



Newsletter



2024-2025 Issue 22

28th February 2025

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

9th: School Garden Tidy
14th: Y2 & KS2 Film Night
14th: Report Cards Out
17th: Neurodiversity Celebration Week
18th: Parents Evening
20th: Y4 @ Chiltern Open Air Museum
20th: Parents Evening
21st: Red Nose Day
23rd: Families@4
28th: Child Choice Day
28th: Parent Forum @ 2.30pm
31st: KS1 Choir Performance @ 2.45pm

April

1st: Easter Service @ 2pm
2nd: Rocksteady Concert @ 1.30pm
4th: Y3 Last Swimming
4th: Break Up @ 2.15pm
22nd: Inset Day
23rd: Return to School

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

MARCH

Monday 3rd:

* Reception NCMP

Tuesday 4th:

* Breakfast with Books @ 8am

Wednesday 5th:

* Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday 6th:

* World Book Day

* PTA Storytelling Night



SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

I hope that your child has come home and raved about our new climbing frame. The children have all had a go and we have put a rota in place so that each class will have exclusive use during the week.

You will have noticed that our front gate has tape around it. One of the lorries delivering the equipment reversed into our gate. An insurance claim unfortunately but please do remind your child waiting to come into school not to touch the gate or the tape. Thank you.

CATERLINK PRICES

From 1st April, the cost of school dinners provided by Caterlink will increase to £2.79. This is due to increasing employee costs. Please make sure that your child has a dinner booked on the system as we are finding children without packed lunches and no Caterlink lunch booked either. We do try to check this in the mornings but sometimes it is not picked up until lunchtime.

FAMILIES@4

Our next Families@4 service on Sunday 23rd March at 4pm at St John the Baptist will be a celebration of mothers. The children will be making posies, listening to bible stories about Mary, the mother of Jesus and of course celebrating with songs. This service will be led by our Year 6 - please let the office know if your child can attend so we can give them readings and prayers to practise. All children and families are welcome.

LENT

Next week starts 40 days of Lent. Please see attached a lent calendar that you may like to follow during this time.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Fr Stephen will be conducting an Ashing Service on Wednesday 5th March. If you DO NOT wish your child to receive an Ashing, please complete and return the form that was emailed on 27th January. Thank you.

RBWM SURVEY

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is currently undertaking its 2025 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. They want to hear your thoughts on early years childcare for 0 to 4 year olds and wraparound childcare for 3 to 11 year olds. Wraparound care includes before school childcare or clubs and after school childcare or clubs. This is particularly important in light of the national initiative to extend funded childcare and wraparound care between now and September 2026, ensuring more parents and carers will receive support. With this in mind, they would like to understand how this may affect the way you use childcare. The local authority needs to make sure that there are enough places in early years and out-of-school childcare to meet the demand. They would be extremely grateful if you could complete the survey by Friday 14th March 2025. You can access the survey [HERE](#).

SCHOOL NEWS

NEW TRIM TRAIL



PTA



Storytelling Night

CELEBRATE **WORLD BOOK DAY**
AT COOKHAM DEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

6pm–6.30pm Thursday 6th March

£1 per child - please bring payment on the night

Come in your PJs or onesie,
with your favourite teddy!

Parents are welcome to stay and enjoy a drink at the bar.



Register here: 



50:50 CLUB

Congratulations to the February
50:50 Club winners:

WINNERS

1st prize - Sarah McGowan

2nd prize - Marie Hepworth

MAIDENHEAD'S BIG READ

Maidenhead's Big Read need volunteers for their weekend event in Maidenhead Library. This year, the theme is Wings, take flight, open a book and spread your wings. More details of the programme can be found [HERE](#). If you are interested in volunteering, sign up via the links below:

[Volunteers - Saturday 8th March](#)

[Volunteers - Sunday 9th March](#)



SCHOOL NEWS

RED NOSE DAY 2025

Comic Relief, Red Nose Day is Friday 21st March 2025. The School Council have discussed lots of fundraising ideas and are proud to announce...

'The Big Cookham Dean Nose Off!'

A competition to make the best red nose possible!



Rules:

- The nose must be able to be worn on a nose.
- £1 donation to Red Nose Day to enter the competition.
- The more inventive the better!
- Entries to be in school on Thursday 20th March so the School Council can judge.
- Winner to be announced in assembly on Red Nose Day.
- Prizes to be revealed on Red Nose Day.

In addition to the Big Cookham Dean Nose Off competition, for another £1 donation, the children can come to school in their school uniform however they need to think of a different way of wearing an item of uniform. This could be wearing the tie as a belt, wearing the jumper backwards or even trousers as a jumper!

WORLD BOOK DAY REMINDER

Tuesday 4th March - Breakfast with Books at 8am. Please sign up [HERE](#).

Thursday 6th March - Children can come to school wearing a hint of their favourite book.

Thursday 6th March - Children are encouraged to bring in a book they have already read and swap it with another book.

Thursday 6th March - Storytelling Night organised by the PTA.



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

Everyone for The Big Active 60 Festival



Year 2

Everyone for The Big Active 60 Festival

Year 3

Miles

Year 4

Running Club

Year 5

Ayva & Arianna

Year 6

Henry P



SCHOOL NEWS

NETBALL



On Wednesday 26th February, Cookham Dean netball team played a match against Cookham Rise netball team. Alice was captain, we won the toss and chose to do the first centre pass. Cookham Dean won 4-2 (YAY!) but both teams played very well especially as it was Cookham Rise's first match. The player of the match, nominated by Cookham Rise, was Max who was playing GA and scored all our goals. The players were: Emily, Lily, Zuzu, Hadley, Max, Tabitha, Alice and Darcy.

By Alice, Year 6

COOKHAM DEAN MINI GRAVITY GRAND PRIX

Many parents and children will have seen Mrs Reekie race in the Cookham Gravity Grand Prix over the last few years raising money for the school and other local charities.

Each year a child can enter a design competition, a winning design is chosen, and myself and a bunch of lovely, talented parents spend 3-6 months figuring out how to turn that design into a "barely" driveable racing machine. Sometimes, we chose a concept that is beautifully designed, but it is not necessarily easy to build in reality. This is what makes the process so much fun for our build team.

Recognising that the children get to help design the cart each year, we wanted to create an event with a strong basis in STEM, whereby the children could not only design a gravity racing cart but build it and enter the **Cookham Dean Mini Gravity Grand Prix!**

Mrs Reekie will not be racing these carts but a selection of speed hungry enthusiastic eggs, will be sitting in the children's carts and test driving them down a ramp and across the school hall floor to determine which cart carries its egg the furthest under the power of gravity!

Before half term, I had the privilege to introduce the Cookham Dean mini Gravity GP event to the children in a celebration assembly where we also announced the winner of the Design competition. During the assembly I introduced the children to the general rules of the event and also introduced them to two of the egg racers that were willing to be crash test dummies for the event. Unfortunately we lost Jonathan, the egg racer on that day due to a misplaced governor's foot, but his dear egg brother Jeremy, is ready to race in his honour. You may have received a set of rules, issued by the class reps during half term and they are also attached in the newsletter email in case you missed them.

Your child may need some help in the building process and we recognise not everyone is necessarily an engineering expert, which is why we have given total freedom on the materials that can be used: cardboard, glue sticks, Lego, old toy parts, play dough, recyclable trash, You name it!

Let the children find their way to the ultimate selection of materials and create something special and unique. They may want to do some test runs at home to see what works well and what needs to be changed to improve their cart.

We very much look forward to race day which will be w/c 17th March with the winners announced on Friday 21st March.

There will be prizes for multiple categories so even if your cart is not necessarily the furthest travelled on the day, there are prizes for design and other crazy elements we hope the children will enjoy.

Best of luck

Dan Pearson, Parent Governor & GGP Team Member





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 a fantastic week, they have all come back super rested and full of energy for the half term ahead. In phonics we have revised the sounds 'ai', 'ee', 'igh', 'oa', 'oo', 'ar', 'or', 'ur', and 'oo' and have all had a go at writing words with these sounds in them. In maths this week we have been comparing numbers to 20, saying whether they are larger or smaller and ordering numbers to 20. In art we have explored mixing colours using our fingers and in PE we have been balancing bean bags on various body parts. The children had a fantastic time at the rock steady workshop on Thursday and have thoroughly enjoyed playing on the new trim trail. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
Year 1	Year 1 have had a great first week back after half term. This week we have been learning about the following: Phonics - we have learned some new alternatives digraphs this week such as 'ir' and 'or' as well as introduced and practised some new trigraphs including 'air', 'are', 'oul', 'aur' and 'oor'. We then practised reading and spelling these too. English - the children have planned and written their own fictional stories which involved using our English text 'Ivy and the Lonely Raincloud' as an example to create their own stories about a character and a weather type. They also spent time editing and improving their stories. Maths - this week we have learned about odd and even numbers, counting in 2s and 5s as well as learning about fractions including wholes, halves and quarters of shapes. PSHE - The children are still learning about Health and Wellbeing and this week we focused on Sun Safety which included learning about the risks associated with the sun and understanding the actions we can take to keep ourselves safe in the sun.
Year 2	In English this week we have been comparing the similarities and differences between the story 'Tad' with a new story called 'Tadpole's Promise' by Benji Davies and learning about similes. We used similes in a letter written by the tadpole to the caterpillar. In maths we have been learning about fractions and finding thirds, halves and quarters of shapes. We then moved onto finding a half and a quarter of amounts. In history, we began our new topic learning about the history of flight. We learned about the life of the Wright Brothers and were able to record the key events of their life on a story board.





WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

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Year 3	It's been a great first week back after half term. In maths, the children have worked on using expanded column addition to add 3-digit numbers. In English, we have been exploring the features of a newspaper, with the children writing a snappy headline and orientation for their report. In science, we had an initial look at different rock types. The children made scientific, observational drawings of these rocks. Have a great weekend!
Year 4	This week we have been finishing off our non-chronological report about Antarctica in English and have finished reading our class book of Pugs of the Frozen North. In maths, we hope you saw the pictures on Dojo of us working out how to find factor pairs of a given number. We have also continued our learning on dividing 3 digit numbers by a 1 digit number and have been using our number bond knowledge of 10 and 100 to find compliments of multiples of 1000. We have also been investigating the water cycle and thinking about how important this is to our lives.
Year 5	We have started our new writing text this week: Beetle Boy by MG Leonard. We have learnt a lot about dung beetles so far! In maths we have finished our work on addition and subtraction using money. Today we have started our next focus which is written methods of multiplication. This afternoon we enjoyed the beautiful weather, matching artwork depicting scenes from the Easter story to the relevant verses from the Bible. This was harder than expected! This activity begins our topic on 'Salvation'.
Year 6	This week Year 6 have been learning all about using figurative language to enhance our creative writing. We have focused on oxymorons and pathetic fallacy. We were proud to be the first class on the new trim trail - we used this to launch our DT playgrounds project. On Friday afternoon we shared our designs with Year 4 to gain some market research. In science we have begun our topic on Evolution and inheritance. We are investigating our families to find our shared characteristics. We had a great Nurture Versus Nature debate. Maths has been all about Geometry: translating, enlarging to scale factors, rotating and reflecting shapes in four quadrants. We are really looking forward to book week next week and starting our new novel Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin, whom we shall be meeting next Friday. So excited!



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS







Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

6 Week Course Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
 1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
 2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

www.studysmartuk.online

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Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.



This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.
 If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.



JUNIOR BAKE OFF

JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES 9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING SERIES!

APPLICATIONS CLOSE SUNDAY 23RD MARCH

APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK







MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Saturday 19th April 2025, 10am - 4pm

Woodlands Park Village Centre, Manifold Way,
 White Waltham, Maidenhead SL6 3GW



FEATURING
N GAUGE LAYOUTS
 WHITMOOR, WHITE MEADOW QUARRY, LEIGH ST GEORGE, CHILDREN'S BRIO, OAK GROVE CENTRAL, TREMIERTEN, WOKINGHAM, PADDOCK HILL AND MORE

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ADMISSION £7 Adults, £4 Children, £12 Families

more information at bagladdies.weebly.com

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- ★ CRAZY GOLF
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- ★ PICKLEBALL

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