



Newsletter



2024-2025 Issue 21

14th February 2025

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

3rd: Reception NCMP
4th: Breakfast with Books @ 8am
5th: Ash Wednesday Service
6th: World Book Day
6th: PTA Storytelling Night
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

April

1st: Easter Service @ 2pm
2nd: Rocksteady Concert @ 1.30pm
4th: Y3 Last Swimming
4th: Break Up @ 2.15pm

EVENTS NEXT TERM

FEBRUARY

Monday 24th:

* Return to School

Tuesday 25th:

* Parents Reading Workshop @ 9am

* Y1 & Y2 @ The Big Active 60 Festival

Thursday 27th:

* Rocksteady Assembly & Workshops



SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

A huge congratulations to Year 4 who really shone at The School Sport Partnership Dance Festival. Each year, we pay into being a member of the SSP which means we get to take part in fabulous opportunities like the dance festival, other sporting festivals and competitions but the dance festival is the highlight for me. Across 2 days, many schools including RBWM special school Manor Green, dance in front of a jam packed audience. It is such a special experience for all the children involved. A big thank you to Ms Thompson who choreographed the dance with the help of Jane Douglas a beautiful dance demonstrating the issue around climate change and an even bigger thank you to Mrs Pearson who made the fabulous costumes.

Have a wonderfully peaceful half term - with maybe a little bit of sunshine! See you on Monday 24th February.

DROP OFF

Can I remind all parents please do not stop in front of school to drop off any children. There is an official kiss and drop just behind the staff car park where the children can then come in via the back gate. It is not safe for children to be dropped off right outside the school gates and it means that the traffic gets clogged up on the road. Thank you.

Also talking of dropping off - if you have something that your child has forgotten and you need to pop up to school with it, please drop it off in the office and not to the classroom as this disrupts the learning that has already started.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the volunteers that helped to dismantle the trim trail and also put up a new OPAL shed. They arrived with tools, music, lunch and masses of enthusiasm so a big thank you to - Mr Hathaway, Mr Tideswell, Mr Howarth, Mr McGowan, Mr Dawes, Ms Steel, Mr Rai, Mr Bains, Mr Jackson, Mr Campbell. We definitely could not have done it without you and you saved the school £2K!!



SCHOOL NEWS

KINDRED² SCHOOL READINESS SURVEY



Kindred²

An interesting read: Teachers feel that a third of pupils are not 'school ready' when they start Reception, with an 'alarming disconnect' emerging between parents and teachers as to what constitutes school readiness. The finding comes from the annual School Readiness Survey (SRS), now in its fifth year, conducted by the charity Kindred². The SRS assesses the school readiness of children and their access to education in Reception, where no SEND conditions have been diagnosed. Kindred² conducted focus groups and surveys with more than 1000 teachers and 1000 parents of Reception children across England and Wales to understand what school readiness looked like in the September 2024 Reception cohort. (This fieldwork took place in October and November last year.)

They found that while 90 per cent of parents felt their child was school ready, teachers said that 33 per cent of children were not. Teachers reported that 36 per cent of children struggled to play/share with other children, 34 per cent didn't know how to listen or respond to simple instructions, while a quarter were not toilet trained. Nearly half of teachers (49 per cent) felt that the problem of children not being 'school ready' had got worse compared to September 2023, with a further 33 per cent saying it was about the same. (For comparison, in the survey for 2023, 91 per cent of parents said their child was school ready while teachers said 35 per cent of children were not).

Teachers feel that this lack of school readiness is having a significant impact - on average they said that 2.4 hours of teacher time was being lost every day dealing with issues arising from a lack of school readiness. One Reception teacher quoted in the report said: 'A significant portion of my teaching this year has been spent supporting children who aren't school ready.'

However, 41 per cent of parents hadn't heard about the concept of school readiness before their child joined Reception in 2024, while more than a fifth (21 per cent) still hadn't heard of school readiness before taking the Kindred² survey.

In terms of parental expectations, fewer than half (44 per cent) of parents said they thought children starting school should know how to use books correctly (turning the pages rather than swiping or tapping as if using an electronic device). Meanwhile three quarters (76 per cent) felt children should be fully toilet trained before Reception.

There was a feeling among just less than half (48 per cent) of teachers that parents were not receiving the right information to help them ensure their children were 'school ready'. Perhaps backing up this perception, more than a fifth (21 per cent) of parents said they'd had no visits at all from health visitors by the time their child started Reception.

Both parents and teachers pointed to screen time as potentially contributing to a lack of school readiness, 54 per cent of teachers and 48 per cent of parents highlighted children spending too much time on electronic devices as a factor, while 54 per cent of teachers and 49 per cent of parents said that a contributing factor was parents spending more time on electronic devices than with their children.

Commenting on the findings, Tiffnie Harris, a primary specialist at the Association of School and College Leaders, said: 'This study finds an alarming disconnect between some parents and schools about what school readiness actually means. What we suspect lies behind this finding is that many families are themselves struggling with a range of economic and social pressures and there is a dearth of support for them.'

The early education minister, Stephen Morgan, said: 'Children arriving at school not ready for the classroom takes teachers' focus away from doing what they do best, which is why we have already started work to extend early language support, deliver thousands of school-based nurseries, and strengthen and join up family services through continued investment in the family hubs and start for life programmes.'

Read the full report here: <https://kindredsquared.org.uk/school-readiness-survey/>



**READY,
SET,
SCHOOL!**

SCHOOL NEWS

RBWM PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CLICK ON IMAGE FOR LINK

Shape the future of pharmacy services

Share your views and experiences of using local pharmacies to help inform how services are provided where you live.

Our survey closes
Sunday 9 March 2025

Scan the QR code or visit:
rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-2025



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 being brilliant on the trip!



Year 2

Ottilie

Year 3

Freddie



Year 4

Everyone for the Dance Festival!

Year 5

Everyone for reaching halfway through the year!



Year 6

Everyone for commitment and resilience



SCHOOL NEWS

CUTLERY

Can I please ask you to check your cutlery drawers at home for any school cutlery. If you find any, please return them to school. Thank you.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet day on Tuesday was lots of fun. We started with an assembly presented by our wonderful Digital Leaders - all about how to stay safe online, especially when gaming. At lunchtime Mrs Satterley hosted a games workshop all about staying safe online. We played Google Interland and played games on Scratch - lots of people joined in. We also hosted a Photo Booth promoting positive self image on the Internet. All of that and lessons throughout the day meant that we are now all very aware of how to stay safe when using the Internet.

By Year 6



MAIDENHEAD'S BIG READ 2025

Please come along to our children's book festival at Maidenhead Library. There will be author events and other fun activities aimed at children aged 4 - 12. We have some excellent authors coming - Nick Arnold writes the Horrible Science books, Zak Simmonds-Hurn is an illustrator for The Phoenix magazine and will be doing draw-alongs, Iszi Lawrence will be entertaining the children with stories of WWII at White Waltham Airfield and Catherine Bruton, author of 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria', will be talking about her latest book, 'Bird Boy'. All events are free to attend, with no advance booking. For more information please visit [HERE](#) - or ask me! Thank you very much.

Tessa Allanson, Year 6 Parent

Y3 PREHISTORIC PAINTING



Year 3 have been exploring prehistoric artwork this term, complementing our history topic perfectly. The children used rice and quinoa to make a cave wall, then mixed paints to create the reds, oranges and yellows we see in prehistoric paintings. Their pieces came out brilliantly, this one is by Beatrix.

Mr Salter, Year 3 Teacher

YEAR 6 NETBALL

On Wednesday 12th February, we played against Furze Platt Juniors here at Cookham Dean. It was a competitive match. The score was 7-5 to them. We tried our best and will come back harder and train more next time.

By Emily & Lily, Year 6

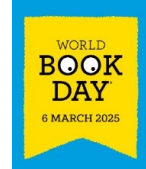
SCHOOL NEWS

WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

This year World Book day falls on Thursday 6th March 2025. The theme this year is, "get ready to read your own way." During the week, we have many exciting events happening to celebrate books:

- **Monday 24th February** - your child will receive the reading challenge which runs for 2 weeks. Details will be on the challenge.
- **Tuesday 4th March** - breakfast with books. Come into school at 8am and read with your child whilst enjoying a croissant and orange juice. Link for signing up, will be sent out 24th February.
- **Thursday 6th March** - children can come dressed with a hint of their favourite book and bring the book with them into school to share with their friends.
- **Thursday 6th March** - Reception and KS1 have an author visit with Fiona Barker.
- **Friday 7th March** - KS2 have an author visit with Lindsey Galvin.

**READ
YOUR WAY**



There will also be online sessions with authors and other interesting things happening across the week.

Miss Thompson, Reading Lead

YEAR 4 PRIMARY DANCE FESTIVAL

Our amazing Year 4's participated in a dance festival on Thursday 13th November, at Braywick Leisure Centre. Our theme this year was pollution in our oceans and how we are all trying to make it better for our wildlife. The children gave a performance that one person said, "was like watching professionals at the Palladium." I was very proud of every child – they were brilliant. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who helped with our costumes, especially Axel's Mum. We would not have looked so fantastic without all the hard work. Thank you!

Miss Thompson, Year 4 Teacher

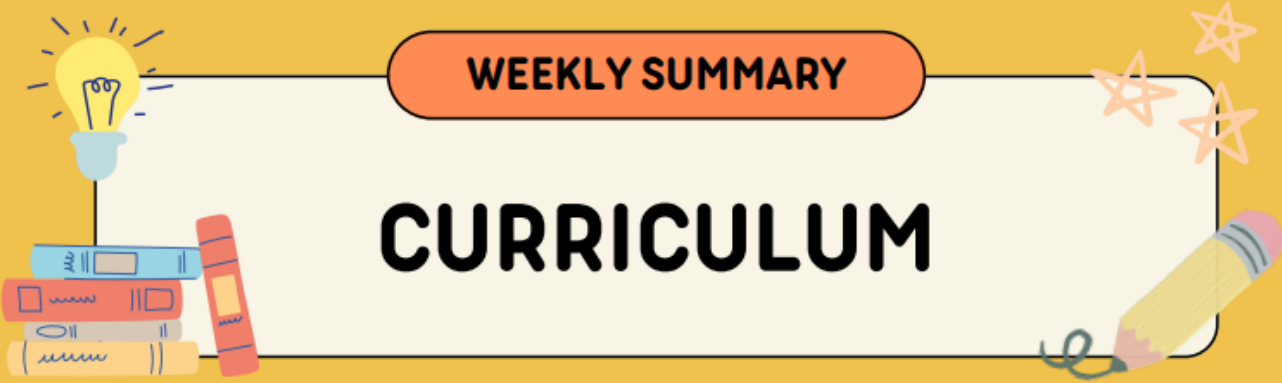


YEAR 6 FOOTBALL



On Thursday 13th February, the Year 6 football team played Holy Trinity away. The win was well deserved as it was our second game of the season. The goal scorers were Henry F (1 goal), Luke (who scored a hat-trick) and Harvey (1 goal). We ended up winning 5-3 and the team nominated Luke as man of the match, however we all showed great determination and teamwork.

By Freddie & Henry P, Year 6



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	This week in phonics we have been revising all the sounds covered so far - they have all done so well to learn these so quickly. In English we have continued looking at the book 'Lost and Found' where the children have enjoyed choosing what they would pack in their own suitcase for the journey. In maths we have looked at length and height and have used non-standard units to measure various items including dinosaur footprints! To celebrate valentines day we have discussed who we love and why - some very cute responses!! Have a great half term and I look forward to seeing you all with hopefully some warmer weather.
Year 1	Phonics - this week we have reviewed all the new sounds that we have been learning this half-term. We have worked on reading these new sounds as well as spotting them in sentences. Furthermore, we have been working on our tricky word reading and spelling. English - This week we have started a new English text called 'Ivy and the Lonely Raincloud' by Katie Harnett. The children have been describing the characters using adjectives, rewriting the key parts of the story using time conjunctions and learning how to write in role of a character using the first-person pronoun 'I'. Maths - In maths this week we have been learning about counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We also started learning about estimating and how to use grouping into groups of 10 to help with making estimates of quantities. Science - this week we completed a science experiment to find out which everyday materials are waterproof and which are not. The experiment involved making predictions, testing and gathering and recording results. The Year 1 children particularly enjoyed dunking the different materials into water to see if they were waterproof or not. We also had a fantastic time on our History trip to Milestones Living History Museum today where we learned all about Toys and Games from several different time periods in history from the Victorian times to 1940s and more. The Year 1's also got to experience playtime in the past and took part in lots of different games and activities that children used to play in the past. They also got to compare toys, games and life in the past to the present. Have a great half term break everybody!
Year 2	In English this week children have been reinventing a familiar story and created a new character and storyline called 'Kevin the Koala!' We had lots of fun thinking of a storyline and the children spent this week planning and writing their new stories. In maths we have been carrying out some assessments and revisited some topics including time, 3D shapes and calculation strategies. In PSHE we understood the importance of dental hygiene and discussed ways in which we could keep our teeth healthy.



WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

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Year 3	Another good week in Year 3. The children have worked hard in maths, solidifying place value and applying it to money. In English, they have created descriptive sentences using DADWAVERS. In RE, we have finished up our work learning about the Qur'an and why it is so important to Muslims. I hope everyone has a great half term!
Year 4	What a fantastic week we've had. On Thursday, we performed our dance of climate control, at Braywick Leisure Centre. All the children were amazing and an adult from another school said it was like watching professional dancers at the Palladium. In between our rehearsals, we have been looking at finding fractions of an amount with 2- and 3-digit number in maths and in English have started our report on Antarctica.
Year 5	To finish our science topic on Space, we have made card rockets which we thoroughly enjoyed testing. Well done to Leo and Sami on the winning design! We have written instructions so if anyone would like to make one, please ask for a copy. In maths we have been working with line graphs: interpreting and drawing our own. We've also been converting measures and learning about imperial units of measurement. As it is internet safety week we have been focusing on how to stay safe online, making storyboards of different scenarios e.g. how not to get scammed. Over the last two days we have been allocated our parts for the Y5 play and are now doing the first read through. It's going to be great! We can't believe that we're halfway through the school year – how the time has flown. Well done to all of Year 5 for another super half term of hard work, resilience and fun.
Year 6	On Monday Year 6 were privileged to see Oliver the musical in Furze Platt Senior School theatre. It was excellent. The singing and choreography was spectacular. It was great to see lots of our old school friends, like Alfie, Gracie and Lola. They looked like they were having a great time. We thought that maybe one day that could be us. Other events this week, were a bit harder. We have been completing assessments. We have all showed resilience and been proud of ourselves. On Friday we learnt how to write ten sentence stories packed full of figurative language. In science, we created our own quirky species including their very own taxonomy.



LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

Maidenhead's Big Read
TAKE FLIGHT

OPEN A BOOK & SPREAD YOUR WINGS
8TH & 9TH MARCH 2025
MAIDENHEAD LIBRARY

Author Visits & Storytelling

Activities & Crafts

Once Upon a Bus

The Joystick Club

Reading Corner

WITH THANKS TO RBWM LIBRARIES, TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT AND OUR SPONSORS

SHANLY FOUNDATION
WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD COMMUNITY COURTESY
Rotary Club of Maidenhead Thames
The Prince Philip Trust Fund

Scan for more details

Maidenhead's Big Read
presents a weekend of events
at Maidenhead Library

Author Visits & Storytelling

Saturday 8th March

Children's Corner (Under 6)		Riverview (over 6)	
10:30	Charlotte Milner	10:45	Nick Arnold
11:30	Rhian Lynette	12:00	Zak Simmonds-Hurn
12:30	Nick Arnold	13:15	Philip Kavvadias
13:30	Zak Simmonds-Hurn	14:30	Rhian Lynette

Sunday 9th March

Children's Corner (Under 6)		Riverview (over 6)	
11:30	Ruth Burgess	12:00	Iszi Lawrence
12:10	Alice Hemming	13:15	Catherine Bruton
13:10	Rhian Lynette		

Weekend Activities Sat (10:00-16:00) Sun (11:00-14:00)

Once Upon a Bus **The Joystick Club**

Reading Corner **Craft**

Scan for more details

Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

Half Term Day Camps

Wednesday 19th and Friday 21st February

Wild Discovery Day Camps at Windsor Great Park Environmental Centre

Our day camps are wildlife themed days for 8-12 year olds. The day is packed full of fun games and activities to help children connect with the fantastic natural world that surrounds them.

Find out more or book at:
windsorgreatpark.co.uk/bbowt

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust
working in partnership with **THE CROWN ESTATE**

BBOWT Registered charity no. 200330

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

Parent/carers from ethnic minority groups with a child who has a confirmed/suspected neurodevelopmental disorder!

We are looking for parent/carers of a child or young person.....

- with diagnosed or a possible neurodevelopmental disorder (such as Autism, ADHD, tic disorders, intellectual disability)
- who is 6-18 years old
- identify as belonging to (or have dual heritage) or an Indian, Pakistani, Black-African ethnic group

Would you be willing to take part in an interview or focus group online or on the telephone at a time to suit you to share your experiences of being a parent/carer of a child with diagnosed or possible neurodevelopmental disorder?

We are looking to understand the experiences of families from ethnic minorities who have a child with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental disorder e.g. autism, ADHD, OCD, Tourette's.

If you are interested in hearing more, please complete this online consent to contact form (QR code and link) and a member of our team will contact you to provide more information.

<https://forms.office.com/e/QPeyqjueG5>

You can also email the team at EXPAND@nottingham.ac.uk

hoop heroes

KIDS

BASKETBALL

AGES 5-6 / 7-8
9-10 / 11-12

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BUILD CONFIDENCE
Developing new skills.

WORK AS A TEAM
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School Years 1-2 / 3-4
Sundays 10:00-10:45

School Years 5-6 / 7-8
Sundays 10:45-11:30

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OR TEXT 07700140500

WINDSOR GREAT PARK 11AM TO 6PM

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CHALLENGE EVENTS
WALK, RUN OR ROLL WITH NO CUT OFF TIMES
MOBILITY AIDS & ASSISTANCE ANIMALS WELCOME
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