosy
18th: Walk To School Week
19th: Reception @ Braywick Nature Reserve
22nd: Mix Up Maths

June

5th: PTA Non-Uniform Day
5th: Everybody Writes Day
8th: Healthy Schools Week
8th: Sports Day
9th: R & KS1 Drama Workshop
9th-12th: Y6 Bikeability
15th: SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am
18th: PTA Summer Disco
19th: Inset Day
22nd: Y3 @ Ufton Court
27th: Summer Fete

July

1st: Musical Soiree @ 6pm
9th: Spanish Assembly
13th: SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am
15th: Rocksteady Concert @ 1.30pm

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

APRIL / MAY

Tuesday 28th:

* Y2 @ White Waltham Airfield

Wednesday 29th:

* Y5 Play @ 6pm

Thursday 30th:

* Berkshire Music Trust Assembly
* PTA Meeting @ 8pm

Friday 1st:

* PTA Child Choice Day
* Y4 @ Chiswick Thames Trip
* Caterlink Taster Session @ 2.30pm

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

This week we were fortunate enough to have a visit from GoodGym. They spent the evening at school doing odd jobs - cleaning the outside banisters and removing old furniture. The work that they do is completely free and we are very grateful for their help. Hopefully they will be back soon for some more jobs!

OFSTED

As you know from previous newsletters, we are expecting a visit from Ofsted this term. In previous newsletters we have issued information as well as a YouTube clip that you can watch but please see attached a letter from the local authority's Deputy Director of Education explaining the high expectations that Ofsted are expecting. When we get the call, we are given 1 days notice and then they visit the next day. Ofsted will ask for your views and you will receive a link to complete a questionnaire on the day.

SPORTS DAY

We are trying a slightly different format this year and are using sports day to kick start our healthy schools week. So sports day will run from 9.30am on Monday 8th June. As per our last newsletter if you are able to help with Healthy Schools Week, please let the office know - thank you. During Healthy Schools Week, the children will be able to wear their PE kit every day. We have an exciting timetable arranged for the children which will include skipping, fencing, golf, yoga, dance, skateboarding and scooting.

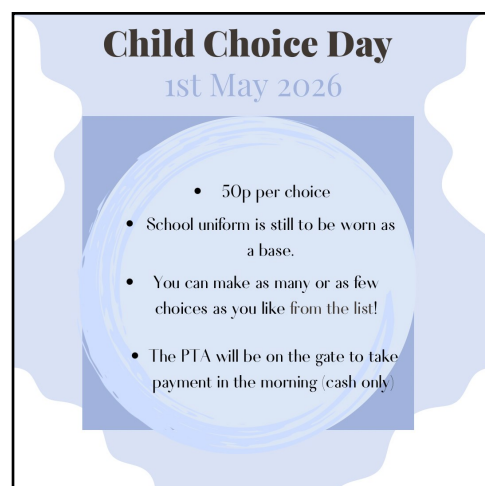
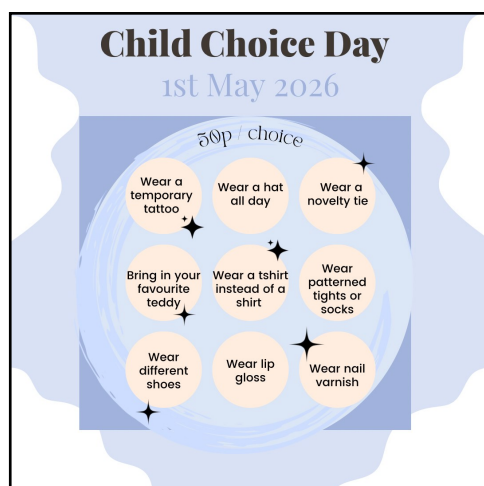
PLAY EQUIPMENT ON PLAYGROUND

Can you please make sure that your children do not play on the play equipment on the playground and field either before or after school. Thank you.

CATERLINK

A reminder that a Caterlink taster session will be held in the hall next Friday 1st May at 2.30pm with our school cook, Charlotte. Please let the office know if you would like to attend so that we can ensure there are enough portions.

PTA CHILD CHOICE DAY



SCHOOL NEWS

SWIMARATHON 2026



Huge congratulations to our Swimarathon winners!! The Maidenhead Lions have awarded Cookham Dean School the prize for raising the most money of all the participants at this years' Swimarathon! Between us we raised a whopping **£4,476.50** - just ahead of Cookham Rise. The funds will be shared between the local charities that the Lions support and our own PTA. This year's event was a high energy fun filled affair - as usual we had so many participants that we took up the WHOLE pool and everyone swam their hearts out. This is a massive achievement - and is thanks to the efforts of our kids and all of the parents and families who supported them. THANK YOU!

Nina Griffith, Year 2 & 4 Parent

LONDON MARATHON 2026

★ Good luck to the running club coaches (Ben, Sam and Kate) and running club parents (Mich and Kim) running the London Marathon on Sunday!! Good luck from everyone at running club! ★

Tori Dixon, Running Club

PTA MEETING

Just a reminder the next PTA meeting is next Thursday 30th April 8pm at The Jolly Farmer. As part of the meeting we will be holding an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) to vote to adopt a new constitution and elect new committee members.

You can find the agenda and a copy of the proposed new constitution on the PTA page of the school website: www.cookhamdean.org/pta/

Everyone is welcome as always!

Marie Hepworth, PTA Secretary

FOOTBALL

On Monday 20th April most of the girls in Year 6 went to play football against Cookham Rise. It was a challenging match as we hadn't played in a while, but we tried our best and sadly lost 2/0. The girls of the game were Francesca and Flo for their excellent football, and we all showed resilience and sportsmanship during the game. Cookham Rise were a great sport, and we hope to play them again in the summer term.

By Bella & Lili, Year 6

ANTELOPE PARK DONATIONS

Hi everyone! I'm heading to Antelope Park in South Africa this July to volunteer, and I've been given the opportunity to take along a small selection of donated items to support their community programmes, animal care, and conservation/education projects. If anyone would like to contribute something small, it would be hugely appreciated and will make a genuine difference. I've included a short list of useful items below for anyone who may be able to help.

Thank you so much.

Miss G, OPAL Lead

Community & Education

Pens, pencils, markers

Children's books & activity books (ages 3-13)

Arts & crafts supplies

Stationery (exercise books, chalk, scissors)

Basic medicines (cold/flu, lozenges)

Board games & puzzles

Horse & Stable Care

Horse tack or grooming items

Vet/first aid supplies

Hoof ointment, arnica gel, aloe vera

Boots (tendon/travel)

Polocrosse balls

Lion Project

Vitamins (A & B)

Natural oils (lavender, eucalyptus, catnip)

Boomer Balls (10"+)

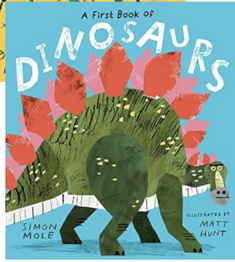
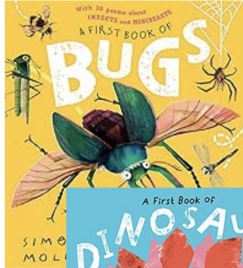
Fly traps

Tools (gloves, tape, padlocks, etc.)



SCHOOL NEWS

COOKHAM FESTIVAL



Bugs & Dinosaurs
with Simon Mole:
Poems that wriggle
and stomp
and chomp!

- Saturday 2 May 1.30 - 2.30pm
- Holy Trinity Church,
Cookham
- Tickets: £5 per child
(parents free!)

Whether you're mad about mini-beasts or dino-obsessed, join poet and performer Simon Mole for a joyful, interactive session inspired by his brilliant books *A First Book of Bugs* and *A First Book of Dinosaurs*.

Packed with playful poems, wacky games, and plenty of audience participation, Simon inspires young readers to get creative and celebrate the wonders of the natural world, the power of imagination, and the fun of language.

Suitable for children ages 4+ and their families.

Click the QR code to
purchase your ticket
or call TicketSource on:
0333 666 44 66



ROAD SAFETY

SCOOTER SQUAD

**ALWAYS
WEAR A HELMET**



**DO NOT SCOOT
ACROSS ROADS**



**USE THE
GREEN CROSS CODE**



**BE AWARE OF
OTHER PEDESTRIANS**



My Travel
Choices

The 6 Rs - CHAMPION OF THE WEEK!

Each week we celebrate children across the school who have encompassed a number of our values:

Readiness, Reflective, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Responsibility and Respect.



Reception

Holden



Year 1

Jake

Year 2

Jacob

Year 3

Blossom

Year 4

Orla & Toby

Year 5

Mrs Hamilton

Year 6

Archie



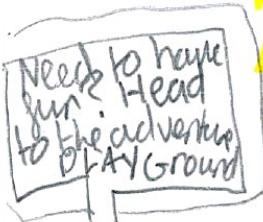
RAY MILL ISLAND

Ray Mill Island is a small island near Baulers Lock which is by the riverside. There is much to do. Ray Mill island is the perfect place to visit with your family and friends for a fun day out! Ray Mill island have got very cute animals that you can visit, such as guinea-pigs, different types of birds, and lots, lots more! Ray Mill island are very keen on nature and they have bat boxes, which keep bats warm and safe, they have bird boxes which birds warm and safe. Ray Mill island have 200 trees!!!

PLEASE HELP RAY MILL ISLAND
LOOK AFTER IT'S NATURE AND
BEAUTY!!!



fun

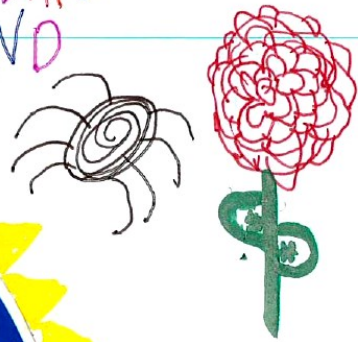


Things you'll love about Ray Mill Island!!!

- They have a knitted bird trail!
- Come to Ray Mill island on Saturday afternoons to help out!
- Forget to bring lunch? NO PROBLEM! There is a Café for you to visit!

BECOME
A
FRIEND
OF
RAY
MILL
ISLAND!

just ask anyone who works on Ray Mill island!



SCHOOL NEWS

FREE SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY WORKSHOPS

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to invite you to take part in our **free online school-age language development workshops**, run by the Berkshire Healthcare Speech and Language Therapy team. These workshops are designed to support parents and carers of school-aged children in primary school. They provide practical, easy-to-use strategies to help develop children's language, communication and listening skills at home. The first workshops will be:

Wednesday 29 April / 9.30-10.30am

Supporting children and young people with limited communication

- Does your child struggle to pay attention to you?
- Do they struggle to use words to communicate?

The School Age Speech and Language Therapy Team will be sharing ways you can support your child's speech, language and communication development.

[USE OUR ONLINE FORM TO REGISTER](#)

Monday 11 May / 1.30-2.30pm

Supporting understanding of language in school age children

- Does your child struggle to follow the instructions that are given to them?
- Do they find it difficult to understand and answer questions?

The School Age Speech and Language Therapy Team will be talking about different strategies that may support your child.

[USE OUR ONLINE FORM TO REGISTER](#)

The workshops are delivered online, so you can join from home, and there is no need for a referral. You can find details of the workshops and how to book a place [HERE](#).

We hope you find these sessions helpful and look forward to hearing your feedback at the end.

*Julie Coveney, Speech & Language Therapist
Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies (CYPIT)
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead*

RBWM SCOOTER CAMPAIGN

Scooter Squad

We are excited to launch our new **Scooter Squad** campaign, encouraging children to enjoy travelling to and from school on their scooters—**safely, confidently, and responsibly**.

Scooting is a fun and healthy way to get around, but it's important that everyone follows safe practices to keep themselves and others protected. With this in mind, we are asking all members of our school community to support the following key safety messages:



Scooter Squad Safety Rules

Always Wear a Helmet

Wearing a helmet is the most effective way to prevent head injuries. Please ensure helmets fit correctly, are securely fastened, and are worn every time a scooter is used.

Be Aware of Other Pedestrians

Paths can be busy during school travel times. Scooters should be ridden at a sensible speed, keeping to the left, slowing down near others, and never weaving between pedestrians.

Do Not Scoot Across Roads

Scooting across the road is dangerous. Children should **stop, dismount, and walk** their scooter when crossing any road or driveway.

Use the Green Cross Code

Students should follow the full Green Cross Code when crossing:

Think – Find a safe place to cross

Stop – Behind the kerb

Look & Listen – All around

Together We Can Make Scooting Safer

By following these simple safety steps, our children can enjoy all the benefits of scooting while keeping themselves and others safe. We encourage families to discuss these rules together and help reinforce them on the journey to and from school. Thank you for supporting the **Scooter Squad** and helping us promote safe, active travel in our community.



SCHOOL NEWS

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

In celebration of David Attenborough's 100th birthday, Year 6 decided to write reports about the Yellow Spotted Lizard from Holes (their current book) in his signature style.

By Archie

From the freezing cold of the polar biomes to the scorching heat of the desert, some of the most striking but deadly creatures sleep in the shade of their burrow...

Here, in Texas, a family of Yellow-Spotted Lizards lie in the only shade of the barren desert biome. These remarkable creatures are about to start their day (at the crack of dawn) to catch their prey.

Crawling out of their burrow - the lizards are on alert for threats such as birds. This male lizard has found what it is looking for... a termite mound. But unfortunately for the lizard, a visitor has beat him to it: an antelope. Despite the lizard being ten times smaller than it, these ant-loving creatures are generally harmless, herbivores.

Narrowing its eyes, the lizard is not happy. At incredible speed - it begins the kill.

2 metres...

1 metre...

Pounce!

Bitting into the antelope's back leg, the lizard injects its powerful venom. Its canine teeth still latched on, the antelope falls down, paralyzed. Its piercing screech echoes through the morning and slowly dies down as the poison spreads throughout its body.

Dead.

Finally, peace and quiet.

The lizard begins to enjoy both of its fresh meals, tearing the flesh and bone off the antelope also dominating the termite mound. Sadly, the Lizard has ended its feast. Above, the fastest bird on the planet circles patiently over the termite mound. A Peregrine falcon. Immediately, the lizard lies flat on its black belly, blending seamlessly within the earth. Its bright, yellow spots are nowhere to be seen because of the blinding sun.

The danger has been avoided. Or has it? As the sun towers to its highest point - even the lizards know it is time to escape the unbearable heat. They retreat to the refuge and shade of their burrow, ready for a cold night. (Temperatures can drop to -25 degrees at so they must stay close together to conserve body heat.)

Because in this ruthless wasteland, food is scarce water is rare and teamwork is key to survival.

By Stanley

In the bare withering wind of a scorched desert where a variety of creatures live, there is one very special spectacle: the yellow spotted lizard. Funnily enough, we have spotted one on its morning walk.

Peering out of the burrow stretching its legs, it automatically catches a scent: an ant's nest.

On his way, the lizard encounters an unwanted visitor, the scorpion. A classic fight: both poisonous, both deadly. The lizard stands its ground whilst the scorpion attacks hissing and rattling. The scorpion misses, as its swings in perfect time for the lizard to pierce his fangs into the scorpion.

Crisis over.

Time to eat at last... lunch, licking his lips, the yellow spotted lizard dips his long, searching tongue into the miniscule opening of the ant's nest. All those ants march into the belly of the beast.

As the sun goes down contented lizard retreats to the burrow - ready for the night.



WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

Each week we will be letting you know in this newsletter, a snapshot of what the children have been learning in class. For an overview of the term's work, please go to the [class pages](#) on our website where you will find more information.

Reception	This week in Phonics Reception have been practising and learning to blend and read longer words. They have also been learning and writing some of their new set of tricky words. In Maths the children have been focusing on the numbers 10 - 20 and thinking about the composition of these numbers. They have also been working on counting on beyond 20 and noticing patterns in the counting system. In Literacy the children have continued to learn about their text 'Are you a spider? – Judy Allen' and have learned about and labelled the lifecycle of a spider, described a spider and learned about the parts of a spider. In PSED we have started our new topic about our wellbeing, this week we focused on why exercise is important for the body and which exercises we enjoy doing to keep healthy.
Year 1	Year 1 have been exploring questions in English, using our class book <i>Dogs Don't Do Ballet</i> to help us think carefully about what we want to ask. The children enjoyed creating their own questions and even wrote thoughtful ones to ask Dad. In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of multiplication and division by making equal groups and adding them together before moving on to arrays. In Science, we have been learning about materials and identifying what different objects are made from. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm across all subjects this week.
Year 2	Year 2 have had a fantastic week! In English, we have been exploring our new text <i>Grandad's Island</i> . We have been building our vocabulary to describe jungle settings and writing from the point of view of different characters, focusing on their thoughts and feelings. In Maths, we have completed our topic on mass, capacity, and temperature and have now started our new unit on fractions. In History, we learned about the life of the Wright Brothers and were able to place key events from their lives in chronological order. We are very excited about our upcoming trip to White Waltham Airfield next Tuesday!





WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

Each week we will be letting you know in this newsletter, a snapshot of what the children have been learning in class. For an overview of the term's work, please go to the class pages on our website where you will find more information.

Year 3	Year 3 have had a wonderful week in the sunshine! In Maths, we have been using litres and millilitres to identify different volumes. In English, we really enjoyed writing comic strips based on our book, 'Lights on Cotton Rock.' In Science, we conducted an experiment to see how water is transported through plants by placing celery in coloured water.
Year 4	This week we have been very busy with character writing in English and fractions in maths. We have also started our violin lessons, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. In art we have been using still life to use tints and shades to paint three-dimensional pictures.
Year 5	It has been a fun week in Year 5. We have been adding the finishing touches to our production of Ye Ha and look forward to showing the school on Monday! On top of that, the children wrote some fantastic setting descriptions, imagining they had summited Everest. They used plenty of figurative language which had been a focus! In maths, we have been continuing our work on decimals. I hope everyone has a nice weekend.
Year 6	This week in Year 6 has been full of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we have been focusing on geometry, exploring triangles and circles. The children have been applying their knowledge in a practical way by finding the area and circumference of circles out in the playground, which has been a great hands-on experience. In Science, we have been investigating the circulatory system, with a particular focus on the heart and how it works to keep our bodies healthy. In PE, we have been practising yoga, developing our balance, flexibility and mindfulness. In PSHE, we have been learning about economics and discussing what money means to us, including how we earn, spend and save it. It has been a fantastic week of learning - well done, Year 6!

