



Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 19

6th February 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

23rd: Return to School
23rd: OPAL Play Date @ 2.15pm
25th: Ash Wednesday
26th: Y1 Big Active 60 Festival

March

5th: World Book Day
5th: PTA Storytelling Night
6th: Report Cards Out
8th: Families@4
10th: Wild Worship Day
10th: Parents Evening
12th: Parents Evening
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 WEEK

FEBRUARY

Monday 9th:

* Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 10th:

* Safer Internet Day
* Reception & KS1 Drama Workshop

Wednesday 11th:

* Y6 Rhosy Meeting @ 3.30pm

Thursday 12th:

* Y4 Dance Festival

Friday 13th:

* Parent Governor Election Closes @ 3pm
* Y3 Swimming
* Break Up

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

Another muddy week! The children are having a great time digging in the mud, sliding in mud and laughing in the mud! We are doing our best to keep school and the children as clean as we possibly can but I apologise for those children who are coming home muddier than usual! Please help us by ensuring your children have outdoor shoes in school, kept in the welly racks and please make sure that they know to do their coats up when playing in the mud to protect their school uniform (I am sure your washing machines must be overworked at the moment!). We are of course reminding children of this in school but with 200 children, 1 or 2 are slipping through the net. Thank you.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We are delighted to have received two nominations for the Parent Governor vacancy. A secret ballot must now take place. Each parent/ carer with a child attending Cookham Dean Primary School is entitled to **ONE** vote. Further details about the election process are included in the letter that was emailed this afternoon. Please do read it carefully and submit your vote by 3pm on Friday 13th February.

YEAR 2 WINDSOR CASTLE

On Monday, Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Windsor Castle.

"We got to see a soldier and saw a huge amazing dolls house with electricity and flowing water!"

By Tom

MIX UP MATHS

Today we celebrated our Mix Up Maths. We took part in an inter-class competition and also competed against other schools around the country, using our times tables knowledge. We went on a shape scavenger hunt, looking for 2 and 3D shapes in our classroom and around the school. We carried out problem solving activities using squares and triangles and had to solve problems drawing cubes. We also spent time looking at the properties of 2 and 3D shapes and some of us had to guess the 3D shape from its net. A fun morning was had by all.



Miss Thompson, Maths Lead

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026

On Tuesday 10th February, our school will be taking part in Safer Internet Day, with this year's theme focusing on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) safely. As AI tools become a bigger part of everyday life, it is increasingly important for children and young people to understand both the rewards and the risks of using them. Learning how to use AI responsibly, thoughtfully, and safely helps pupils make informed choices online and develop strong digital skills for the future. To mark the day, our Digital Leaders will be hosting a special assembly and leading a range of fun, engaging activities throughout the school day. Each class will take part in lessons about AI. These activities will encourage pupils to think critically about technology, ask questions, and explore how to stay safe while making the most of new digital opportunities. We're looking forward to a positive and informative day that supports safe, confident, responsible online behaviour for everyone.

Mrs Satterley, Computing Lead



SCHOOL NEWS

THAMES HOSPICE ART TRAIL

We took delivery of our Thames Hospice elephant today - unveiled in front of all the children. This elephant will remain in school until April so between now and then we need to decorate it! We are asking all children to make a design for the school to paint (with help of an artist!) so that it is ready for the Maidenhead and Windsor Arts Trail in the summer. So, while the weather is so wet, spend time in doors dreaming up a design for the elephant and hand in your designs on A4 paper into your class teachers by Friday 13th February. As per the School Council note in previous newsletters, we will be raising money by doing a sponsored run in March - look out for the sponsor forms next week.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Children's Mental Health Week is an annual, UK-wide awareness campaign, launched by charity Places2Be in 2015, held during the first full week of February. It aims to shine a spotlight on the importance of mental health for children and young people, empowering them, giving them a voice, and equipping them to thrive. In school we will be taking the time to talk through the ways we can empower ourselves and look after our own and others mental health.

Emotional Wellbeing Champions

ART COMPETITION

RA

Call for entries
An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Open for submissions
5 January–4 March 2026

Find out more and enter
roy.ac/youngartists
[@royalacademyarts](https://twitter.com/royalacademyarts)

Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

Royal Academy of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>

SCHOOL NEWS

FREE ONLINE TALK FOR PARENTS

Click [HERE](#) to book your place



Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth
Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online
www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
go to PARENTS - Live Talks page



MAYOR CHARITY EVENT



Mayor's charity Indian themed event

Hosted by The Worshipful the Mayor of the
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Saturday 28 February 2026, 7pm

The Baylis Theatre, Braywick Leisure Centre,
Braywick Road, Maidenhead

Tickets £65 each

in aid of

Thames hospice
registered charity no. 1108298

For more information or to make a booking [visit](#).

If you have any queries please contact
the Mayor's Secretary on 07866 127222 or [email](#).

50:50 CLUB

Congratulations to the February
50:50 Club winners:

1st prize - Emma Miall

2nd prize - Isadora Bennett

WINNERS

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

Hunter



Year 2

Audrey & Jacob

Year 3

Alba & Harvey

Year 4

Theo

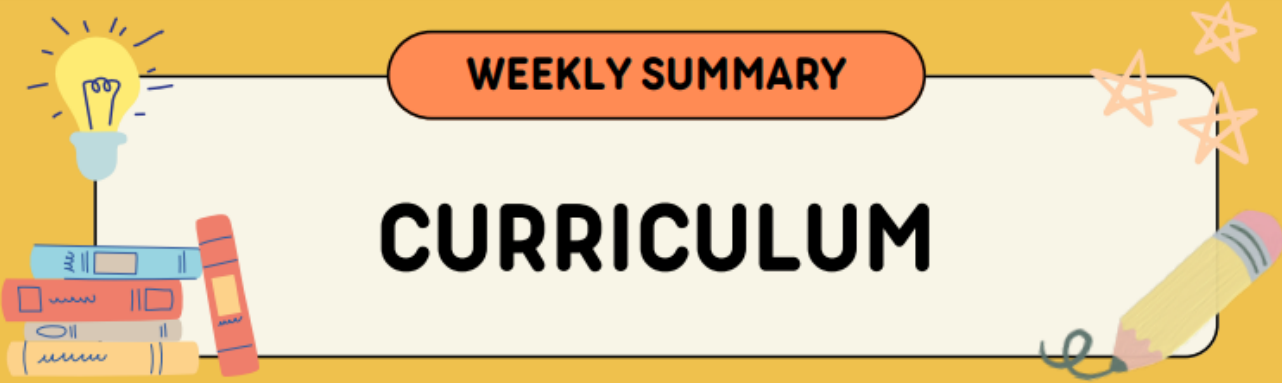
Year 5

Arthur

Year 6

Isha





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 continued to work hard on their Phonics and have learned the new trigraph 'air' as well as a few more digraphs including double letter digraphs. In Literacy the children finished their work on 'Brown Bear Brown Bear' by recalling the story independently and by choosing adjectives to describe each of the animals in the story. In Maths Reception focused on the numbers 6, 7 and 8, learning how to find them, represent them in different ways and compose those numbers. They also explored finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number from 0-10. Lastly, in Music the children had lots of fun exploring tempo and pitch through dance.
Year 1	Year 1 have had another busy week! We have been finishing our work on the story Ivy and the Lonely Raincloud, ending the unit by writing our own non-fiction texts all about weather. In maths, we have continued to develop our addition and subtraction skills by exploring doubles and using them to help add two numbers together. In science, we have really enjoyed learning about the weather and this week made our own rain gauges—perfect timing with all the rain we've been having!
Year 2	We are thoroughly enjoying our new class book, and the children's writing has been fantastic - especially when they are writing thoughtful and engaging questions. In maths, the class has been facing multiplication with confidence and enthusiasm, showing a growing understanding of grouping and counting. In RE, our learning about Judaism has really captured their interest, leading to great discussions and lots of curiosity. We're very proud of their focus and effort across the curriculum.





WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

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Year 3	Year 3 have had a wonderful week. In English, we started writing newspaper articles to report on the shipwreck from our book, 'Hello Lighthouse.' The children worked really hard to think of engaging, snappy headlines. In Maths, we started looking at units of measurement and discussed which unit would be best to measure different objects around school. In Computing, we used Scratch to programme our sprites to move in different directions. In PE, we continued to thoroughly enjoy our swimming lessons.
Year 4	We have had a fantastic week. In maths we have been learning to multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers using short multiplication and have started to look at dividing 2 digits with a 1 digit with remainders. In English we described the character we chose from our book Pugs of the Frozen North. In Geography we used co-ordinates to plot Shackleton's journey to the South Pole. In between all of this, we were lucky enough to watch 3 of our old students perform in Beauty and the Beast at Luckley House School. A very busy week!
Year 5	It has been a great week in Year 5. In maths, we have been multiplying 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. The children worked hard on this, using area models and the formal method to multiply. In English, the children have been writing poems based around a motif. In art, the children have planned their final print for next week, inspired by the work of Elizabeth Catlett. Have a great weekend!
Year 6	This week in Year 6, we have been busy and creative across the curriculum. In English, the children explored the features of newspapers and worked together to plan and create their own class newspapers. They thought carefully about headlines, reports, and layout, showing great teamwork and creativity. DT, we have learnt to sew and hem garments as part of our Make Do and Mend bag making project. In Computing, pupils developed their coding skills by writing game programs using variables. They learned how variables can be used to keep score, track lives, and make games more interactive. It was fantastic to see their problem-solving skills and perseverance as they tested and improved their programs. Well done to Year 6 for another productive and engaging week!



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

Volunteer Fair



Saturday 7th February 2026

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Bourne End Community Centre
Wakeman Road, SL8 5SX

Discover local volunteering opportunities

Meet community groups, charities and organisations looking for all sorts of volunteers.

For more information please contact
westchilternscb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

- ✓ Free entry
- ✓ Free refreshments
- ✓ Everyone welcome



Make a difference in your community, giving as much or as little time as you can afford.



Community Boards



Discover Bucks
Museum
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery

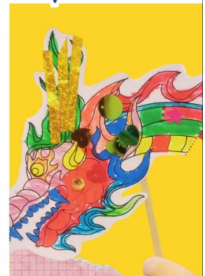
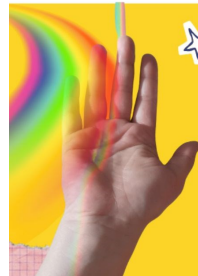
Discover Bucks Museum
Church Street
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
discoverbucksmuseum.org
01296 331441

February Half Term

14 - 22 February 2026

This February half term, dive into hands-on fun with Sand Art, Dragon Puppets for Chinese New Year, Superhero Capes and Masks, plus dazzling Rainbow Science. Make a day of it and explore the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, discover the I Grew Up 90's exhibition, family trail and sensory room for a week packed with imagination and discovery.

For more event details, charges and to book please scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org



FREE FUN FEMALE ONLY SESSION



HAWKS
BMX CLUB

SUN FEB 22ND 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



HAVES 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

SPACE TO THRIVE COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTRE

A BERKSHIRE MUSIC TRUST AND SLOUGH MUSIC SERVICE PARTNERSHIP



Calling all Young Musicians!

Let's Play Orchestra

Saturday 10.15-11.00am

Open to any instrument from beginner up to Grade 1. Explore making music with others through easy parts, beat & melody games, and ensemble fun.

Fees: £70.00 per term

HALF PRICE THIS TERM for new members: £35.00 for TEN SESSIONS

Initial Orchestra

Saturday 9.00-10.00am

Open to any instrument Grades 1-3. A more adventurous orchestral experience focusing on holding your own part, reading rhythms, and collaborating as a musical team.

Fees: £79.50 per term

HALF PRICE THIS TERM for new members: £39.75 for TEN SESSIONS

Click here for a free trial orchestra session on Saturday 17 January

Click here to attend the launch event on Saturday 10 January

Any Questions? contact laurabridger@berksmusictrust.org.uk