



Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 21

27th February 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

10th: Wild Worship Day
9th: Parents Evening (Y1)
10th: Parents Evening (R & Y2-6)
12th: Y4 @ Chiltern Open Air Museum
12th: Y3 Stone Age Extravaganza
12th: Parents Evening (All)
16th: Neurodiversity Celebration Week
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
4th: Bank Holiday
8th: Y5 @ Cookham Festival

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

MARCH

Tuesday 3rd:

- * Breakfast with Books @ 8am
- * KS2 Author Visit

Thursday 5th:

- * World Book Day - Wear a Hint of a Book
- * Book in a Box
- * PTA Storytelling Night

Friday 6th:

- * Y3 Swimming
- * Report Cards Out

Sunday 8th:

- * Families@4

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

We all got a bit excited with the lovely weather this week but still make sure that your child brings in a coat and has their outdoor shoes in school. OPAL has been difficult with all the mud but we have still managed to get out in all weathers. Hopefully the bikes and scooters will be back out next week - they are currently caked in mud but being serviced and cleaned up this weekend by Dan Pearson - thanks Dan!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all 32 parents who completed the questionnaire and results will be issued in next weeks newsletter.

FAMILIES@4

Our next Families@4 will be on Sunday 8th March at 4pm where children will be looking at stories of Mary from the bible, making posies for the women in their lives and finishing it all off with a high tea spread laid on by the parish community. This service is led by our Pupils4Praise and is such a wonderful community event. Please do join us.

PARENTS EVENING REMINDER

Parents evenings will take place for all year groups in the hall on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th March - apart from Year 1 which will take place on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th March (Monday meetings will take place in the classroom). The booking system will open on Monday 2nd March at 3pm; you will receive a link at this time to book your appointment.

OPAL

Welcome back after half term - we hope you all had a lovely break. Fingers crossed for some sunshine this term so we can bring more equipment and activities back outside. We are hoping to organise a Parent Helper Day where families can join us to build and create new play items, so please keep an eye out for further information. We also hope to reschedule the Parent Playdate soon and will share details about this shortly. To learn more about the power of playtime, click [HERE](#).

Miss G, OPAL Lead

WORLD BOOK DAY REMINDER

Don't forget to sign up for Breakfast with Books on Tuesday at 8am. Next Thursday, children are invited to come to school wearing a hint of their favourite book, bringing the book along with them, as well as their 'Book in a Box' to share with their classmates. PTA's Storytelling Night will also take place on Thursday.

PARENT GOVERNOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Please welcome Michelle Patiar as your newly elected Parent Governor. Many of you will know Mich from her role as PTA Treasurer. She has two children at the school, in Year 1 and Year 3. Mich is looking forward to working collaboratively on your behalf with the governing board, "asking constructive questions and championing decisions that benefit all pupils".

Claire Phillpot, Chair of Governors

SCHOOL NEWS

FLUTES

We have two nearly new flutes available. If you would like one, they are free in exchange for a donation to the school. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

YEAR 6 EASTER CRACKED EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday 24th February, Cookham Dean Primary School Year 6 travelled to Boyne Hill Baptist Church to take part in an event. We were taught about the Easter Story. We were then given a clipboard and pen and explored around the church: finding different stations explaining the Easter Story that led up to Jesus's death. Afterwards, we were split into two groups and made crosses using origami and learnt about communion, the body and blood of Christ and how different churches participate. Next, we witnessed how a baptism takes place: with the prayers and full submersion. Overall, we learnt a lot and had a great time.

By Leo, Year 6

RAIL SAFETY



The poster for the Rail Safe Friendly Programme features a blue background with a yellow lightning bolt logo on the left. The text 'THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME' is prominently displayed in yellow and white. Below this, it states 'The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over 3 million young people on the dangers of the railways.' A QR code is centered, with 'SCAN ME' written below it. To the right of the QR code is a photo of a young boy, Simon Frazer, with the text 'I implore you to listen to Harrison's story' and 'Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy'. On the left, there are two polaroid-style photos of railway tracks. At the bottom, two yellow boxes contain statistics: 'According to the ORR Report, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways: 12 people died in accidents while trespassing, 58% were struck by a train or tram, 42% were electrocuted' and 'According to Rail Safe Friendly, July 25: 120+ companies support the programme, 11,000+ schools in the UK have engaged, 20,000+ UK schools still need to be reached'.

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:

- 12** people died in accidents while trespassing
- 58%** were struck by a train or tram
- 42%** were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

- 120+** companies support the programme
- 11,000+** schools in the UK have engaged
- 20,000+** UK schools still need to be reached

CATERLINK COMPETITION

We're excited to announce a fantastic competition for your children! We need their help to design some vibrant foodie wall art for Caterlink.

We invite children to let their imaginations run wild and create an **A4 page of colourful, foodie-inspired landscapes**. Think broccoli trees, baguette fences, or even carrot chimneys – the more creative, the better!

The winning artwork will feature in Caterlink's primary marketing and the winning school will receive a completed art wall, or £200 for the school, and a £20 book voucher for the child whose design wins.

Artwork can be posted to Caterlink Competition, Hop House, Lower Green Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4HS or scanned and emailed to info@caterlinkltd.co.uk. (Please keep the original artwork as this may be needed if you are selected a winner)

Ensure you include your child's name, age and school on the back of the artwork, or as the title of the picture file. We will also require the full school's name, address, and contact so that we can contact winning entries.

Entries must be received by 5pm on **31st March 2026**. Winning entries will be notified by the end of May.

We can't wait to see the amazing ideas the children come up with!

Lisa Blackmore, Caterlink

SCHOOL NEWS

MAIDENHEAD'S BIG READ

Click [HERE](#) for MBR's latest newsletter.



PTA

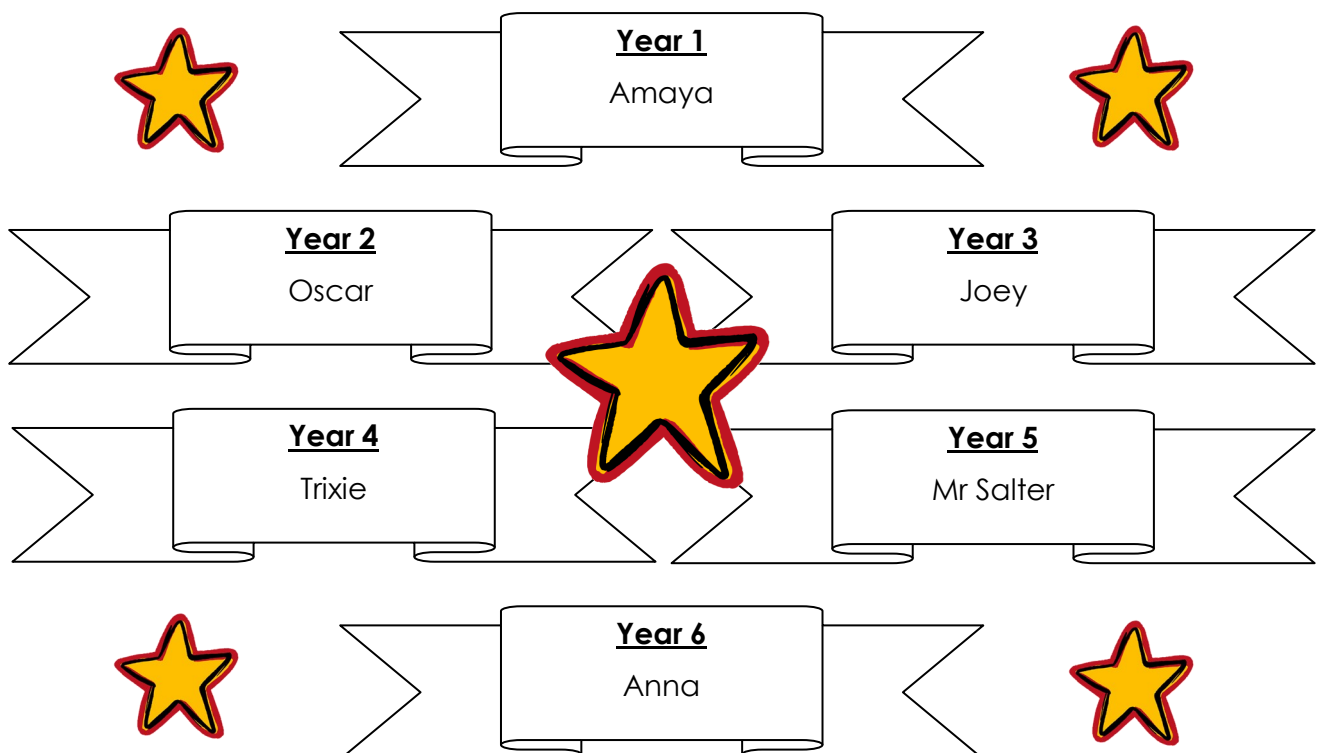
Click [HERE](#) for the booking link.

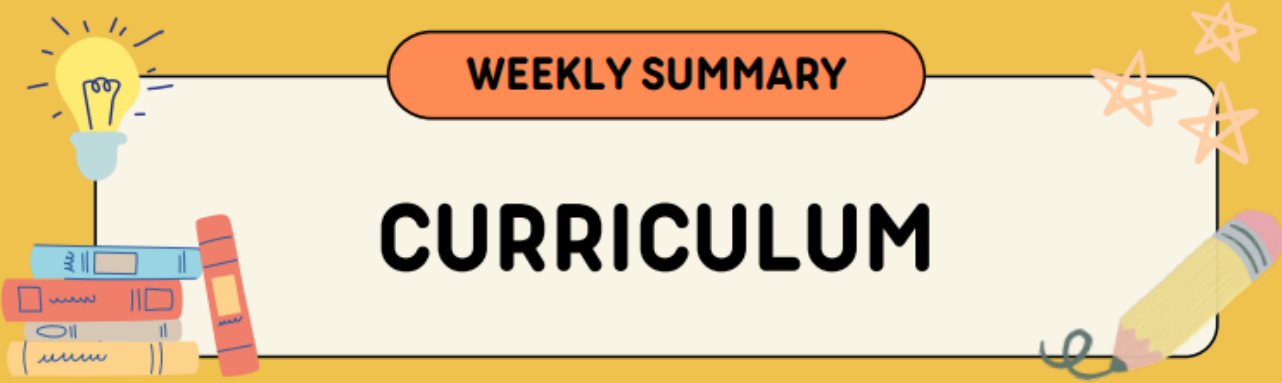


The 6 Rs - CHAMPION OF THE WEEK!

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

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



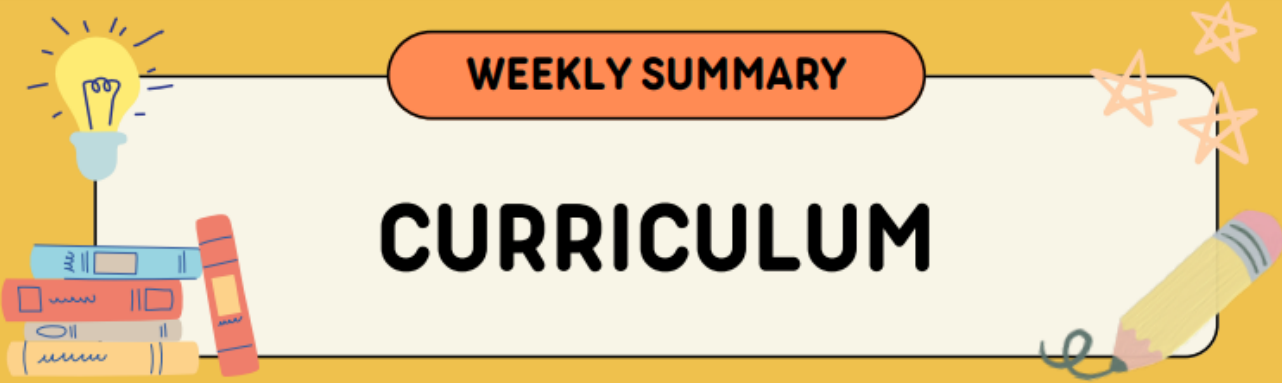


WEEKLY SUMMARY

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	Reception have had a super first week back after half-term. We have reviewed the sounds learned in Phonics and have been working on blending longer words. In English the children continued working on their 'Spring Greens' poetry text by Shirley Hughes which involved writing their own Spring word cloud and choosing their favourite part of the poem. They have also been working hard on their handwriting and letter formation. In Maths the children started their new unit on length, height and time. This involved using new maths vocabulary and sorting objects into long and short objects, comparing heights of objects and thinking about how much time different activities take as well as thinking about sequencing time. In PE the children started their second Gymnastics unit and worked on creating sequences using shapes, balances and travelling actions.
Year 1	This week in Year 1, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, we began exploring a film clip called <i>The Girl with the Yellow Bag</i> and using experiences from different scenes to write simple sentences that link to our own experiences. In Maths, we have been learning about place value within 50, carefully identifying tens and ones to build our understanding of numbers. In Geography, we started our new unit on the United Kingdom, where we have been naming and locating the four countries. We have also been learning to identify which country we live in and are becoming more confident in our map skills.
Year 2	In Year 2, we have been planning and writing a new class story based on the story 'Tad' by Benji Davies. There was lots of excitement in the process of creating a character, a narrative, a plot twist and a happy ending. See examples below and attached from Amelia and Arabella. In Maths, we have been doubling and halving, understanding the difference between odd and even numbers, revisiting the 10 times table and dividing by 10. In Science for our Materials topic, we conducted an investigation to find out which building material was absorbent by placing different materials in a bowl of water for a minute each. There were some great ideas about how to conduct a fair test. <i>"Maxy was a lively monkey and a beautiful pretty monkey. Maxy was a great monkey. He was a sad monkey because the other monkeys left Maxy behind. Maxy was learning to climb the trees but half way there the monkey lost the grip. He really wanted to join in with the other monkeys. Maxy made a ladder out of bamboo. Maxy the monkey was a friendly monkey. To fit in Maxy ran every day for four hours a day. Maxy had a race and Maxy came first. Maxy was good at catching bananas that fell out of the trees. Maxy got better at climbing trees and everybody was happy. The end."</i> By Amelia



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Year 3	Year 3 have made a great start to this half term. In Maths, we have been using our addition and subtraction knowledge to add and subtract lengths. In English, we began reading our new book, 'Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura.' We enjoyed making predictions as to what we thought might happen. In Geography, we compared how land is used in Cookham and New Delhi and in Computing we programmed our sprites play a song.
Year 4	A very busy first week back in year 4. We have started to look at units of measurement, especially kilometres and meters and the equivalent measurement. In English, we have planned and started to write our final story from Pugs of the Frozen North, which we will finish on Monday. In PE we have been practising our straight rolls, barrel rolls, straddle rolls and forwards rolls.
Year 5	It's been a great first week back in Year 5. In maths, we have turned our attention back to fractions, focusing on multiplying a fraction by an integer. In English, we have explored how the character of Kensuke has developed. We delved into his back story and sequenced his life. In RE, we had a fun, practical lesson matching up the different stations of the cross to Bible passages. I hope everyone has a nice weekend.
Year 6	This week in Year 6 has been full of curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning across the curriculum. We took part in a wonderful workshop at Boyne Hill Baptist Church, where we learned all about Easter and full submergent baptisms. The children showed excellent enthusiasm, resilience, and curiosity throughout the morning, asking thoughtful questions and engaging respectfully with new ideas. Back in school, our Technology lessons saw pupils sewing their own tote bags. This practical project helped develop fine motor skills, patience, and problem-solving, and the finished results are something the children can be very proud of. In English, we began writing biographies of Charles Darwin, exploring his life, achievements, and impact on science. The children worked hard to research key facts and organise their writing clearly and effectively.



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
President: Baroness Theresa May

Conductor **Joe Davies** Leader **Susie Henwood**

Saturday 14 March 2026 7:30pm
Baylis Theatre, Braywick Leisure Centre, Maidenhead SL6 1BN

GLINKA Overture: Ruslan and Ludmila
STRAUSS Horn Concerto No 1
MAHLER Symphony No 5



Horn Jessica Ortony

Tickets £15; student/child £5 from www.wmsso.org.uk

registered charity no. 1212732 www.wmsso.org.uk



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Easter Swim activities for Stage 3 advanced upwards
Wednesday 8th-Friday 10th April
3 day course: £45 (30min sessions) or £52 (45min sessions)
at Claire's Court Girls' School

10.15AM	10.45AM	10:45	11.30AM
EASTER ACTIVITIES (30MIN) Swimmers Stage 3+. Easter-themed activities such as underwater egg hunt, egg water polo, etc.	SWIM SQUADS (Starts and Turns) (45MIN) Working on technique, diving, tumble turns	STAGE 8 SYNCHRO (45 MINS) Artistic swimming for stage 4+	ROOKIE LIFEGUARD (30MIN) Squad swimmers and swimmers Stage 3 Advanced +. Learning self rescue and water safety following the RLSS Rookie Lifeguard Scheme

HOLIDAY CLUB OFFER (years 5-11)
DO ALL SESSIONS 10.15-12noon for 3 DAYS only £60

Contact:
bernice@letsdivein.co.uk
for more info

Let's dive in!



www.letsdivein.co.uk



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WITH COACH MARCO / COACH MICHAEL

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- ✓ Small-sided games & competitions
- ✓ Shooting, dribbling & passing sessions
- ✓ Fun Easter challenges & prizes
- ✓ Qualified PFA coaching staff

DATES:
30th March - 2nd April
8th April - 10th April

SPECIAL OFFERS & PAYMENT

- ✓ 3 Days - £48
- ✓ 4 Days - £64
- ✓ Siblings - £15

PAYMENT DETAILS PFA Bucks
Sort Code: 04-00-03 Account: 62699430
Wooburn Park - HP10 0PN

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE EMAIL
maxineashman@outlook.com

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