



# Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 16

16th January 2026

[www.cookhamdean.org](http://www.cookhamdean.org)

[office@cookhamdean.org](mailto:office@cookhamdean.org)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### January

27th: Y6 @ Holdenby House

### February

2nd: Reception NCMP

2nd: Y2 @ Windsor Castle

6th: Mix Up Maths Day

10th: Safer Internet Day

12th: Y4 Dance Festival

13th: Break Up

23rd: Return to School

23rd: OPAL Play Date @ 2.15pm

### March

5th: World Book Day

5th: PTA Storytelling Night

6th: Report Cards Out

10th: Parents Evening

12th: Parents Evening

16th: Neurodiversity Celebration Week

20th: Everybody Writes Day

20th: Red Nose Day

24th: Easter Service

25th: Rocksteady Concert @ 1.30pm

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

### JANUARY

#### Monday 19th:

\* SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am

#### Tuesday 20th:

\* Y5 PSHE Parent Meeting @ 5.30pm

#### Friday 23rd:

\* Y3 Swimming

\* Y1 @ Milestones Museum

\* PTA Meeting @ 2.15pm

## SCHOOL NEWS

### MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE



Yesterday, Year 5 and teachers travelled up to the Troubadour Theatre to see Hattie perform in Starlight Express. Watching her perform to a huge audience, was incredible. Her resilience and talent are inspiring, and we couldn't be prouder of all she's achieved. **Well done Hattie!**

## THE TIMES TOP 1000 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

I am very happy to tell you that Cookham Dean Primary School has once again appeared in The Times Top 1000 Schools in England. There are approximately 17,000 schools considered in this ranking and we are **689th**. This can only happen with the amazing, dedicated teaching staff that we have at Cookham Dean, support from the Governors and parents along with hardworking children. It is truly a team effort and we are proud of our achievements.

### PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Please see below a link to our parent questionnaire. We value your ideas and opinions so please do take time to answer. The deadline to complete it is next Friday. The replies will be fed back via the newsletter and will be discussed at the next parent forum.

[CLICK HERE TO FILL IN THE PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

### MEDICATION

Please be reminded that any medication your child requires during the school day must be handed in to the school office with a completed request form (available on the [school website](#)). Medication should not be kept in children's bags or pockets. Thank you for your cooperation.



### OPAL PLAY DATE

You are invited to join us on the afternoon of Monday 23rd February to play with your child/ren in the school grounds. We will be making dens, dressing up, making up imaginative stories, and much more. The session will run from 2.15-3pm. Please let the office know if you would like to attend.

Miss G, OPAL Lead



Smartphone Free Childhood has an email template parents can send to their MP to add their voice to the discussion in parliament on raising the social media access age. **Please do sign up [HERE](#)** - we all know the impact social media is having on our children.

### VOLUNTEER REQUEST

Is there anyone that could do a tip run for us to get rid of 3 items (Christmas tree, sofa and pallets) - PLEASE! Thank you.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## REDUCING THE HARM FROM SCREENS



FACE are offering parents a [free online session](#) on supporting healthy screen use.

"We live in the digital age and using screens is pretty much unavoidable. This session aims to clarify the difference between healthy screen use and unhealthy screen use. The screen is a portal, you can access incredible educational material, or you can scroll through social media for hours at a time. There are many benefits to be gained from using digital technology but there are some risks too. We look at the question of balance between sedentary behaviours and active behaviours, as well as the impact of blue light. The harms are identified and safety measures are explored. This session gives parents a good overview of the situation and some actionable interventions to keep their children safe."

## OFSTED

In November 2025, Ofsted released a new framework for their inspections. Our last Ofsted visit was Summer 2022 and Ofsted visit every 4 years. Please find below the changes:

### 1. A new report card instead of one single judgment

**Old system:** Schools received an overall grade (e.g., *Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate*).

**New system:** There is no overall effectiveness grade. Instead, each inspection results in a detailed report card showing separate grades across key areas. This aims to give parents a more nuanced picture of strengths and weaknesses.

### 2. What you'll see on the report card

Each area below is graded separately using a five-point scale:

1. **Exceptional** – the highest standard
2. **Strong standard**
3. **Expected standard**
4. **Needs attention**
5. **Urgent improvement**



There's also a narrative alongside each grade explaining why that grade was given, so you can understand what the school does well and where it could improve.

### 3. The six main areas inspectors will grade

For most schools and early years settings, inspectors will evaluate:

- **Inclusion** – how well all pupils are supported, especially those with additional needs
- **Curriculum and teaching** – clarity and quality of what children are taught
- **Achievement** – how well pupils learn and progress
- **Attendance and behaviour** – pupils' engagement at school
- **Personal development and well-being** – support for pupils' wider growth
- **Leadership and governance** – how well the school is run

**Safeguarding** (keeping children safe) is judged **separately** as either *met* or *not met*.

### 4. Why these changes were introduced

Ofsted says this new framework is designed to:

- Give parents more detailed and meaningful information, not just one headline grade
- Recognise good practice across specific areas
- Help parents compare schools more fairly
- Encourage a focus on inclusion and well-being, especially for children with SEND or disadvantage
- Reduce pressure on schools from a single overall grade
- Support targeted improvements where needed

Independent polling found a majority of parents preferred these new report cards and found them easier to understand.

### What this means for you as a parent

**Better insight:** You'll see detailed grades for each part of your child's school experience, not just one overall label.

**Clearer priorities:** The narrative helps you understand what matters most and where improvements are needed.

**Safeguarding clarity:** You'll know whether safety standards are met separately from educational quality.

**More context:** There's no single "scoreboard" - the report card shows a profile of a setting's performance.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### COOKHAMS FOOTPRINT



Is Your Home

#### COLD, DAMP OR DRAUGHTY?

Are you worried about your energy bills?

There are government schemes and other local projects that may be able to help with insulation and reducing energy costs.

Would you like to find out what is available?

Whether you are a tenant or homeowner please come for a coffee and chat at Cookham Community Room, Cookham Library with Cllrs Mandy Brar and Mark Howard.

**Saturday 17th January 10.30 – 12.00**

There will be a talk about what and who can help.

This event is in conjunction with



### ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

#### ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



#### Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is consulting on your Fire Service's funding for the next year.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service provides protection, prevention and response services to the people of Berkshire. To maintain the current level of service, the Fire Authority is proposing a £5 increase for 2026/27, based on a Band D precept, to £91.31.

[Read more](#)



The consultation closes at **9am on Monday, 2 February 2026**. If you require assistance with accessing the information in a different format or language, please **contact us**:

[rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay](https://rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay)

[precepting@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:precepting@rbfrs.co.uk)

**0118 945 2888**

**Newsham Court,  
Pincent's Kiln, Calcot,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
RG31 7SD**

Facebook RoyalBerkshireFRS Twitter @RBFRSOfficial Instagram @RoyalBerkshireFire  
Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service www.rbfrs.co.uk

### 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

Elsie



#### Year 2

Madeleine & Audrey

#### Year 3

Thomas & Blossom

#### Year 4

Harriet & Leo

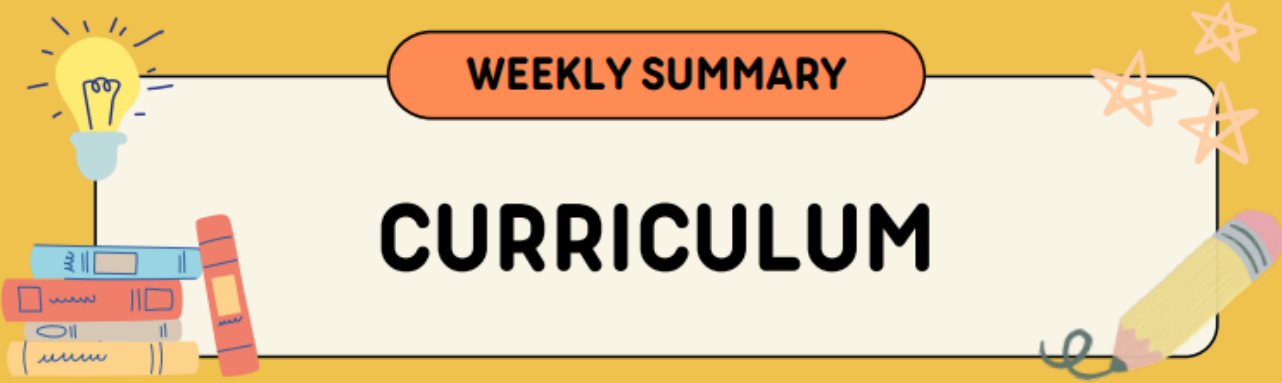
#### Year 5

Hattie

#### Year 6

Jonathan





## 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.

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reception</b> | This week Reception have been busy learning new sounds in Phonics including digraphs and trigraphs and have been practising these in their reading and spelling. They have also started their new book in English called 'Brown Bear Brown Bear' and wrote a fact sheet about bears. In Maths the children have been strengthening their knowledge of the number 0 to 5 including subitising to 5, representing 0-5 and working on their number bonds to five. In Music the children learned all about familiar action songs and thought about why some songs have actions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Year 1</b>    | Year 1 have been busy learning across lots of subjects this week. In maths, we used deeper thinking to explore numbers and worked out how many tens and ones are in each number. In English, we read <i>Ivy and the Lonely Rain Cloud</i> and used adjectives to describe the cloud and the feelings it had. We also wrote the ending of the story in the first person, thinking carefully about what I did and how I felt. In history, we started our new topic on toys and enjoyed talking about our favourite toy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Year 2</b>    | <p>A great start to the new year with the first full week back to school and the start to a lot of exciting new topics! Do take a look at our curriculum overview on the website for this half term.</p> <p>We have been learning lots about the Amazon Rainforest for our English text 'The Great Kapok Tree' and have been learning to use expanded noun phrases to describe animals in the rainforest and learning to use commas in a list. In Maths, we have been using notes and coins to make a total amount and the same amount in many different ways and learning to check the total. In PSHE, we explored ways in which the Internet helps us in this modern world. The children were surprised when Mrs Hussain discussed the evolution of the internet and her experiences from learning to use the internet when she was a young girl back in the 90's and how it's accessibility really has come a long way. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages and the importance of staying safe online by creating a poster.</p> |





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|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Year 3</b> | Year 3 have had a wonderful week. In English, we have written letters as if we were the lighthouse keeper. In Maths, we have worked really hard multiplying 2 digits by 1 digit. In Science, we looked at different sources of light and the impact they have and in Geography we explored the human and physical features of our local area using an OS map.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Year 4</b> | We have been very busy this week. We have been learning what factor pairs are and how to use them in maths and in English have been enjoying finding out about Antarctica to help us to write a report about it. We even made history by watching the very first live lesson from Antarctica, which was very exciting. In our geography lesson we have been using lines of longitude and latitude to find places countries around the world. We have also been rehearsing our dance for our dance festival.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Year 5</b> | It's been a nice first full week in the classroom in Year 5. In maths, we have been subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. In English, we have been writing recounts of our favourite day's at Ufton Court, with the purpose of showing the Year 4s so they know what to look forward to! We were also super lucky to be able to go and watch Hattie perform in Starlight Express on Thursday. We are all incredibly proud of her, and it was lovely to see all the children supporting her! I hope everyone has a nice weekend.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Year 6</b> | This week in Year 6 we have travelled back in time to 1940. We imagined what life was like during World War II and stepped into the shoes of evacuees, thinking carefully about how it might have felt to leave our homes, families and belongings behind. We explored emotions, challenges and daily life during this time and showed great empathy and imagination in our work. We have also really enjoyed starting our new class book, <i>Letters from the Lighthouse</i> , which links perfectly to our learning about World War II. The children have been engaged in the story and are already making thoughtful predictions and connections. In Science, we have been learning how scientists group living things. We built classification trees for animals, using their characteristics to decide how they should be sorted. We worked carefully and logically, explaining our choices using scientific vocabulary. It has been a fantastic week of learning, with lots of thoughtful discussion and brilliant teamwork. Well done, Year 6! |

## LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



**Next Thing**  
NEXT THING EDUCATION PRESENTS

LIMITED SPACES  
**BOOK BY 6TH FEB**

# TECH CAMP

**FEBRUARY CAMPS 2026**

St Luke's CofE Primary School, SL6 7EG

**£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS**  
9 AM - 4 PM, AGES 5-11

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

Children's Vouchers? WE ALSO ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHILDCARE



SCAN ME

## FEB HALF TERM 2026







Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering

Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

**16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES**

**What Parents Say**

"Absolutely Fantastic!  
First time attending &  
my son loved it!"

★★★★★

**HOW TO BOOK**

**STEP 1**  
SCAN THE QR CODE



**STEP 2**  
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP



**STEP 3**  
BOOK ONLINE  
SPACES LIMITED

**BOOK**

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

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**E: [INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION](mailto:INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION) T: 01442 873150**



# FOOTBALL

## FEB HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP



Come and join our football holiday camp. A chance to learn a variety of new skills and techniques whilst working in a fun engaging environment. The day will consist of a variety of different sessions and lots of games and competitions.

**HOLIDAY CAMP**

**DATES:**

Monday 16th February

Tuesday 17th February

Wednesday 18th February

Thursday 19th February

**PRIZES TO BE WON!**



**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT: [contact@fabacademy.co.uk](mailto:contact@fabacademy.co.uk)**

## LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

**OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY**

FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!  
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

# SCIENCE BAZAAR

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening  
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe

**BOOK TICKETS**

**MORGAN SINDALL CONSTRUCTION**

[www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar)  
[sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk)

[f](#) @OxfordBrookesPublicEngagementResearch  
[ig](#) @oburesearchpublicengagement

Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

# BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT ST PIRANS SCHOOL

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT FOR COOKHAM DEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

**USE CODE CDPTA26 FOR £20 OFF!**

\*MINIMUM OF 2 DAYS  
Must be booked in conjunction with other offers

FOR EVERY BOOKING MADE, BARRACUDAS WILL MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL !!!

4 to 14 year olds!  
80+ Activities!  
Choice each session!  
Specialist Courses!  
Flexible bookings!

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[f](#) [ig](#) [t](#) [d](#) [in](#) [Trustpilot](#)

SIGN UP TODAY LIMITED SPACES JAN SALE FINISHES 31ST JAN

# IPro FOOTBALL

## FEB HALF TERM CAMPS

# JANUARY SALE

10% OFF ALL BOOKINGS

## 3 DAY CAMP

16TH - 18TH FEBRUARY '26

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL 3G

**GREAT NEWS!** CAMP DAYS ARE NOW RUNNING FROM 8:30AM - 5:00PM

SCAN ME TO BOOK

CALL 07908 172175, VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR EMAIL US AT [OFFICE@IPROFOOTBALLCOACHING.CO.UK](mailto:OFFICE@IPROFOOTBALLCOACHING.CO.UK)

[f](#) IPROFOOTBALLCOACHING [ig](#) [X](#) IPROFOOTBALL