



Newsletter



2025-2026 Issue 2

19th September 2025

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

28th: Families@4

October

3rd: MacMillan Coffee
Afternoon @ 2pm

5th: Maidenhead Boundary
Walk

7th: Individual & Sibling Photos

10th: World Mental Health Day

14th: Harvest Festival

17th: Flu Vaccination

23rd: PTA Meeting @ 7.30pm

24th: Break Up

November

3rd: Return to School

7th: School Talent Show @ 2pm

22nd: Lions Talent Show

December

11th: Christmas Jumper Day

11th: Christmas Lunch

17th: Rocksteady Concert @
1.30pm

18th: Carol Service @ 2pm

19th: Santa Singalong @ 1pm

19th: Break Up @ 2.15pm

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 21st:

* World Gratitude Day

Wednesday 24th:

* National Fitness Day

* OPAL Presentation & Parents
Playdate @ 2pm

Thursday 25th:

* Y4 @ Cogges Farm

* Reception 'First Class Photo'

Friday 26th:

* Reception & Y1 Parents
Phonics Session @ 9am



SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

Wow wow wow! 3 words to describe iSingPop yesterday. We were all so proud of all of the children that took part and those that didn't but still learnt the words and the dances! The joy and happiness that iSingPop brought to school has lifted the spirits of the school. It was lovely seeing so many parents in church joining in with the dancing - thank you to everyone that managed to come.

GRAVITY GRAND PRIX

Thank you to everyone who came to support the Cookham Dean entry. We raised **£537** on the auction but the PTA are still counting the money from the café! A big thank you to the crew - the Pearson family, the Dawkes family, the Kay family, the Lean family, the Steel family and the Harris-Bryant family who did such an amazing job in creating such a masterpiece. As you may know, the school kart won the Spirit of the Event – the award closest to our hearts.



A big well done to Sophie in Year 5 who was the chosen designer. As you know the children were able to guess how long it was going to take me and my time was **2 mins 49 seconds**. The closest guess was 2 mins 48 seconds and the winner was Sophie in Year 2. We look forward to seeing what she has in store for school when she is headteacher for the morning.

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY

Sunday 21st September is World Gratitude Day – let's all take 5 minutes to reflect and appreciate the many amazing things in life.

WET WEATHER GEAR

Can you please make sure that your child has a coat in school. The children will go outside every play time unless it is absolutely pouring with rain. Each class has a welly rack and when the weather is bad, the children **MUST** wear outdoor shoes or wellingtons if they want to play on the field.

SCHOOL NEWS

LIBRARY

We are in the process of updating our library system and purchasing new books. A big thank you to Ms Allanson, Ms Exworth, Mrs Jackson, Ms Dancer, Mrs Dawes, Mrs Pearson, Ms Van Den Berg and Mrs Dixon for working so hard to make the space enjoyable for the children.

AH-TISSUE!

As we are getting into cooler weather, we would very much appreciate donations of boxes of tissues. Please hand them to your class teacher. Thank you!

OPAL REMINDER

Don't forget to sign up for next week's OPAL event on Wednesday 24th September. There will be a presentation from the OPAL Lead at 2pm in the hall followed by a parent and children play session in the playground/field. Please let the office know if you would like to attend.



YOU'RE INVITED!

OPAL PRIMARY PROGRAMME

Afternoon 24th September

We are thrilled to be running the OPAL Primary Programme at Cookham Dean.

You are warmly invited to join us for a fun-filled afternoon of outdoor play and creativity with your child/children

Activities include:

- 🏠 Den building
- 👗 Dressing up
- 📖 Imaginative storytelling
- ★ And much more!

Schedule:

- 1:50–2:00pm → Arrive
- 2:00–2:15pm → Talk on the OPAL Primary Programme by OPAL mentor
- 2:15–3:00pm → Free play session with the children

LIBRARY BOOKS/VOLUNTEERS

The library is currently being tidied and updated with lots of new (to us) books by a group of parent volunteers. We will be moving everything over to a new management system, which will hopefully make it much easier for the children to find books that they will enjoy reading - more on that in due course. In the meantime, if your child has a school library book at home or in their desk at school, please can it be returned to the library or the school office on Monday (or ASAP) so we can input it on the new system. For example, we did have a full set of 10 Dogman books, but there are currently none in the library! If you have any good quality relatively new books that you no longer want, please do contact me (mrstoridixon@gmail.com / 0796742723) to see if we have space for them in the library. If you are interested in volunteering in the library, please also let me know.

Tori Dixon, Parent Librarian

FAMILIES@4

Our Families@4 service on Sunday 28th September at St John the Baptist will have a harvest theme and will be led by our Pupils 4 Praise. Our Reception and KS1 children will be singing their harvest song. Everyone is very welcome to this family service which is followed by a high tea in the vestry room. It is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in our church community at a family level. We would love to see you there - please let the office know if you can come so that we make sure we have enough refreshments and that there are enough resources for the children to complete their activity.

SCHOOL NEWS

LIONS TALENT SHOW

Please see the flyer below for the Maidenhead Lions Talent Show. We would like to hold our own talent show to find 2 finalists to go through representing Cookham Dean Primary School on Saturday 22nd November. The entries could be singing, dancing, playing an instrument, doing magic - any talent at all! Our internal talent show will be Friday 7th November at 2pm. It is open to all children but please do only enter your child if they are confident to perform in front of an audience. Please complete the attached form and return to the office by Monday 3rd November.

A flyer for the Maidenhead Lions Talent Show 2025. At the top, two circular logos for 'LIONS INTERNATIONAL' with a large 'L' in the center are positioned on either side of a red curtain backdrop. The text 'MAIDENHEAD LIONS PRESENT' is centered above a cartoon lion character. The lion is orange with a white belly and paws, standing on a red circular stage. Below the stage, the text 'MAIDENHEAD SCHOOL TALENT SHOW 2025' is written in white on a red banner. The background is dark blue with yellow stars. Below the banner, the text 'Calling all local Maidenhead primary schools!' is followed by a paragraph about the show. Then, the date 'When: Saturday the 22nd of November.' and location 'Where: Furze Platt Theatre, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7NQ' are listed. A paragraph about the funds raised follows. At the bottom, a black box contains the contact information for the application form.

**MAIDENHEAD LIONS
PRESENT**

MAIDENHEAD SCHOOL TALENT SHOW 2025

Calling all local Maidenhead primary schools!
We are thrilled to announce the highly anticipated second Maidenhead Lions Talent Show, and we want YOU to be a part of it! This is your chance to showcase the incredible talents of your primary-aged children on a grand stage while supporting an extremely worthy cause.

When: Saturday the 22nd of November.
Where: Furze Platt Theatre, Furze Platt Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7NQ

All funds raised will go towards helping those in the local community, including Maidenhead Lions youth projects.

To confirm your interest and to receive an application form, email talentshow@maidenheadlions.org.uk by the 19th of September 2025

PENCIL CASES

Can KS2 please bring in their own pencil cases (only KS2 please!) - with plain pencils, rubbers, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks and pens that they would like to write with. We will supply rulers and colouring pencils and pens. KS1 we would very much appreciate donations of pritt glue sticks (sorry cheaper glue does not do the job of school sticking!)

SCHOOL NEWS

50:50 CLUB



50:50 club

Would you like the chance to WIN UP TO £50 and help the school while you're doing it? Then join our 50:50 club!

Anyone can join! ask your friends and neighbours.

For just £2.50 a month you could help provide equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils, and have a chance at winning some cash yourself in the monthly draw £££.

Sign up today and you could be our next WINNER!!

For more information contact Helen Jackson, helenrymer80@gmail.com

BIG NOISE 2025

This year's Big Noise is happening on Friday 24th October. We have had children attend this and have thoroughly enjoyed it. If your child is of an appropriate standard, do consider signing them up. They will have to be accompanied by a parent. Please let us know if your child attends.



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

Ethan



Year 2

Arabella

Year 3

Grace

Year 4

Everyone for iSingPop

Year 5

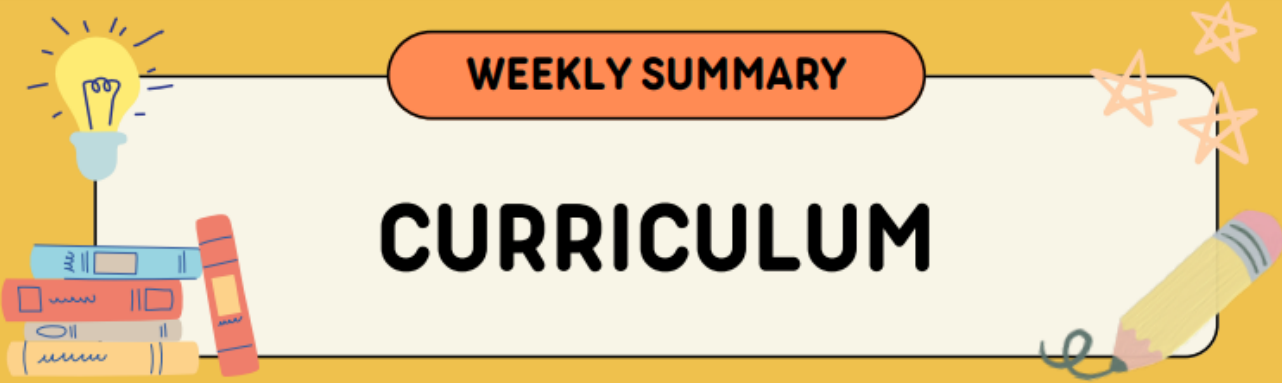
Everyone who did a speech for school leadership



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	Reception have had another fantastic week - well done! This week we have started learning Phonics focusing on four sounds /s/, /a/, /t/ and /p/. The children have been super at remembering the sounds and have also had a go at writing the letters and practising the formation. We have also started PE this week where we focused on finding a safe space in the MUGA and learning how to stop and start whilst moving at different paces. Additionally, the children loved being creative and going to Forest School to find natural resources to make faces for our Marvellous Me topic.
Year 1	In Year 1 this week we have continued to look at the book 'What the Ladybird Heard'. We have learnt what adjectives are and put them into real and silly sentences. In Maths, we have been looking at 1 more or 1 less than a number up to 10. We have also been practicing counting back from 10. We loved looking at baby pictures of ourselves in Science. We had to figure out who the baby was in the picture, and look for clues that could help us such as nose features. Well done to everyone who took part in the iSingPop concerts!
Year 2	This week we have continued exploring our class story by exploring the difference between formal and informal language using examples from the text, describing a key character using interesting vocabulary and describing a setting. In Maths, we have been working on Place Value and representing two digit numbers using practical equipment and learning to partition numbers into tens and ones. In Science, children were able to understand that not all animals look like their offspring and were able to cut, sort and label adult animals with their young.



WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

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Year 3	Year 3 have had a fantastic week! In English, we have continued our work on Roald Dahl's, <i>Esio Trot</i> . We have discussed how the author has made his writing flow and focused on using adjectives and conjunctions to make our own sentences more interesting. In Maths, we have been focusing on partitioning numbers to 100 and looking forward to moving on to numbers to 1000 next week! As well as the fantastic iSingPOP concert this week, Year 3 have been really excited to start their geography topic on Volcanoes!
Year 4	We have been very busy in Year 4 this week. We have been investigating numbers up to 10,000 by finding different ways to partition them. Building up to our character description in English and finished off the week with extended writing. In our gym lessons we have been doing counterbalances with our partners and in Science have set up an experiment to see what happens when bones and eggshells are left in different solutions for a week. We also had an amazing time at church, singing all of the iSingPOP songs.
Year 5	This week in maths we have continued to explore numbers up to 1,000,000 and the power of 10. In English, we have been working on poems about loneliness - one of the key themes in our linked text. In RE, the children enjoyed discussing the First Pillar of Islam - Shahadah, focusing on why it is so important to Muslims. On top of this, a big thank you to all the children who performed so well at the iSingPop concerts on Thursday. Have a nice weekend all!
Year 6	This week in Year 6 we have been exploring perceptions - thinking about how people see us. We have explored the human side of Victorian Freak Shows and how society treats those who don't fit into social norms. In Maths, we have been working with larger numbers: billions and trillions. In RE, we have been learning all about dharma and how, in Hindu faith, following dharma can lead to good karma.

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



**Special Educational
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

Information, Advice
and Support Service
for children, young people and parents

Wednesday 24th September

Benefits Explained

Coffee from 9.30am, info session 10-11am

Windsor Family Hub 65 Alma Rd, Windsor SL4 3HD



Join the IAS team and RBWM Benefits Adviser Shameem Hejazi to talk about what Benefits may be available to you and your child/Young person with SEND, top tips on how to apply and an opportunity to ask questions to Shameem & IAS advisers.



Book your free place here:



**Special Educational
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

Information, Advice
and Support Service
for children, young people and parents

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

We'll talk about the process of Preparing for
Adulthood for children and young people
with an EHCP, and/or SEND



**WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER
10-11.30AM**

@ Riverside Children's Centre, West Dean,
Maidenhead SL6 7JB



Book your FREE ticket here via QR Code



**Special Educational
Needs & Disability (SEND)**

Information, Advice
and Support Service
for children, young people and parents

Tuesday 11th November
Online Session 1230-1345

ONLINE SESSION: EDUCATION HEALTH CARE (EHC) NEEDS ASSESSMENTS EXPLAINED



An explanation of the process of applying for an
Education Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) and
what happens if the Local Authority agree to issue an
Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)



Book a free place via QR code

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

SONNING family GLOW RUN

Run the sights of Sonning under torch light and enjoy a BBQ and Silent Disco afterwards

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER
BERKSHIRE COUNTY SPORTS CLUB



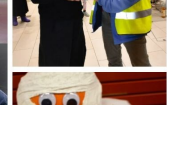
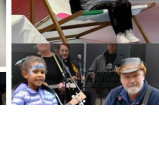
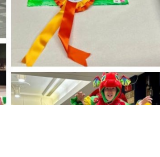
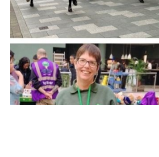
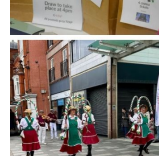
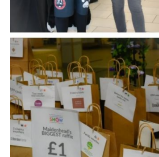
KIDS FUN RUN (1.5K MIN AGE 4): **£5**
ADULT GLOW RUN (5K MIN AGE 11): **£24**
FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN): **£50**

ALL ENTRANTS WILL RECEIVE A MEDAL AND GLOW STICKS

← **SIGN UP HERE**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/SONNINGGLOWRUN25](https://bit.ly/sonningglowrun25)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



MAIDENHEAD TOWN SHOW

MAKING, COOKING, BAKING, CRAFTING, SINGING, DANCING & GENERAL MERRIMENT

At the 11th Maidenhead Town Show in October 2024, we raised an amazing **£3,555** for Thames Valley Adventure Playground - almost double our previous year's charity total! In addition the Nicholsons Centre enjoyed footfall of **7666** (a 78.5% increase on average footfall and the highest since for a Sunday since Christmas Eve 2023). Footfall in the High Street was up 59% and overall in Maidenhead, footfall increased by 25% to **33,618** total visits! The town was a-buzz!

The event was opened by Josh Reynolds, MP for Maidenhead and consisted of

- 28 craft competition categories - all free for children
- 6 dog show categories
- 40+ craftstalls, 10 local F&B providers and funfair rides
- 100+ participants of craft sessions (children and adults)
- 25+ volunteers to help set up
- Many local musicians, Morris dancers and a carol school
- Street entertainers, jesters, facepainters and also a retro omnibus to visit
- 1 main charity - plus 10+ community organisations
- In addition to sponsored petting zoo for children and Maidenhead's biggest ever raffle!

We loved receiving comments like 'it was fabulous and amazing to see so many people out and about' - plus the dog show is now becoming a key date for the diary!

We look forward to making the 2025 event - due to take place on **Sunday 19 October 2025** - even bigger and better! #SaveTheDate - plus a HUGE thank you to all involved!

Rotary in Maidenhead Presents...

Maidenhead Boundary Walk



4.4k Family Walk too!

GROUP DISCOUNT
Register a group of 15 or more before 5th September 2025 and entry is just £30!

Sunday 5th October 2025

Starting from Boulters Lock Car Park - 9.00am to 10.30am

YOU CAN...

Raise funds for your own charity
Have fun, keep fit and make a difference

JOIN US at this fun event and participate in the history of the Maidenhead Boundary walk. Good luck!

All proceeds from the event donated to:



Register online today at www.boundarywalk.org.uk

ETON ACTION FAIR 2025

ETON COLLEGE
SAT 20th SEPT 2025
11am-4pm



Adults £2
All entry fees go to charity
Children £1



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



CRAZY CRABS SWIM SCHOOL




NEW SWIM LESSONS IN COOKHAM (Spaces still available for this term)

Welcome to Crazy Crabs Swim School. We are **PASSIONATE** about getting your children actually swimming (not just ticking boxes). We offer Small group, 2-2-1 and Private classes with flexible booking.

We offer classes from 10 weeks old to adults. Our teachers have years experience and LOVE teaching. We have lots of times available Tuesdays and Thursdays afterschool.

So come join us at our brand new warm pool location!
Contact us: info@crazycrabsswimschool.co.uk
FB: Crazy Crabs Swim School




TOM DEAN'S SWIM SCHOOL

SWIMMING LESSONS

Our mission is to foster a love for swimming while building strength, discipline and water safety skills




Scan for more information

TOMDEANSWIMSCHOOL.COM



Leaf & Clay Ceramics

This weekend I am so excited to have a stand at the Cookham Dean Village Fair where I will be running fun taster sessions for just £10. You and the kids can come along and make a beautiful leaf or heart clay decoration. You'll be able to add patterns and textures and even personalise with a name, date etc to have as a special keepsake or gift. Once you've created your piece, I will take it to my studio to glaze and fire. You can then collect it once it's ready (1-2 weeks) or I will happily post to you.

SPECIAL BONUS – Everyone that takes part will receive a £10 off voucher to use towards a block of 6 lessons.

I'd love you to pop by, say hello and see what I do! I'll be there from 1-5pm on Saturday 20th Sept.



After School Ceramic Classes

Looking for something fun, creative and relaxing for kids after school? My classes are the perfect way to unwind and let imaginations flow. Classes run every evening from 3.30pm in 1 hour slots. My studio is cosy, which makes it ideal for 1 to 1 lessons or for small groups of 2 or 3 friends to come along together. (max 4 in a class)

Children can work on seasonal projects or dream up their own amazing ideas and I will guide them step by step through hand building, glazing or throwing on the wheel. It's fun, relaxed and the perfect creative outlet at the end of a busy school day.

Price is £25 per lesson which includes clay, glaze and firing costs. Booked in half term blocks of 6 or 7 lessons. Book now mauloo@leafandclayceramics@yahoo.co.uk



Are you struggling with a defiant child?



Facing Defiance

A six part online course for parents that you can complete in your own time. A step by step guide through a specific strategy aimed to support parents of children aged between 5 to 12 who are displaying very challenging behaviour, including children with ADHD, ODD and PDA.

go to **facefamilyadvice.co.uk**

Book online £48

on the **Online Parenting Courses** page

Taplow Choirs is recruiting for its two junior choirs:

Taplow Children's Choir - for boys and girls Y3-6,
Saturdays 10-11am.

Taplow Boys' Choir - for boys from Y5 upwards with
some singing experience already,
Saturdays 11:15-12:15.

Trained by a gifted young teacher, Elisabeth Cullen,
please feel free to come along and sing with us on
Saturday 20th September at Taplow Village Centre,
SL6 0EX, or contact Gillian Dibden at
gillian.dibden@gmail.com