



Newsletter



2024-2025 Issue 39

18th July 2025

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

3rd: Inset Day

4th: Return to School

14th: Gravity Grand Prix

October

5th: Maidenhead Boundary Walk

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

JULY

Monday 21st:

* Poetry Competition @ 9am

Tuesday 22nd:

* Y4 Cello Concert @ 2.30pm

Wednesday 16th:

* Y6 Leavers Assembly @ 9.15am

* Y6 Farewell @ 1.30pm

* Break Up @ 2.15pm

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

Class of
2025

What an amazing evening last night was. The Year 6 production of Bugsy Malone was out of this world. The children have worked so hard to learn lines, learn songs, work together, learn dance routines and it all came together last night. It was wonderful to see how proud they were of each other and themselves and to see the joy in their faces. Well done Year 6 - you were incredible! A big thank you to Mrs Terry and Mrs Stephenson who pulled together props, backdrops and supported the children throughout!

This will be the last newsletter of this year. It has been a phenomenal year with so many achievements in school - from sporting to academic to personal development. We are extremely proud of every child in our school because they have all been so successful in so many ways - too many to count. I am so grateful to all our staff who continue to go the extra mile to ensure the children at our school feel safe, loved and supported.

I wish you a very happy summer and look forward to seeing you back in September.



LEAVERS

We are very sorry to say that Mrs Campbell will be leaving us at the end of this year. She has been an asset to our team and we wish her all the very best in her new role.

Our Year 6 leavers' service in church was magical. The Year 6 did a great job in leading us in their final service and it was a good opportunity to say goodbye and to thank those families who are also leaving us. We wish you all the very best.

✧ ✧ ✧ **FAREWELL** ✧ ✧ ✧

SIAMS

As you know we had our SIAMS inspection in June. We have now received the report which is attached for your full reading. There is no longer a judgement given to schools (you will know that we were outstanding in our previous inspection) but the inspector confirmed that we are an 'effective church school'. Some of the headlines from the report:

- **Leaders, including Governors, make bold decisions inspired by the Christian vision. Consequently, pupils and adults flourish as unique individuals because of dedicated leaders' commitment to providing the best possible opportunities for personal development.**
- **Leaders actively create a strong culture of care and respect built on positive relationships. Pupils and adults feel valued and listened to with their feedback resulting in positive developments. Beneficial, collaborative partnerships enhance the wellbeing of members of the school and the wider community.**
- **The inclusive curriculum is designed with the vision at its centre meaning pupils benefit from the wide range of experiences it offers. Leaders provide tailored support so that the needs of learners considered vulnerable are well met.**

If you have any questions about the report, please do contact the office.



SCHOOL NEWS

ILLNESS

Can I please remind parents that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea then please do not send your child in to school for 48 hours after the last bout. We do not want to spread any sickness around school. Thank you for your understanding.

LAST DAY OF TERM

Please remember that we finish at 2.15pm on Wednesday.



LEAVERS VS REMAINERS CRICKET MATCH 2025



The annual Year 6 Leavers v Remainders cricket match and BBQ was blessed with a beautiful summer's evening at Cookham Dean Cricket Club last Tuesday, 8th July. A huge well done to all the brilliant Year 6s who participated and worked so hard to provide a wide range of entertainment, thanks to their creativity and initiative with the stalls. A big thank you to Chrissey for organising everything, to Jo and team for the BBQ, as well as all the Year 6 parents who helped with the stalls and entertainment. Thank you to the Team Captains, Luke and Sachin, and to all the players. Congratulations to the Remainders who won the trophy for the fourth time in five years with a score of 153 to the Leavers' 70!! The school is enormously grateful to the Cookham Dean Cricket club who are so supportive in allowing us to use their facilities, open the bar and BBQ, as well as donating a percentage of the takings to the school. Once the final donations are in, the event will have raised over **£2,000** which is a superb achievement. Thank you everyone for making it so successful. The (giftaidable) link for any remaining donations is [HERE](#).

Tessa Allanson, Year 6 Parent

OPAL - MEET THE PLAY TEAM

Hi, I'm Mrs Terry. I'm the Year 3 Teaching Assistant and a member of the KS2 lunch team. I have really enjoyed seeing the children engage in more imaginative play since the introduction of OPAL, in particular fancy dress, den building and digging for treasures!

Mrs Terry, Y3 Teaching Assistant

I hope you have a lovely and playful summer! Watch out in September for different OPAL events and ideas being delivered to the children in the new school year. I will be working hard and collecting equipment over the summer, so feel free to grab anything or let me know. Thank you everyone for the support this year.

Miss G, OPAL Lead

MAIDENHEAD BOUNDARY WALK



The Maidenhead Boundary Walk is on Sunday 5th October this year and we'd love to get a school team together to take part in this sponsored walk. It's a great route and the children have brilliant fun walking together. The full distance is 13.1 miles, but you can choose to walk any distance from 2.5 miles upwards. Full details [HERE](#). Last year we had children from right across the school taking part and even some Reception children completed the walk! It would be wonderful to repeat this. For more information or to express interest, please email rebecca_vdb@yahoo.co.uk. The deadline to register a group is 5th September and we will set up a JustGiving page for sponsorship, with all money raised going to the school. Thank you!

SCHOOL NEWS

BIG NOISE 2025



Chiltern Music Academy

Big Noise!

2025

- Friday 24 October
- 9am-2.30pm
- RGS
- School years 5-9
- Elementary* to advanced instrumentalists

Come and play in a Mega-Orchestra of over 120 children FREE!

Meet young musicians from across the Chilterns - play fabulous music together - make a **Big Noise!**

*If you have been playing your instrument for at least a year and can read music, come and join in!

Find out if your school is coming! Or, if you are on holiday, apply independently using the QR code www.chilternmusicacademy.org

A FOND FAREWELL TO RICHARD SIMMONDS



We are very sorry to say goodbye to Richard Simmonds as our Church Governor following his resignation. Richard stepped into the breach magnificently after the departure of Rev Helen Chamberlain to a new Parish and for that we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. In recognition of his determination never to be beaten in the face of the endless and ever changing acronyms that pervade education, the Governors presented Richard with an acronym of his own to keep, with heartfelt thanks from the entire governing board for such a committed and caring contribution to our school.

Claire Phillpot, Chair of Governors

The 6 Rs - CHAMPION OF THE WEEK!

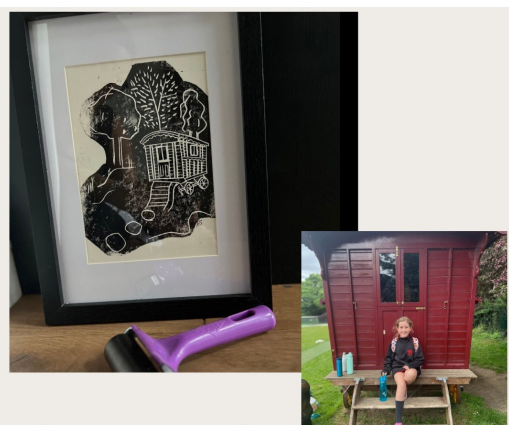
Each week we celebrate children across the school who have encompassed a number of our values:

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

	Year 1 Jude	
Year 2 Alfie & Penelope		Year 3 Mr Salter, Mrs Terry & Ms Smith
Year 4 Everyone!		Year 5 Everyone!
	Year 6 Everyone!	

SCHOOL NEWS

GYPSY CARAVAN



Gypsy Caravan

By Hadley

A lino cut paintwork of our Cookham Dean Gypsy Caravan originally designed and printed by Hadley to raise money for our Yr6 leavers. Original artwork now available to buy for £10 with 50% of profits going to the PTA. Please place orders via Heather on 07715567335 or email hevina@hotmail.com.

YEAR 4 - COOKHAM DIG

On Friday 18th July, Year 4 went to the Cookham Dig. When we arrived, we carried out a treasure hunt to crack a code using Anglo-Saxon runes. We then wrote our names in runes. After this, we went to the dig site and started at dig 1, where we had an I-spy activity to complete. We also saw the holes where the wooden posts from the Abbey would have been, saw where the fire place, a well and a water wheel were situated.

After this, we went to dig 2, which was full of graves. They recovered over 74 skeletons which told them that in Anglo-Saxon times, this would have been a hospice as most of the bones had diseases and even showed that brain surgery had been carried out and the patient had survived. We then went into the church, listened to stories, that had some true facts but mostly made up and listened to live Anglo-Saxon music. I was a great trip and we were intrigued by the bones!

Sophie D, Annabelle & Gigi, Year 4



THE WIZARD OF OZ



This afternoon the children enjoyed a fabulous performance of The Wizard of Oz!

YEAR 6 PLAY

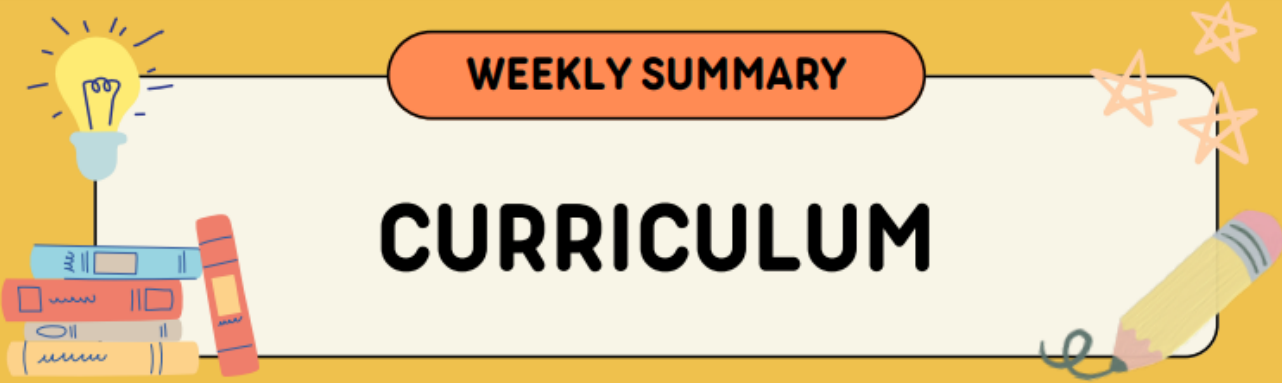
"I thought it was excellent and everyone did so well learning their lines" - Luke

"It was an uplifting event that brought everyone smiles" - Lily

"It was lots of fun for the end of our time at Cookham Dean" - Henry

"Everyone had such a great time performing it!" - Max



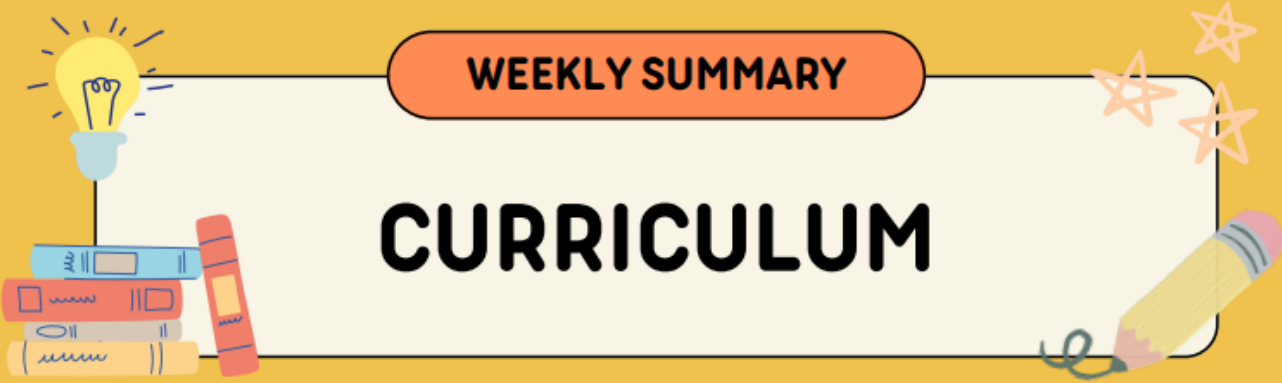


WEEKLY SUMMARY

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	In Reception this week we have continued with our phase 4 phonics, focusing on words ending in 'er' and 'est'. In English we have been looking at poems, the children really impressing me with how they confidently recited a chosen poem and then making up their own poems to share with each other. In maths we have been revising all the key operations to make sure we haven't forgotten them. We have also enjoyed watching the Year 6 play and the Rocksteady concert, lots verbalising that they would like to join in next year! Have a wonderful weekend.
Year 1	This week Year 1 have continued to revise all the sounds they have learned in phonics over the year. This has included reading the sounds, reading words, spotting digraphs and trigraphs and creating sentences using phonics words. In maths the children have been revisiting their learning on Time which has included learning about the days of the week, months of the year and telling the time to the hour and half an hour. In English the children have been learning about the features of a diary entry and focusing on use of the first-person pronoun 'I'. Finally, in science the children continued their learning on their Plants topic and focused on the differences between evergreen trees and deciduous trees. It has been a great final full week in Year 1!
Year 2	Having finished off our work on Flat Stanley, we planned and created an information text about Windsor Castle. We used the information from our recent trip to provide the facts and then sorted the information into sections with sub headings. In Maths, we have been completing a range of problems and challenges with a focus on finding all the possible answers in a systematic way.
Year 3	It has been a lovely week in Year 3. Despite being the penultimate week, we are still as busy as ever. In maths, the children have been consolidating their understanding of shape and angles. In English, we have been exploring a poem called The River, by Valerie Bloom. In DT, we have been practicing our cutting skills, focusing on the bridge and claw grips to cut seasonal vegetables. The children also tried some of the vegetables they were cutting. The radish and spring onion didn't get great reviews! On top of this, we were fortunate to watch the Year 6 production of Bugsy Malone, which was incredible! Well done to all of the children and adults involved.



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Year 4	This week in maths we have been re-capping multiplying 2 and 3 digits by 1 digit and dividing 2 digits by 1 digit. We have nearly finished our letters persuading Joe Todd-Stanton to add our heroes to his book. We have also held our heats for the poetry competition, and it was really hard for Miss Thompson to select 2 of them to go through to the final. In the end she had to choose 3 as they were all amazing. In DT we have started to design our slingshot cars and can't wait to race them next week. On Tuesday afternoon, we went to the church for the Year 6 leavers service and on Thursday morning, watched the Year 6 production of Bugsy, which was brilliant. Friday was a great day, as we all went to the Cookham Dig and learnt more about the history in Anglo-Saxon times. In the afternoon, we watched a production of the Wizard of Oz. A very busy week!
Year 5	This week we have been planning and writing our Ancient Egypt presentations which we will be sharing on Monday. Topics have varied from pharaohs, to mummies, to children's lives. We have also finished our video programming module in computing, filming each other using a variety of camera angles. Each child spoke on a chosen subject for six different shots. Topics ranged from football, to pizza making to my guitar. The films were then watched, evaluated and re-shot for improvements. Great work Year 5 and lots of fun! Our 3D art installations are now all nearly finished, ready for a show on Monday. The children have been creative, using a variety of media. Well done Year 5! As we come to the end of the year, the 6Rs champion for this week is the whole class. The comments made by those who nominated the class were lovely to hear: We have come on so much this year and really flourished; We are now so helpful to each other; We work really well as a class; We are so different to how we were in September – we've come such a long way; We have matured so much and are ready for Year 6. We could not agree more Year 5! You have worked so hard and are so supportive towards one another. We're so proud of you. Great job!!
Year 6	This week we have been preparing for our play 'Bugsy Malone', as well as our church leavers' service and school leavers' service. We have been writing letters to our five-year-old selves and perfecting our poems, raps, and songs. We have also been thinking about our hopes and aspirations. We ended our busy week with a fun day out at Legoland!

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



LET'S DIVE IN!
SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB
 MONDAY 28TH - THURSDAY 31ST JULY
 MONDAY 11TH - THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST
10.15-12NOON
CLAIRES COURT GIRLS POOL

www.letsdivein.co.uk

DROP & GO SESSIONS

for stage 4 upwards
ages 9 to 15 years

Year 5 to year 10

Activities include;
 Diving, summer fun activities, synchro, water polo, Rookie lifeguard & Fitness swimming
£75 for each course

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Bernice@letsdivein.co.uk
 to book






Summer Swim Intensives

Let's Dive In!

www.letsdivein.co.uk



Monday 28th - Thursday 31st July

4 day course for £56 (30min sessions)
 Claire's Court Girls' School
bernice@letsdivein.co.uk to book

TIME	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4	CLASS 5
9.15am	SWIM FIN Age 3 - 6 beginners	STAGE 1 ADVANCED Age 4+ can put face in/swim with noodle	STAGE 2 ADVANCED Can swim 5m in each stroke	STAGE 3 ADVANCED Can swim 10m in each stroke	STAGE 4 ADVANCED FINS Can swim a length in each stroke
9.45am	SWIM FIN Age 3 - 6 beginners	STAGE 2 Can swim 3m+ on front and back	STAGE 2 ADVANCED Can swim 5m in each stroke	STAGE 3 ADVANCED Can swim 10m in each stroke	STAGE 3 ADVANCED FINS Can swim 3/4 length in each stroke
10.15am	SWIM FIN Age 3 - 6 beginners	STAGE 1 ADVANCED Age 4+ can put face in/swim with noodle	STAGE 3 ADVANCED Can swim 10m in each stroke	SUMMER THEMED ACTIVITIES (Stage 3+) Mini polo, relay races, challenges and team events	
10.45am	STAGE 1 ADVANCED Age 4+ can put face in/swim with noodle	STAGE 2 ADVANCED Can swim 5m in each stroke	STAGE 8 SYNCHRO (45 MINS) Artistic swimming for Stage 4+	SWIM SQUADS (45 MINS) Starts & Turns. Working on technique, diving, tumble turns	
11.30am	ROOKIE LIFEGUARD (Stage 3 Advanced +, Squads) Learn self-rescue and water safety, follows the RLSS scheme			 	

Private lessons available to book each morning

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 Year 5 upwards

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 Thurs/Sat/Sun:
 other local venues

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age 3-7

Instrument Inspectors

- ♪ Be a musical detective
- ♪ Solve a musical mystery
- ♪ Play musical games
- ♪ Meet the musicians!

£5 for accompanied children

Saturdays 4 and 11 October 9-10am

Wycombe High School
 HP11 1TB



Booking essential - please use the QR code
www.chilternmusicacademy.org/springers-quest






LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

ROLL UP, ROLL UP!

HAPPY'S CIRCUS

Acrobats, Aerialists, Magic, Speciality Acts and much more!



Friday 25 July 6-8:30pm
Saturday 26 July 2-4:30pm
Sunday 27 July 2-4:30pm

Email odney.events@johnlewis.co.uk for more information

JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP | JOHN LEWIS | WAITROSE

THE ODNEY CLUB

Join us at Stoke Mandaville for a BOCCIA HEATHCOAT CUP FESTIVAL

A truly inclusive sport, open for all!

Date: 14th September 2025

Time: 10am – 3pm

Location: Stoke Mandaville sports hall, HP21 9PP

Who it's for: New boccia players – young disabled people (Age 7 years upwards)

Cost: £6.00 a player

What to expect: A friendly, supportive competition with lots of opportunities to play, learn, and make new friends!



SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES, SENDCOS AND SETTINGS

OPENS 16TH SEPT
LIMITED PLACES

AIM
alternative provision

EQUINE THERAPY AP
CLOSE TO MARLOW AND
BURNHAM FOR KS2-
KS4

SIGN UP WITH US TO GET THE LATEST ON OUR NEW KS1 SOUTH BUCKS AP COMING SOON

SEND HAF PLACES
COMING SOON



WWW.TRYAIM.CO.UK



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

NORDEN FARM PRESENTS



THE KITE FESTIVAL

Sunday 31 August
12pm - 4pm
JOIN US FOR
ENTERTAINMENT
MUSIC • FOOD • BAR
FREE EVENT
at Boyn Grove Park
(PUNT HILL)



 **Norden Farm**
Centre for the Arts Maidenhead

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PF
Box Office / 01628 788997

 01628 788997
 nordenfarm.org

THE MAIDENHEAD BEACH

at Norden Farm

GRAND OPENING FRIDAY 25 JULY 12PM

Free To Play On Free Parking



OPEN ALL DAY FROM 11AM

- CAFÉ BAR
- INDOOR CHILL OUT SPACE
- BEACH CRAFTS
- EVENING BEACH GIGS
- KITE MAKING AND MORE

Tuesdays - Saturdays until Sat 6 Sept (excluding Tues 19 - Wed 27 Aug)

 **Norden Farm**

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts
Altwood Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4PF

 nordenfarm.org
 01628 788997