



Newsletter



2024-2025 Issue 31

16th May 2025

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

24th: Y6 Return from Rhosy

June

2nd: Return to School

3rd: Y6 Bikeability

6th: PTA Non-Uniform Day

9th: Healthy Schools Week

9th: Y1 Phonics Screening Check

9th: Y2 @ Windsor Castle

12th: Reception @ Braywick Nature Centre

13th: Sports Day

15th: Families@4

17th: Y5/6 RNLI Talk

20th: SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am

21st: Summer Fete

25th: Musical Soiree @ 6pm

27th: Inset Day (PTA Legoland)

July

3rd: PTA Summer Disco

4th: Parent Forum @ 9am

8th: Y6 Leavers Vs Remainers Cricket Match

11th: Reports Out

14th: SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

MAY

Sunday 18th:

* Y6 @ Rhosy

Monday 19th:

* Walk to School Week

* SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am

Tuesday 20th:

* RBWM Inclusion Summit @ Windsor Racecourse

Friday 23rd:

* Break Up



SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

Well done to our fabulous Year 6 who finished their SATs yesterday. They have approached this time, which can be quite stressful, with such maturity, focus and kindness to both themselves and their friends. They are quite an incredible group of children and we are so very, very proud of each and every one of them! And next week, they will have their reward by staying 6 nights at Rhosy, near Lake Bala in North Wales and a week of outdoor activities in the sunshine. We know you will have a great time! I will be supervising this trip and so Miss Windle will be covering in my absence.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK



Next week is Walk to School Week, a nationwide scheme to encourage children and parents to walk to school where possible. In class the children will be spending some time thinking about the benefits to both our health and the environment of walking to school. We already have a large number of children walking to and from school each day. It would be wonderful to see an increase in the numbers next week! We understand that it will be difficult for some children to walk all the way to and from school however if they can walk, scoot or cycle part of the way, there are huge benefits to them and the school environment. In class, the children will be recording their journeys for this week and next and we look forward to seeing an increase in those travelling by foot!

PARKING & ENGINES

I have had several neighbours complain to me about the parking in Bigfrith Lane, particularly down by the junction of School Lane. The road narrows at this point and a few weeks ago, a car came speeding down the hill from the church, and with cars parked at this junction, a neighbour's car was forced on to the high pavement causing considerable damage to their car. They have also told me about cars parking in or across drives. We don't want our neighbours to think we are a school that is inconsiderate.

If you are waiting at drop off and pick up, please do not leave engines running. Children are particularly at risk from air pollution, as their immune systems, lungs and brains are still developing. Air pollution can affect children's physical health and their ability to learn. Let's give our children a chance to lead healthy and happy lives!

WALKING BUS

Is there anyone that wouldn't mind leading another day of walking bus? We currently have a group of children that leave Cookham Dean cricket club on a Wednesday morning and walk to school. They always arrive in high spirits and ready to start the day. If you feel you can help, please let the office know.

TREES

If you allow your child to climb and swing on trees in and around our school, can you please also educate them (as we do in school) to treat nature with respect. Thank you!

SCHOOL NEWS

OPAL

Thank you very much for the donations this week! We received chalks from Tessa (Year 6 parent) and cable rollers from Isadora (Year 4 parent). There has been a lot of recapitulative play this week. We have had dress-up games, shops, and I think there was even a care home at one stage. It's wonderful to see the children being so active and incredibly imaginative.

Miss Griffith, OPAL Lead

SPORTS DAY

Please put the date for our sports morning in your diary - Friday 13th June. Parents and carers are invited to come into school for 9.15 to cheer on their child. Sports morning is at the end of our Healthy Schools Week where children will have taken part in skipping workshops, skateboard workshops, yoga sessions, gymnastics sessions along with many other activities - it is always a great week! We look forward to seeing you then.



SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD



If you haven't heard about this, please do have a look at [THIS](#) website. There is a growing movement towards delaying giving children a smartphone until the age of 14, being driven by a very powerful group of parents. Please see the attached PDF document for reasons to get involved and PLEASE sign our parent pact that can be found on the smartphone free childhood website.

YEAR 4 MATHS COMPETITION



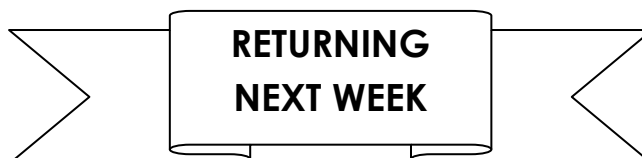
On Tuesday 12th May, Year 4 took part in a maths competition in the hall with other schools. We had to work in groups of 3 and answers lots of questions. Some were easy and some very tricky, but it was fun!

By Mason, Finn & Zain

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.



KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

Join us for a series of Knife Crime Awareness Events week in cooperation with local organisations and mentors. Posters are at the end of this newsletter. We welcome your participation. There are several events, each linked to our voted tagline: **"Drop the Knife, Not Your Future."** These events are free, open to young people and families, and packed with activities that show how sport, music, and nature can be powerful tools for change, helping young people express themselves, build confidence, and speak out against knife crime.

Theresa Allen & Amanda Beldom

Knife Crime Awareness Campaign Leads (Family Hub Service, Achieving for Children)

SUMMER FETE

Summer Fete
SILENT
AUCTION
PRIZES

CAN
YOU
HELP?

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and other companies we have secured some great prizes for this years silent auction, but we are on the lookout for more!

Do you run your own business?

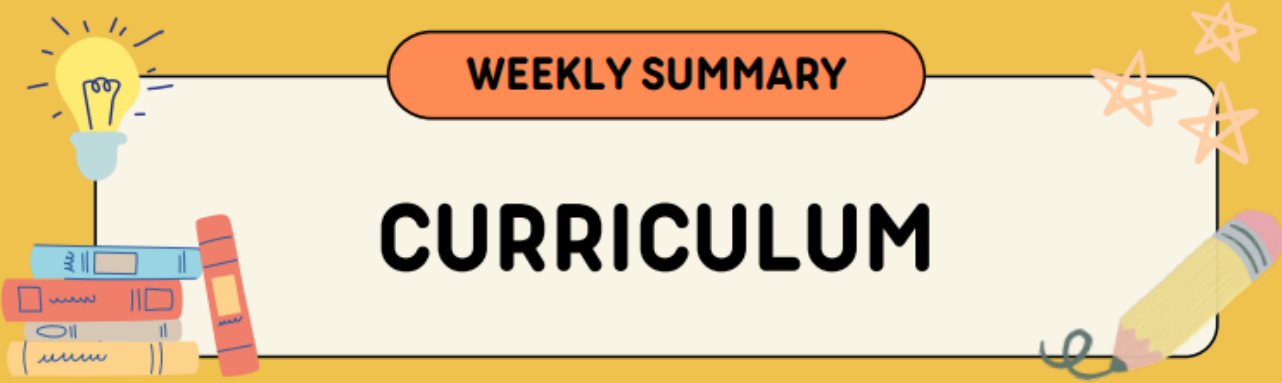
Do you have a special skill like baking or crafting?

Do you have time to spare - eg for dog sitting or babysitting?

Do you have any contacts at a company you know would like to donate?

If so, we'd love to hear from you. We will happily promote any business on our socials and in the newsletter.

Get in touch with Marie (R/4 Mum) on
07817468408 or via the PTA email
(pta@cookhamdean.org)



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	We have had another busy week in Reception. In phonics we have continued with our phase 2 and 3 sounds, reading and writing them – this is improving so much each day as they become used to writing the sounds they hear. In maths we have been looking at manipulating 2D shapes to make pictures – see photos on class dojo. In our knowledge and understanding of the world lesson we have been looking at different types of boats and comparing their uses. We talked about the fact that all boats travel on water and that ships also travel on water but are bigger than boats. We discussed boats and ships carry things across the water like people, animals, vehicles and food. We also discussed our own exigencies on going on boats from row boats to car ferries - lots of interesting stories. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
Year 1	Phonics - the children have been working hard practising and revising all the sounds learned. They have been reading real words and alien words and practised several tricky word spellings. Maths - this week the children continued learning about multiplication and division and they focused on equal groups, adding equal groups, recognising arrays and multiplying using arrays. English - we started a new English text called 'Dogs Don't Do Ballet' by Anna Kemp and Sarah Ogilvie. The children have learned about the prefix 'un' and created sentences using 'un'. They have focused on their writing rules whilst writing sentences about the main character 'Biff'. This has included using conjunctions, adjectives and different types of punctuation. History - this half term the children are learning all about famous explorers and how they have changed the world. This week the children learned about Christopher Colombus including his timeline, his voyages and his discoveries.
Year 2	This week in English we have begun learning a new storyline about a Lighthouse and making predictions and sequencing the new story. In maths we have been revising time and in particular 'quarter to' and 'quarter past' and then moved onto learning about fractions of shapes. In geography, we looked at labelling features of the Jurassic Coast and discussed natural and man-made features along the coast.



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Year 3	It has been a great week in Year 3. In maths, we have started looking at weight and capacity, focusing on reading scales and understanding how intervals can be different. In English, the children have enjoyed writing a fact file about a mythical creature of their choice. This is based on the example of the hag in 'Free Lance and the Lake of Skulls'. Some of their creatures were very inventive. In history, we have continued exploring our topic of how children's lives have changed. This week, we focused on child labourers in Tudor Britain.
Year 4	This week, we have started to think about writing a story to go with our picture book, using descriptive sentences we have been working on during the week. In maths we have been converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and have started to look at adding fractions with the same denominator. The best part of the week was our trip to the River Thames in Chiswick, where we discovered the history of the Thames, looked at environmental issue, searched for river creatures on the foreshore, used litmus paper carry out investigations about the water and watched the tide come in. Although it was cold, it was a great day.
Year 5	In English this week we have finished our Mt Everest fact files and started writing our suspense stories, with a mountain as the setting. After the rehearsals and performance of our play last week, the children have settled back in to the normal routine well. In maths we have continued our work with co-ordinates, translation and lines of symmetry. We have now started our new DT project, which is all about bridges. We had a great time testing various cardboard bridges using the weights and understanding the importance of structure and strengthening to make a robust design.
Year 6	Well done Year 6 on all your hard work with the SATs - you were brilliant. Now, get ready for an exciting week at Rhosy, full of fun and unforgettable memories! You deserve it. 

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



Trinity Tots
Toddler Group

Volunteers welcomed

Stories, Singing, Play, Arts & Crafts

No booking required

Refreshments provided

Ages 0 - 5

£4 per Child
£2 per Sibling

Wednesdays
9.30 - 11.30am

The Parish Centre, Cookham
(9.30 - 9.50am in Holy Trinity Church)

07421 193352



Living Tennis Presents

AFTER SCHOOL TENNIS PROGRAMS

At Bisham Abbey NSC
SL7 1RR

Register for a **Trial Lesson**
BOOK NOW!

Summer term 2025

Discover Our Programs

- Juniors Tennis Lessons
- Holiday Tennis Camps
- Private Lessons
- 12 courts (4 indoors)
- Cafe on site

Contact John Thistlethwaite to book:
jthistlethwaite@livingtennis.co.uk



May Half term Holiday club

INDIGO GYMNASTICS CLUB

Wednesday 28th
Thursday 29th
Friday 30th May
9-1pm

Maidenhead community centre. 4 Marlow Rd

£30 per day or £85 for all 3

Email:
indigogymnastics@outlook.com

INDIGO GYMNASTICS CLUB

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

Taking bookings for summer term now!



SPRINGBUCKS
GYMNASTICS CLUB

Learn tricks

Make friends

FANCY TRYING GYMNASTICS?

Have fun




Friday classes at Court Garden Leisure Centre for ages 4 - 13
For more information or to book a free trial session please email Ruth at springbucksgc@gmail.com

MAY HALF TERM AND SUMMER CAMP DAYS BOOKING UP NOW

£18 for 3 hr half day, £40 full camp day
10% discount when booking in for more than one full day

VISIT
WWW.SPRINGBUCKS.CO.UK OR USE QR CODE FOR DETAILS




Find Your Forte!

- Year 3-6 members
- Saturday mornings
- Wycombe High School

Learn for free!



FREE Instrument Trials
for year 2-5

Saturday 17th May
Saturday 14th June

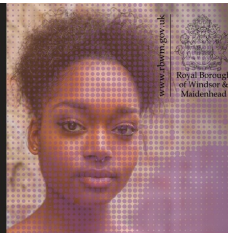
8.45-10.30am
Wycombe High School



to register

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

DROP THE KNIFE, NOT YOUR FUTURE



Join us for a free sports event and try something new

20 May, 4.30pm to 7pm
Braywick Leisure Centre

Let's stand against knife crime and build safer communities through sport.

Coaches available for:

- Boxing
- Martial arts
- Wrestling
- Games and activities
- Gym tour

KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2025

achieving for children
West Berkshire Active



Register on:
rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/sportsevent

DROP THE KNIFE, NOT YOUR FUTURE



RAP FOR CHANGE

use your voice to make a difference

Use rhythm and rhyme to speak out against knife crime and inspire others to make better choices

Record your own rap at home using our 'drop the knife, not your future' tagline as your message

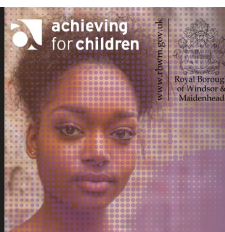
Submit by 5pm on 23 May to:
Conrad.Joseph@achievingforchildren.org.uk

- Raps should be no longer than 2 minutes
- No profanities (swearing), disrespectful or derogatory language
- No violent or graphic descriptions or glorifying violence of any kind
- No references to drugs

KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2025

The winner will record their rap in our Windsor Music Studio

DROP THE KNIFE, NOT YOUR FUTURE



PLANT HOPE

Sunflowers against knife crime

We're inviting children, young people, and families to plant a sunflower and decorate its pot with signage that shares our tagline: drop the knife, not your future.

KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK 2025



- Take a photo of your finished sunflower and pot
- Send your photo to theresa.allen@achievingforchildren.org.uk