



Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 20

13th February 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

3rd: Breakfast with Books @ 8am
5th: World Book Day
5th: PTA Storytelling Night
6th: Report Cards Out
8th: Families@4
10th: Wild Worship Day
9th: Parents Evening (Y1)
10th: Parents Evening (R & Y2-6)
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

EVENTS NEXT TERM

FEBRUARY

Monday 23rd:

* Return to School

Tuesday 24th:

* Y6 @ Boyne Hill Church

Wednesday 25th:

* Ash Wednesday

Thursday 26th:

* Y1 Big Active 60 Festival

Friday 27th:

* Y3 Swimming



SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

The theme for this weeks Children's Mental Health Week is 'this is my place'. Every class thought about what this meant for them - some children said family, some said school and one little boy said swimming club. No matter where it is we all need a place! The children have been thinking about what makes them feel good - helping others, being in nature, talking to friends and family, listening to music or playing with their pets.

On the back of the discussions with the children, this is a good time to also think about our own mental health and 'this is my place' as adults. School is such a huge part of every individual's life - staff, children and parents. Cookham Dean Primary School needs to feel like it is a place that all of us belong and want to belong to. There is a part that we all play in making our school inclusive, kind and caring. Let us all pull together to make Cookham Dean our place.

Have a lovely break!

FAMILIES@4

Our next Families@4 will take place on Sunday 8th March at 4pm at St John the Baptist. All the children are invited to take part in the service followed by high tea in the vestry - a lovely community event.

CARETAKER

We are still looking for a new caretaker. The advert is on our website. If you know someone who would be interested, please ask them to give the office a call.

THAMES HOSPICE ELEPHANT

Thank you to all those who have entered their designs - they are all fantastic! I will be meeting with the local artist who is going to help us to choose the winning design after half term.

REPORT CARDS & PARENTS EVENING

After half term, on Friday 6th March, you will receive your child's report cards which will show if they are on track to meet age related expectations by the end of the year. 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 bookings will open on Monday 2nd March at 3pm; you will receive a link to book your appointment at this time.

OPAL PLAYDATE - CANCELLED

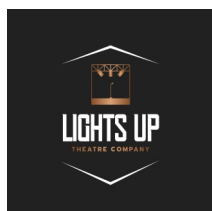
Due to the recent wet weather and very muddy field, we have made the decision to cancel the upcoming OPAL playdate on Monday 23rd February. Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to welcoming you along when we can enjoy the event in drier conditions.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Voting is now closed, and the results will be announced in the newsletter on Friday 27th February.

SCHOOL NEWS

SINGING LESSONS



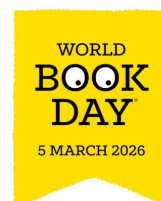
A few places have become available for singing lessons at Cookham Dean Primary School, taught by the wonderful Sophie Camble. If you would like more information, please message us to express your interest. If demand is high, a waiting list will be created, and additional sessions may become available after Easter. Please contact Lucy Fuller: lightsuptheatre@outlook.com / 07715 583253

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

This year World Book day falls on Thursday 5th March 2026. The theme this year is, "**Go All In**" for the National Year of Reading 2026, aiming to encourage children to read for pleasure by connecting books with their existing passions.

During the week, we have many exciting events happening to celebrate books:

- **Monday 23rd February** - Your child will receive the reading challenge which runs for 2 weeks – details will be on the challenge.
- **Tuesday 3rd March** - is Breakfast with Books. Come into school at 8am and read with your child whilst enjoying a croissant and orange juice. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.
- **Thursday 5th March** - Children come dressed with a hint of their favourite book and bring the book with them into school to share with their friends.
- Reception and KS1 have an author visit.
- KS2 have an author visit.
- We are also running a "read a book in the strangest place" competition. Find an unusual place to read a book, take a photo and send it in to the office.



There will also be online sessions with authors and other interesting things happening across the week.

Miss Thompson, Reading Lead

LIBRARY CRAFTS

Chinese Year of the Horse
Paper Crafts

Cookham Library Thursday 19 February
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Datchet Library Tuesday 17 February
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Eton Wick Library Friday 20 February
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Old Windsor Library Wednesday 18 February
2.30pm - 3.30pm

No need to book, just drop in

Suitable for Children 4-11 years old

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

EXPLORE YOUR LIBRARY READ, RELAX, DISCOVER

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Libraries Development Framework

@RBWM_Libraries RBWM Libraries RBWM_Libraries

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS!

Do you enjoy being creative? Do you find Art exciting and fun? Here's your chance to submit a piece of your own art to the Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show 2026.

Young artists aged 4-18 can create and share a piece of artwork using a number of techniques from painting, sculpting, drawing and much more. Each piece of artwork will need a title, the medium used to create the art and a short description. Once entered the artwork will be judged by a panel of judges who will choose art pieces for an online exhibition and display at the Royal Academy.

The deadline to submit artwork to school is **Friday 27th February 2026**. Please send submissions to the office at: office@cookhamdean.org

Miss Fernandez, Art Lead

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS!

Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 living and studying in the UK.

Students can submit one artwork for consideration which will be judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals. Selected artworks will be displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts either onsite or online. The RA will award prizes for inspiring artworks.

How to enter

From 5 January 2026, teachers will be able to register their school. Next, teachers and parents/guardians can submit artworks via the RA website until 4 March 2026.

Important dates

5 January–4 March 2026

Registration and submission open

May 2026

Judging

14 July 2026

Online exhibition opens

14 July–30 August 2026

Display at the RA open

RA Royal Academy of Arts

Sign up and find out more

roy.ac/youngartists
[@royalacademyarts](https://twitter.com/royalacademyarts)

Made possible by Robin Hambro

SCHOOL NEWS

FIDGET TOYS & YOUR CHILD: A PARENT GUIDE

What Are Fidget Toys?

Fidget toys are small, quiet, handheld tools that keep the hands busy in a purposeful way. Examples include *squishy balls, fidget rings, tangle toys, therapy putty, textured objects, and chair bands.*

Why Do They Help?

Improve Focus & Concentration

Some children - especially those with ADHD, autism or sensory needs - focus better when they have something small to move in their hands. Fidget toys help reduce restlessness and support attention during listening.

Reduce Anxiety & Overwhelm

Fidget tools provide soothing sensory feedback, supporting emotional regulation and helping children feel grounded during transitions or stressful moments.

Support Sensory Processing

Children who are sensory-seeking or easily overloaded benefit from gentle, repetitive movement and a predictable sensory outlet that helps them stay regulated.

How We Use Fidget Tools in School

Fidgets may be used during whole-class teaching, listening activities in class and during transitions. Children may use fidget toys during their independent work, for short periods of time to help them think and re-focus their attention, this is at the teachers discretion and agreed between the teacher and the child. Staff teach clear expectations to ensure fidgets help rather than distract.

Expectations for Use

Fidgets must be quiet, used in hands only, used while listening and working (as agreed with the teacher), and treated as a tool rather than a toy.

How You Can Support at Home

Provide similar tools for homework or calming time, encourage quiet purposeful use, and share effective strategies between home and school.

Choosing the Right Fidget

The best fidgets are small, quiet, easy to use without looking, safe, and calming rather than exciting.

In Summary

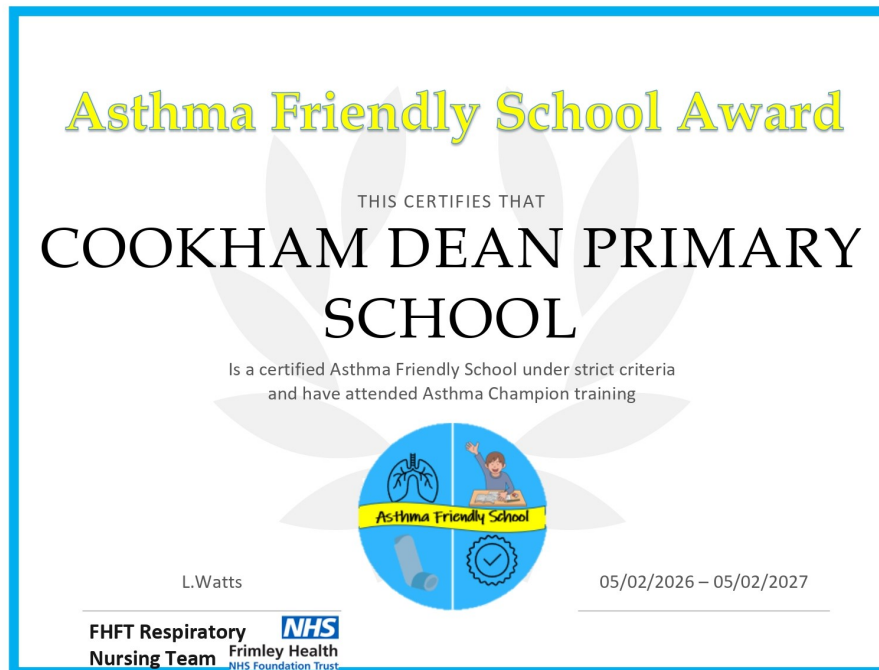
Fidget toys help many children stay calm, focused, manage emotions, and feel more comfortable in school when used consistently.

If you feel your child may benefit from having a fidget toy, in the first instance please speak to the class teacher to see if they share your concerns about concentration, focus and regulation. If the teacher agrees then they will confirm the use of the fidget with the SENCO.



SCHOOL NEWS

ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL AWARD



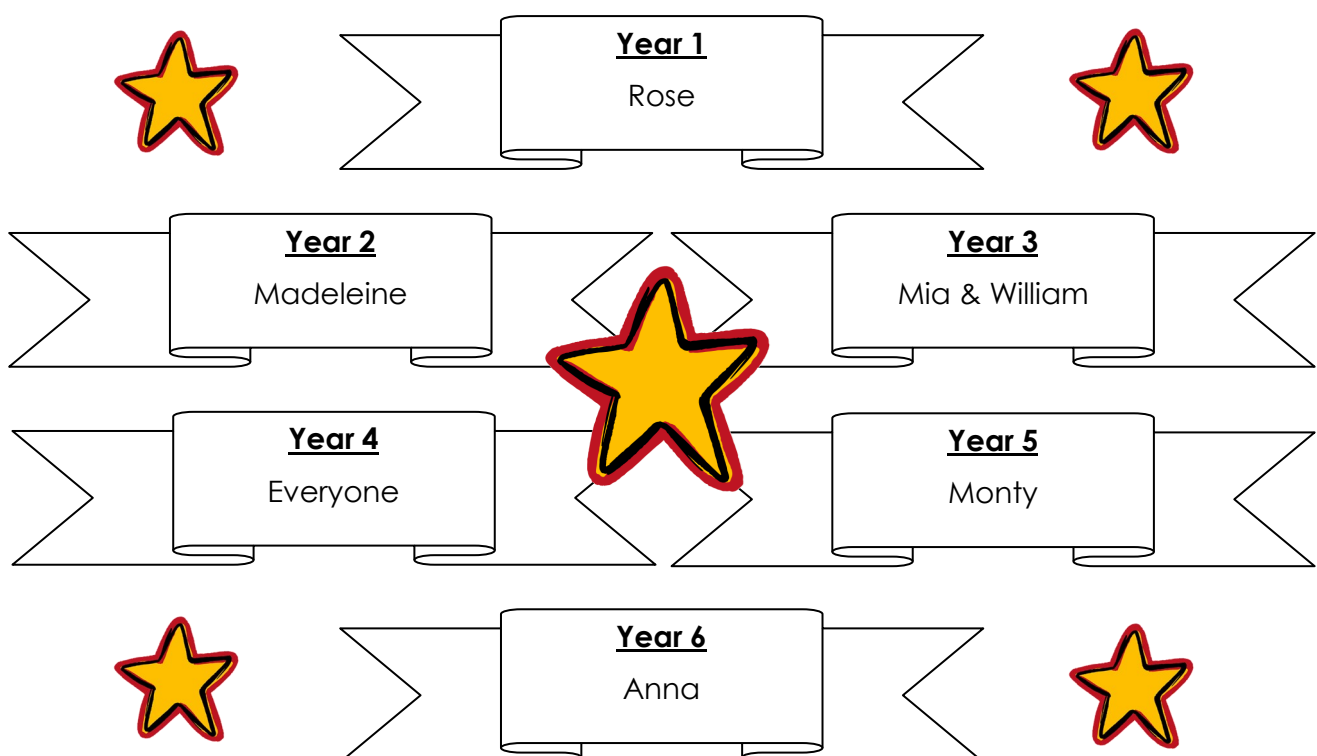
On Thursday 5th February, we were visited by nurse Lauren from the Wexham Park Hospital Asthma Team. Over the past 8 months, we have worked closely with her to ensure that we are effectively supporting all pupils with asthma. All classroom staff have attended training and are confident in assisting with the administration of inhalers. I am pleased to let you know that we have implemented all the required policies and procedures and have been awarded 'Asthma Friendly School' status.

Mrs Terry, Year 3 Teaching Assistant & Asthma Champion

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.



SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 4 DANCE FESTIVAL



On Thursday 12th February, Year 4 took part in a dance festival at Braywick Leisure Centre. There were 14 other schools taking part. First of all, we had a practice in the sports hall as we needed to make some changes. Then the girls stayed in the hall to get their spiders and gems done and the boys went into the auditorium to watch the other dances. Then we showed our dance to the other schools. After this, we went back to the hall to eat our lunch. After lunch, we all got into our costumes, ready for our big performance, headed back stage before we went on. When our dance finished, we went back to the hall. We were all full of energy and happiness. We said to Miss Thompson, that we wanted to do it all again! We had a brilliant day of dancing and no school work!

By Poppy, Orla & Tilly, Year 4

PTA

At this month's PTA meeting we shared some important updates and upcoming changes to the team.

Jess and I will be stepping down as Co-Chairs, with our roles formally handing over at the next PTA meeting in April. We're delighted to say the PTA will be in very capable hands with **Maddi** (Y1 parent) taking on the Co-Chair role.

We are also now looking for a new Treasurer to succeed our long-serving Michelle Patiar. If you're interested, please take a look at the role description (attached to email) and get in touch — we'd be very happy to talk it through. These roles are essential for the PTA to operate, and with your support we can continue to deliver the activities and extras that really enrich the children's school experience.

Getting involved is a great way to meet other parents, understand more about what's happening in school, and make a real, visible difference for the children.

Wishing everyone a lovely half term.

Pippa Jeans, PTA Chair

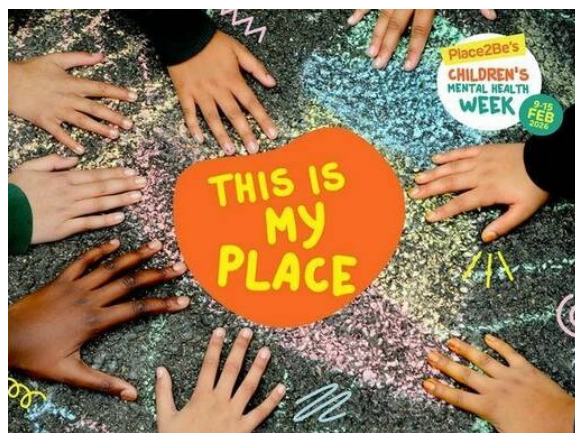
OPAL

We have had a fantastic tidy-up this week and received some more amazing and very generous donations - thank you so much to everyone who contributed. I would also like to give a special thank you to our Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Ambassadors. They have been such a big help this term and have shown real commitment and responsibility. I'm extremely grateful for everything they do. A big thank you as well to the lunchtime staff for their continued support and patience - the weather has certainly challenged us this term!

Miss G, OPAL Lead



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



**"This is the place you belong,
this is you, you're not wrong.
Stay safe anywhere,
breathe in the fresh air."**

By Miles, Year 4



WEEKLY SUMMARY

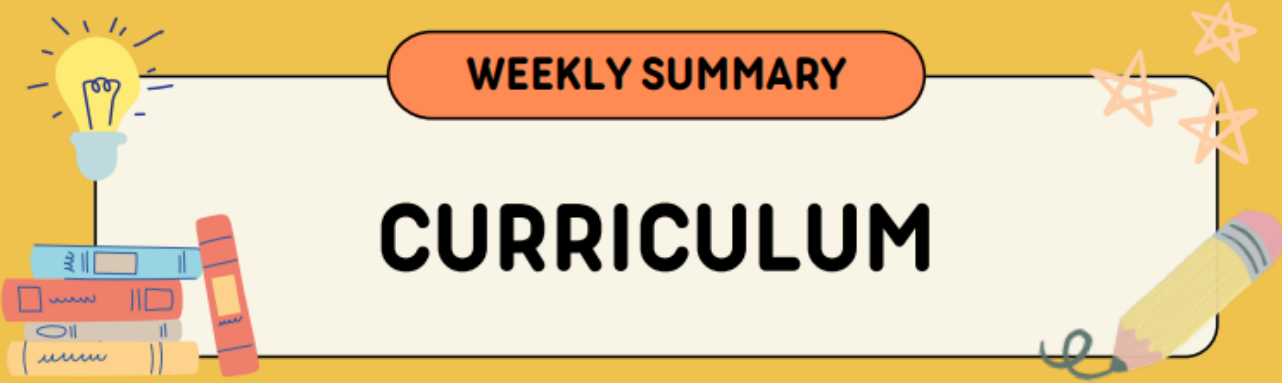


CURRICULUM

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 reviewed all the sounds they have learned in Phonics and have been applying these to longer words. The children have also done lots of work on reading and spelling the tricky words. In English we have started working on a new poetry text called 'Spring Greens' by Shirley Hughes. This involved going on a spring hunt and spotting the signs of spring as well as writing a spring fact file. In Maths we have been learning about matching pairs and started to think about odd and even patterns as well as recapping knowledge on doubles to 8. The children also worked on subitising to 10. This week we also did some learning on Children's Mental Health Week and thought of all the people and places that are special to us and make us feel like we belong. Finally, in Art we looked at the work of the artist Megan Coyle and the children created their own landscape collages. Well done Reception for another brilliant half-term in school - have a great half-term holiday!
Year 1	Year 1 have been excited to begin exploring a new story, <i>Prince Cinders</i> , and have worked hard to sequence the events carefully from beginning to end. The children enjoyed discussing the characters and identifying the key moments in the story to help them retell it in the correct order. In Maths, we have successfully finished our unit on addition and subtraction within 20, including solving tricky missing number problems. The class showed great perseverance when working out the unknown numbers using their number bonds and counting strategies. In Science, we wrapped up our weather topic by designing and making our own wind machines.
Year 2	Year 2 have had a fantastic week of learning! The children have thoroughly enjoyed writing imaginative letters inspired by our class book, showing wonderful creativity and enthusiasm in their ideas. As part of Children's Mental Health Week, they shared some thoughtful and practical ways to support one another's mental health, demonstrating real kindness and maturity. We were also incredibly impressed with how carefully they reflected as we finished our RE topic, answering our big question linked to Judaism with such consideration. Have a great half term!





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 worked extremely hard this week and produced some excellent work. In English, we wrote poems based on our story. I was really impressed with the rhyming children used. In Maths, we have been finding equivalent measurements. This week has been Children's Mental Health Week and the children produced a toolkit thinking about what they can do to look after their own mental health. We hope you all have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you in a weeks' time.
Year 4	What a week! The highlight being our dance festival. The children were impeccably behaved and produced an amazing dance routine in front of approximately 400 parents and other schools. In between our dance rehearsals, we completed dividing 2 digits by 1 digit with remainders in maths and in English, wrote the thoughts and feelings of a character using show not tell. On our internet safety day, we explored AI technology, thinking about different scenarios about whether it was okay or not okay to use AI. In RE we found out the 5 duties that Hindus live by. We hope you have a lovely half term break.
Year 5	It has been a great week in Year 5. In maths, we have been using the formal method to multiply 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers, as well as starting work on short division. In English, we have been writing poetry based on our book, Kensuke's Kingdom. The children came up with some brilliant Haiku and Tanka poetry about Michael's relationship with Kensuke on the island. Also, we had some meaningful conversations about Children's Mental Health Week, and Internet Safety Day. To top it all off, we have completed our first read through of our Year 5 play - Ye Ha! I hope everyone has a brilliant half term.
Year 6	In Year 6 we have been creating 1940s style Radio broadcasts based on our Letters from the Lighthouse novel. In Science we have been creating and classifying imaginary creatures. We have enjoyed learning all about AI and the reliability of websites we all use. Our DT project is in full swing as we are creating our WW2 evacuee tote bags. We are looking forward to a relaxing half term.



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

MAIDENHEAD SEED SWAP

Sunday March 1st
11.30am - 2.30pm
ECO Action Hub
Maidenhead

FREE town parking available on Sundays

- FREE entry
- Bring seeds to swap with others
- in labelled, sealed packets
(can be dropped at ECO Action Hub prior to swap)
- Take seeds to start your growing journey
- Meet fellow growers
- Donations welcome
- For more info contact us!



Maidenhead Veg Growers and Seed Swap
 MaidenheadVegGrowers
 MaidenheadVegGrowers@outlook.com



Ready 'Net' Go! Feb netball Camp

Come and hone your skills, play fun invasion games and lots of matchplay!!!

Date~ Wed 18th Feb
2026, SL6 5JB
Venue~ Newlands Girls Sch
Time~ 9am-12pm
Cost~ £35



<https://readynetgo.co.uk/camp>

MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS
ATTENTION PARENTS!
BRAND NEW CLASSES LAUNCHING NOW IN HIGH WYCOMBE
MATT FIDDES HIGH WYCOMBE | TAYLOR LEWIS COMMUNITY CENTRE | ARIZONA WAY | BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | HP11 1AB

MONDAY MIGHTY MATTS
3 - 6 YEARS / 18:00 - 18:45

FAMILY CLASS
7+ YEARS / 19:00 - 20:00

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL NOW!

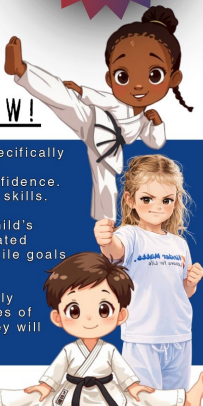
Our award winning MIGHTY MATT'S programme is specifically designed to help teach 3 to 6 year olds the important qualities of Respect, Discipline, Self control and Confidence. They will also learn great character and self-defence skills.

Our FAMILY programme works hand in hand with a Child's school work, providing many benefits. Through dedicated intense work our students are taught that all worthwhile goals in life are possible.

Our award winning children's programme is specifically designed to help teach children the important qualities of Respect, Discipline, Self control and Confidence. They will also learn great character and self-defence skills

WWW.MATTFIDDES.COM

FREE TRIAL | FREE UNIFORM | MONEY BACK GUARANTEED



OLD BUTCHER'S WINE CELLAR
High St, Cookham SL6 9SQ

CHEQUERED KNIGHTS
Enjoy Drinks, Fabulous Food,
Great Company & Friendly Competition

Time Slots: 6-8pm • 8-10pm

Thursday Evening 5th March

The Good Old Classics, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon and more...

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

HALF TERM EVENTS AT NORDEN FARM



CHEVALIER: HOBBYHORSE CIRCUS

Tues 17 Feb 2pm

Kalle Lehto's ringmaster performs acrobatics, juggling and balancing with an amazing cast of hobby horses.

Age guidance 4+ years

SNOW WHITE ROSE RED BEAR BROWN

Wed 18 and Thur 19 Feb 11.30am and 2pm

Sisters Snow White and Rose Red's quiet life is interrupted by a friendly bear in this fantastical fairytale.

Age guidance 4+ years



THE GREAT BIG BUG SHOW

Sat 21 Feb 11.30am and 2pm

Explore of the secret world beneath our feet.

Age guidance 4+ years

PLUS!

- Arts and Crafts
- Relaxed film screenings of

• ZOOTOPLIS 2
• KENSUKE'S KINGDOM



FIND OUT MORE AT NORDENFARM.ORG



Norden Farm

Box Office | 01628 788997

Altwood Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4RH

Charity BINGO Night

Join us for fun, fizz and Bingo loco!

All proceeds go to World Villages and NSPCC

HOUR: 7.30PM

DATE: FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

LOCATION: COOKHAM DEAN VILLAGE HALL

SAVE THE DATE!

COMING SUMMER 2026

COOKHAM KIDS SUMMER CAMP

AUGUST 3RD - 7TH
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

CHILDREN WELCOME FROM
* RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 *

SAVE THE DATE!
CULMINATING WITH A BIG CONCERT!

KEEP WATCHING OUT FOR INFORMATION

ARE YOU EXCITED?

TrinityTots

A weekly toddler group at Holy Trinity Cookham

FREE

Come and join us for
Toys, Crafts, Stories, Songs
and Refreshments

Thursdays
9.30 am to 11.30 am
Holy Trinity Cookham
Parish Centre

All welcome, parents, carers and little ones
Run by Holy Trinity Church Cookham