



Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 22

6th March 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

16th: Neurodiversity Celebration Week
17th: Little Musketeers Assembly
20th: Everybody Writes Day
20th: Red Nose Day
21st: World Down Syndrome Day
24th: Easter Service
25th: Rocksteady Concert @ 1.30pm
26th: Sponsored Elephant Run for Thames Hospice
27th: Y3 Swimming Finishes
27th: Easter Bonnet Parade
27th: Break Up @ 2.15pm

April

13th: Inset Day
14th: Return To School
21st: Governors In School Day

May

1st: Child Choice Day
1st: Y4 @ Chiswick Thames Trip
1st: Caterlink Taster Session
4th: Bank Holiday
8th: Y5 @ Cookham Festival
11th: Y6 SATs Week
12th: Y5 @ Ashmolean Museum
15th: Class Photos
17th: Y6 @ Rhosy
18th: Walk To School Week
22nd: Mix Up Maths

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

MARCH

Monday 9th:

* Parents Evening (Y1)

Tuesday 10th:

* Wild Worship Day
* Parents Evening (All)

Thursday 12th:

* Y4 @ Chiltern Open Air Museum
* Y3 Stone Age Extravaganza
* Parents Evening (R & Y2-6)

Friday 13th:

* Y3 Swimming

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

How wonderful to have the 1 day of warmth and sunshine! The daffodils and crocuses are flowering and we are getting drier weather. However, our field is taking a long time to recover so is still quite muddy. Please encourage your children to change into their outdoors shoes if they wish to play on the field - saves our carpets and yours too!

Thank you to all the staff and PTA that made last night such a success. The children absolutely love coming back to school in their pyjamas - and the hot chocolate was a great success! Well done to Mrs Rai and her team.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to the 32 parents who completed the parent questionnaire. Please find attached the results with comments on what we are doing well and what we could do better. I have tried to capture the comments here - there are some common themes e.g. reporting on progress, outdoor learning, behaviour but if I have not answered your comment, please do drop me an email. Thank you.

APPLE THE ELEPHANT

Mrs Phillpot (our Chair of Governors), Jan (a local artist) and Mrs Reekie looked through all the designs this week and we have chosen a design by **Evie** and **Bea** in **Year 5**. Their design featured our apple tree which was why it was chosen but there were some fabulous entries. Well done to everyone. Apple the elephant will be painted by the children over the next few weeks before being varnished and then whisked off to be part of the art trail.

You should have received an email regarding our sponsored run on March 26th. We have asked all the children to raise £10 each if possible so that we can smash our target of £1,500. A JustGiving page has been set up to make it easy! All the children will take part in the sponsored run from Reception to Year 6 - we may persuade some teachers to take part too!

EASTER

You are all invited to our Easter Service at St John the Baptist Church on Tuesday 24th March at 9.30am. On the last day of term, the children will be asked to bring in newspaper to make an Easter bonnet - please start collecting!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mrs O'Brien, our Year 3 teacher Wednesday - Friday, who is expecting her second child in September. She will continue to teach Year 3 until the end of the academic year. I know that Year 3 will look after her as her pregnancy progresses!

GOODBYE

Mrs Thompson, our Year 3 teacher Mondays and Tuesdays has decided to take early retirement at the end of this academic year. She has worked at Cookham Dean Primary School for 27 years as class teacher, deputy headteacher, headteacher and then back into the classroom. She has been an amazing support for all staff and has been an integral part of the school community. We will miss her but she will be on our books for supply!

SCHOOL NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

What an amazing feel around the school this week!

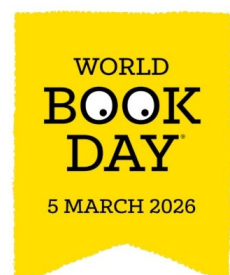
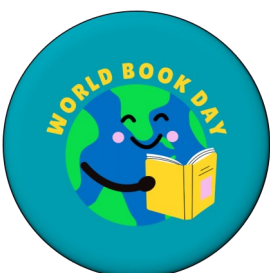
We started our countdown to World Book Day, 'Go All In', last Thursday when our Books Worms led an assembly. This year, on Monday, we started the week with an online lesson with Michael Rosen and friends discussing how to write and illustrate stories about global food. On Tuesday we had the largest turn out, with over 59 children and their parents for our Breakfast with Books. It was really lovely seeing all the parents sharing books with pancakes and croissants. Later that morning, KS2 had a visit from Sue Palmer, who inspired all of us with her insight and knowledge on how she gets her ideas for writing her books, with many children buying a signed copy of her latest book. If you missed out buying one you can purchase her books from The Little Book Shop in Cookham. On Thursday, children spent time guessing 'A Hint of a Book,' with their classmates, spent time reading all the teachers' jokes at playtime and lunchtime, which were hidden around the playground and field, shared their 'Book in a Box' with the class, and carried out reading activities in their classes and outside in the lovely weather. Some classes took part in a footie book quiz and most classes joined the BBC live lesson. Year 6 joined an online workshop with Kate Pankhurst and then we finished off the day with bedtime stories and hot chocolate at Storytelling Night. On Friday Reception and KS1 children had a visit from a local author, Amanda Boulding, who shared her picture books with each class. Next week Reception and KS1 have another visit from Simon Mole. Details of this and the winners of 'Book in a Box' will be announced in the newsletter next Friday.

The children and staff have had a fantastic week!

Miss Thompson, Reading Lead

**Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026**

**GO
ALL
IN.**



SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 6 NETBALL

The Year 6 netball team travelled to St Edmund Campion for an exciting match this week. The team worked extremely well together, moving the ball around the court with great teamwork and fluid passing. Archie and Flo were particularly impressive in the shooting circle, showing excellent accuracy and composure to convert chances into goals. Their strong attacking play helped us build a solid lead. It was also great to welcome Ayva to the squad for the first time. She fitted in well and it was fantastic to have her involved in the match. Overall, we delivered a confident performance and came away with a resounding 11-5 victory. The team should be very proud of their effort and teamwork!

50:50 CLUB

Congratulations to the March
50:50 Club winners:

1st prize - Emma Fulton Lee

2nd prize - Barbara Croft

WINNERS

FREE ONLINE TALK



FREE online talk by
Jane Keyworth
FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online
www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Parents - Live Talks page

FAMILIES@4

This Sunday is our next Families@4. Please join us at St John the Baptist at 4pm for a wonderful service led by our Pupils4Priase, followed by a high tea spread provided by the parish community. Everyone is welcome.

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.



Year 1

Maisie



Year 2

Mrs Thrift

Year 3

Harvey

Year 4

Orla

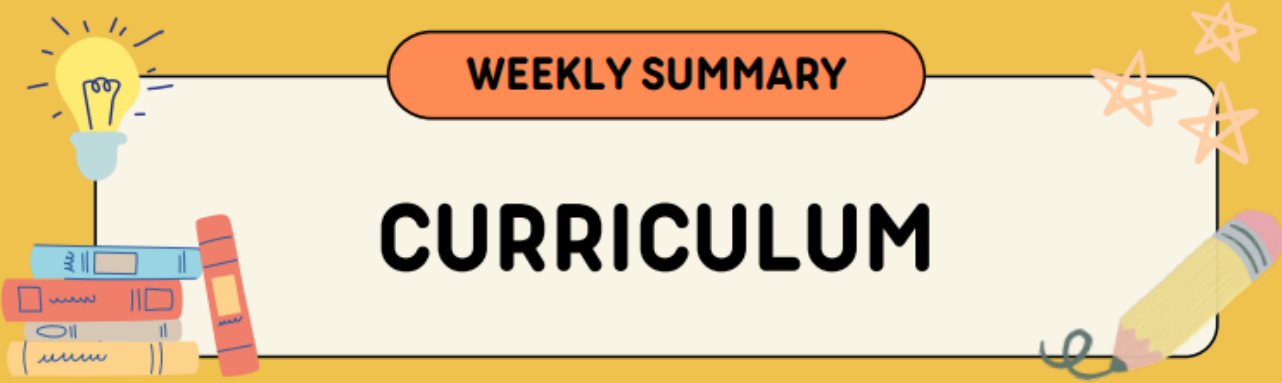
Year 5

Annabelle

Year 6

Dylan





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 Reception have worked hard on their Phonics as well as their handwriting. In Literacy they have been working on their new text 'Goodnight Gorilla' by Peggy Rathmann by writing predictions based on the title and illustrations on the first couple of pages. They have also really enjoyed the World Book Day activities whilst being dressed as some of their favourite book characters and it has been brilliant seeing some of the Book in a Box entries. We are looking forward to our author visit next week. In Maths we finished our length, measurement and time learning by working on sequencing events in order such as sequencing the steps for home time and making a jam sandwich. We also started our new topic of spotting, noticing representations, building and comparing numbers 9 and 10. The children also made their own class number representations book. In Art, we enjoyed learning more about Spring time and using materials we had foraged to make Spring mandalas.
Year 1	Year 1 have been busy writing their own stories inspired by <i>The Girl with the Yellow Bag</i> . They carefully planned their ideas first, thinking about the characters, setting, and what might happen in their story before beginning to write. In Maths, we have continued learning about numbers to 50, and this week we practised placing them on a number line and estimating where different numbers belong. In Geography, we learned about compass points and what they help us to find. We also went outside to explore our school grounds and worked together to discover which direction was north.
Year 2	In English this week we have started exploring our new text 'Cottonwool Colin' and created story maps to order the key events in the story and have been writing summaries. We have also been busy engaging in some writing activities in light of 'World Book Day.' In Maths, we have come to the end of our Multiplication and Division topic and some children are confidently able to count forwards and backwards in multiples of 2, 3, 5 and 10. Please encourage your child to take part in the TTRS tournament to gain speed in answer maths sums. In Geography, we revisited the seas/ocean surrounding the United Kingdom, identified features of a coast and used Google Earth to explore and locate 5 different coastlines around the UK.



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 English, we have been writing diary entries as if we were one of the main characters and in Maths, we have successfully been calculating the perimeter of rectangles. In History, we used archaeological evidence to learn about prehistoric dwellings of Skara Brae. However, the highlight of our week has been all the wonderful World Book Day activities. I was really impressed with the thought and creativity that went into all the story boxes and Year 3 had great fun trying to identify the book from all the great clues.
Year 4	What a busy and exciting week we have had. The highlight being World Book Day. We had quite a few children who shared their 'book in a box' and 4 children beat all of us, with their great story boxes. None of us guessed their stories, which was really exciting. The children had to guess one of my favourite childhood books, which was wrapped up with clues written on it. Well done to the children who guessed correctly! We completed many activities, including a word search on authors. The children had to choose an author they hadn't heard of before and then wrote a fact file about them. We have also started our new history topic by asking questions about what we want to find out about the Anglo-Saxons. We finished our last lesson in science by learning about the importance of the water cycle and in maths we converted units of measurement and have started looking at finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes. A very busy week for us but don't forget to pop into the library in Maidenhead over the weekend. We also have our 4@4 service in church on Sunday and I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it.
Year 5	It has been a great week in Year 5. In English, the children have been writing a narrative from the perspective of Kensuke, using parenthesis to show his inner thoughts. In maths, we have been continuing our work on multiplying fractions, focusing on finding the whole. Also, in geography, we have started a new unit on the Alps. We had a great discussion about the recent Winter Olympics and looked at the countries that dominated in certain disciplines. In particular, the Alps countries dominating downhill skiing. I hope everyone has a great weekend!
Year 6	This week in Year 6 we have been celebrating World Book Week, and it has been a fantastic opportunity to share our love of reading. The highlight of the week was a visit from author Sue Palmer, who spoke to the children about her writing and how the seashore has inspired many of her ideas. Pupils enjoyed hearing about the creative process behind her stories and had the chance to ask thoughtful questions about becoming an author. In Geography, we have been learning about different energy sources, discussing renewable and non-renewable energy and considering how energy choices impact our world. Linked to our class book <i>Darwin's Dragons</i> , we have also been exploring the Galápagos Islands, learning about their unique wildlife and environment. The children have been fascinated by how this remarkable location connects to ideas about exploration and discovery.

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



MAIDENHEAD FESTIVAL

SOUND LAB

UNLEASH YOUR INNER MUSICIAN AT THE SOUND LAB!

This May Half Term, dive into the world of music at Maidenhead Festival's Sound Lab—a fun, hands-on experience for all ages!



Dates: Wed 8th & Thurs 9th April 2026
Time: 10am - 3pm
Location: Nicholson Shopping Centre

FREE ENTRY

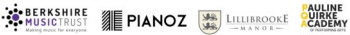


- Try instruments like trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, flutes, and pianos
- Join The Piano Sessions - showcase your talent, inspired by Channel 4's The Piano
- Plus other workshops to be announced!
- Fun for all-kids and adults welcome!

Don't miss this chance to explore music and discover your hidden talents!



Our Partners:




SIGN UP TODAY LIMITED SPACES 10% OFF ENDS MIDNIGHT MARCH 15TH

IPro FOOTBALL

EASTER CAMPS

10% OFF ALL BOOKINGS BY 15TH MARCH

CAMP 1 - 30TH MARCH - 1ST APRIL
CAMP 2 - 7TH APRIL - 9TH APRIL

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL 3G

GREAT CAMP DAYS NEWS! 08:30AM - 5:00PM

SCAN ME TO BOOK



CALL 07908 172175, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR EMAIL US AT OFFICE@IPROFOOTBALLCOACHING.CO.UK

[IPROFOOTBALLCOACHING](https://www.iprofootballcoaching.co.uk) @ IPROFOOTBALL

AUDERE
PURE

After years of dreaming, learning, blending,
and testing.

We created something truly honest and pure for
our loved one's skin.

As a thank you.
Use **AUDPTA** at checkout and
we'll give 5% back to our
school.



Scan me to find out more:

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

FREE FUN FEMALE ONLY SESSION

SUN MARCH 29TH
2026

1.00-2.00PM

Bike and equipment will be provided and 12 participants can be accommodated, so places are limited. We aim to run these sessions monthly.

Participants need to be able to ride an ordinary bike and stand up and pedal.

Participants also need to wear long trousers, ideally jeans. NO Leggings.

- ✓ Female Only Session
- ✓ BMX exercises
- ✓ Skills & BMX techniques
- ✓ Fun games & mini laps



**HAWKS
BMX
CLUB**



HAYES HAWKS BMX TRACK

Lake Farm Country Park, Dawley Road,
Hayes, UB3 1EJ

Registration via email

hello@hawksbmx.co.uk

The Free Session will be run by a
Female Coach, Harriet Alexander



FREE TO ENTER - SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK
THEGREATSCHOOLRUN.ORG



IN
AID
OF

Ben
Duchenne

THE GREAT SCHOOL RUN

AT STONOR PARK
SUNDAY 17 MAY · 9.30AM

CROSS COUNTRY RACES

FOR ALL LOCAL NURSERY AND
SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 3-17
AND FOR THEIR GROWN-UPS
AND SCHOOL STAFF!



STONOR

BINGO Bangers

BY CHANEL

JOIN US FOR FUN, FIZZ AND BINGO

27TH MARCH 7.30 PM

COOKHAM DEAN VILLAGE HALL

BOOK HERE

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO WORLD VILLAGES ANE NSPCC