



# Newsletter



2024-2025 Issue 19

31st January 2025

[www.cookhamdean.org](http://www.cookhamdean.org)

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### February

10th: Y6 @ Oliver Performance  
13th: Y4 Dance Festival  
14th: Y1 @ Milestones Museum  
14th: Break Up  
24th: Return to School  
25th: Parents Reading Workshop @ 9am

### March

3rd: Reception NCMP  
4th: PTA Storytelling Night  
5th: Ash Wednesday Service  
6th: World Book Day  
6th: Y4 @ Chiltern Open Air Museum  
9th: School Garden Tidy  
14th: Y2 & KS2 Film Night  
14th: Report Cards Out  
21st: Red Nose Day  
18th: Parents Evening  
20th: Parents Evening  
23rd: Families@4  
24th: Neurodiversity Celebration Week  
28th: Child Choice Day  
28th: Parent Forum @ 2.30pm

### April

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

## EVENTS NEXT WEEK

### FEBRUARY

#### Monday 3rd:

- \* Children's Mental Health Week
- \* 52 Lives Assembly

#### Tuesday 4th:

- \* Y3 @ Chiltern Open Air Museum

#### Wednesday 5th:

- \* Choir @ O2

#### Friday 7th:

- \* NSPCC Number Day
- \* NSPCC Assembly
- \* Y3 Swimming

## SCHOOL NEWS

### MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

Thank you to the wonderful PTA who put on Reception and Y1 film night - especially as it is quite hard to find a film that is appropriate for this age. The children are very excited to be at school watching a film with their friends - what a great start to the weekend!

### YOUNG VOICES

On Wednesday 5th February, myself and 8 other members of staff will be accompanying Years 4, 5 and 6 to sing with 8,000 primary school aged children at the O2. The children have worked so hard to learn dance routines and the songs; have their t-shirts and torches ready and parents have their tickets. We have 5 tickets left over if anyone would like to join Us. Please do let the office know. Miss Windle will be in school covering for me for that day.

### CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week - the theme for this year is 'Know yourself, grow yourself', with the aim to encourage children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

Please see the attached tips for families to encourage a discussion around emotions. On Monday we will be joining 52 Lives for their online assembly - a charity that aims to spread kindness around the UK. In the past we have written letters to one little girl who was supporting her ill brother. If you would like to find out more, have a look at <https://www.52-lives.org/> On Thursday our emotional wellbeing ambassadors will be taking our assembly sharing the theme of happiness.

### GOVERNORS UPDATE

We held our second School Business Services (SBS) Committee of this school year on Monday 27 January. These meetings are important to regularly review the budgets, maintenance / capital project spend, benchmarking, policies and other strategic items. In this meeting, we agreed to fix the boundary fencing and spend on replacing a broken interactive whiteboard in Year 1. We also reviewed the "Schools Financial Values Standard" (SFVS) which ensures we are meeting the standards required for robust financial health and resource management. There was also an exciting update on an upcoming project - we have submitted a planning application to build an outdoor classroom (seating area with a canopy) next to the garden and running track. Fingers crossed. Finally, as you all know, as a school we make a conscious effort to keep the class sizes smaller than other schools - this allows a greater teaching staff to pupil ratio and more focus on your children individually. However from a financial perspective, this does mean we have a shortfall in funding every year. Your voluntary contributions, through the Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF), really does go a long way in ensuring that we can continue this approach without detrimenting our teaching standards or facilities. I encourage you all to contribute regularly, forms are available to set up a standing order - anything you can give will go a long way! Thanks for all your support.

*Adrian Lee, Co-Vice Chair of Governors  
& Chair of SBS Committee*

## SCHOOL NEWS

### FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP



On Thursday 20th February at 7pm, FACE (Family Advice Communication Education) is inviting parents to join a **free** virtual session on supporting healthy screen use. Book your place [HERE](#).



### SCHOOL GARDEN TIDY!

We're planning on doing a tidy of the school garden - organising the shed, improving soil with new compost, adding water butts and a tap on **Sunday 9th March at 1pm**. Children are very welcome! Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Please let me know if you would like to help out.

Thanks

**Esme -07734596056**



### YEAR 6 NETBALL

On Wednesday 29th January, the Cookham Dean netball team played against Holyport Primary School. We lost but both teams played a very good match. Our player of the match, nominated by Holport, was Emily, who was playing centre.

By Alice, Year 6



### 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 (emailed 27/01) by Friday 14th February.

### OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT REMOVAL

Thank you to our volunteers who have put themselves forward to help with the dismantle of the trim trail. I will be sending out an email early next week with a few more details. Thank you!

### BIG GARDEN BIRD WATCH

As part of our big bird watch, Wild Cookham came in to speak to us about birds. We learnt about how birds reproduce and hatch. The speaker taught us about feed and bone structure and how birds fly. It was really interesting and helped us with our classification lesson in science this week. We created bird feeders.

By Tolomey & Charlie, Year 6



## SCHOOL NEWS

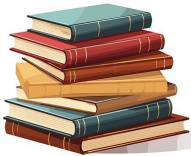
### YEAR 6 FOOTBALL



On Thursday 30th January, Cookham Dean played All Saints in a football match. It was 30 minutes, 15 minutes each half. Within the first few minutes All Saints scored a penalty but Freddie nearly saved it. It was then half time. We had some water and caught our breath. We then started the second half and nearly scored but sadly didn't. All Saints scored another lucky goal and a few minutes later the whistle blew signalling the end of the game. In the end we all tried hard and we are going to make some improvements in training ready to play Holy Trinity in 2 weeks time.

*By Harvey, Year 6*

### READING INFORMATION WORKSHOP



On Tuesday 25th February we are holding a reading information workshop for parents in the Year 4 classroom at 9am. We will be explaining how reading is taught from Year 2 upwards and how you can help your child at home. Please let the school office know if you would like to attend.

*Miss Thompson, Reading Lead*

### RECEPTION NCMP

Please return your child's health questionnaire by Monday 24th February. Thank you.

### 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

Austin



#### Year 2

Harvey

#### Year 3

Orla

#### Year 4

Everyone!

#### Year 5

Everyone!

#### Year 6

Football & Netball Teams



## 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.

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reception</b> | <p>The highlight of Reception this week was celebrating 'Chinese New Year'. We have made dragons, lanterns and had noodles in the tuff tray – please have a look on Dojo at our photos. In phonics we looked at the new sounds 'ur', 'ow' and 'oi' and have all had a go at writing words with these sounds in them. In maths this week we have looked at number bonds to 10 and have started to find halves and doubles of numbers to 10. Our PSHE lesson this week focused on teamwork and Reception worked together brilliantly to build a fantastic castle (pictures on Dojo) – a fun week and now hopefully tired little people!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Year 1</b>    | <p><b>Phonics</b> – In Phonics we have continued to practise the sounds we already know as well learning some new sounds. For example, we have learned about alternatives for 'oe', 'o' and 'ou' as well as new sounds such as 'se', 'ce' and 'ey'. We have also been applying these to our spellings and writing.</p> <p><b>English</b> – this week we have been learning about different sentences types and punctuation including statements, questions and exclamations. As well as this we have been making and writing predictions about our new English text 'Rapunzel by Bethan Woollvin' and have started to sequence the events of the story.</p> <p><b>Maths</b> – this week we have continued to practise our addition skills by completing addition number sentences with number up to and beyond 30. We have also recapped our knowledge of 2D shapes and started learning all about 3D shapes.</p> <p><b>Music</b> – we are learning all about tempo in music this half term. This week we used our voices to match fast and slow tempos. We learned a new song about a snail and a mouse and practised different tempos within the song.</p> |
| <b>Year 2</b>    | <p>In Year 2 this week, we have been writing persuasive letters on behalf of the animals living in the rainforest to ask humans to stop cutting down trees. On Tuesday we began a new text called 'Tad' by Benji Davies and created story maps, wrote a character description and a descriptive setting in the story. In Maths, we have been learning the properties of 3D shapes and learning to tell the time to quarter of each hour. In Science, we walked around the school to identify what materials buildings are made from and then tested a sample of each type to discover if they were absorbent or not.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |





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|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Year 3</b> | This week Year 3 have worked really hard on equivalent fractions, which they found tricky. We also finished editing our informal letters and started to look at using direct speech in writing. In science, the children enjoyed experimenting with magnets, recording what they noticed about how they interact with one another.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Year 4</b> | We have had another busy week. Practising for our dance festival, finishing off our character profile and starting to write a diary from the point of view of their chosen character from Pugs of the Frozen North. In maths we have been subtracting numbers that have 2 exchanges and have been revising the grid method and learning the ladder method to multiply 3 digits by 1 digit. In RE we have been exploring the Puja in Hindu's lives and why it is an important part of their day.                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Year 5</b> | We have been busy researching the moon landing this week and are in the process of writing newspaper reports about that momentous occasion in 1969. We have been so impressed by the children's enthusiasm and knowledge about the subject. Great research all of you! In maths we have been problem solving and investigating ways to divide. We started our new art module this week: focusing on space art from the space race era. Look out for some futuristic artwork coming soon. In gymnastics we have thoroughly enjoyed working on the apparatus – especially the wall bars – to create travel and balance canon sequences. Super work Year 5! |
| <b>Year 6</b> | We began the week with a really interesting assembly on birds by Wild Cookham. This week Year 6 have been switching from dialogues to monologues - our new book, Skellig by David Almond started with a brilliant scene about a reluctant house move. We have been dramatising the story and discussing the emotions of the characters. In maths, we have conquered long division, giving our answers as decimals. In history we have been comparing the Maya to the Anglo-Saxon's approach to housing and settlements, whilst in art we have been investigating Chaisuro, an Italian form of 3D art using charcoal.                                     |



## LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



### MAIDENHEAD UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY FOOTBALL AND MULTI SPORTS CAMPS

Proudly sponsored by

**Hamptons**  
THE HOME EXPERTS

#### LOCATIONS:

Maidenhead United FC - SL6 1SF | Dedworth Middle school - SL4 5PE  
Cox Green Secondary school - SL6 3AX | Holy Trinity Sunningdale - SL5 0NJ

10am – 3pm

Boys and Girls 4 – 13 years old

Early drop off from 9am – 9:45am £3 cash on arrival  
£25 a day | £100 for the week

BOOK ONLINE [www.maidenheadunitedfc.org](http://www.maidenheadunitedfc.org)

FEB HALF TERM | EASTER CAMPS | MAY HALF TERM | SUMMER HOLIDAYS  
OCTOBER HALF TERM | CHRISTMAS CAMPS

For any further information contact Mark Nisbet [mark.nisbet@maidenheadunitedfc.org](mailto:mark.nisbet@maidenheadunitedfc.org)



### SmartRasperry cookery school

#### February Half Term Holiday Workshops

Looking for a fun and creative way to keep your children entertained this half-term? Join us at our Beaconsfield and Marlow workshop venues for plenty of hands-on cooking! For 5-10 & 10-15 Year Olds

Beaconsfield  
Marlow

17th-20th February

10:00-15:00

To find out more or to  
book your child a  
place click below:



0845 269 2665



[www.smartraspberry.com](http://www.smartraspberry.com)



[info@smartraspberry.com](mailto:info@smartraspberry.com)



#### All-Ability Bees Soccer Schools

Inclusive football sessions in February Half Term tailored to young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Focus on building your confidence, improving skills and making friends in a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment. Sessions run by our SEND qualified FA coaches.

Participants: Ages 7-20

Dates: Tuesday 18th February 2025 &  
Wednesday 19th February 2025

Time: 10.00 - 14.00

Location: Indoor Dome, Uxbridge  
High School, UB8 3PH

Cost: £25 per day / £47.50 both days

Scan to book, or for more info, please contact  
Craig Peters at: [cpeters@brentfordfcst.com](mailto:cpeters@brentfordfcst.com)



Community  
Sports  
Trust



## LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



**Let's Play**

FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

### FEBRUARY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, NERF WARS, LASER TAG, BOUNCY CASTLE, GAMING, LEGO BUILDING & MORE!

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**





**Braywick Leisure Centre**  
 Braywick Road, Maidenhead SL6 1BN  
**9.00am – 4.00pm**  
 Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12  
**FROM £27.50 PER DAY!**  
 Discounts for siblings & full week booking - please see booking page for details.  
 We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!  
 Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & A Refillable Drinks Bottle.



Scan the QR code for more information,  
 call 01344 508008 or email [info@lets-play.org.uk](mailto:info@lets-play.org.uk)  
 Book online: [www.lets-play.org.uk](http://www.lets-play.org.uk)

 @LPlayUK  @LetsPlay\_UK

### “Join Our FREE FEBRUARY Fun Football Coaching Sessions”



-  Create friendships
-  Increase physical activity
-  Promote creativity through play
-  Develop teamwork skills
-  Increase confidence

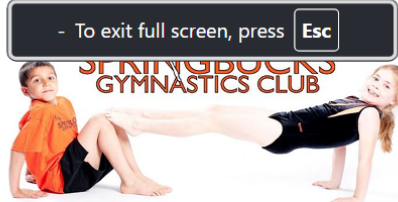
### Fun Football Coaching

Opposite Buzz Gym  
 Eskdale Road  
 Winnersh Triangle  
 Reading



Check out our website and book your session  
[www.funfootballcoaching.com](http://www.funfootballcoaching.com)

- To exit full screen, press **Esc**



## Feb & Easter Term Gym Camp Bookings Now Open!

**HAZLEMERE CAMPS –**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Feb & 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April**

*Hazlemere Youth Centre, Rose Avenue, HP15 7UB*

**MARLOW CAMP -**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Feb & 10<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April**

*Court Garden Leisure Centre, Marlow, SL7 2RE*

OPEN TO CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES & EXPERIENCE, AGED 4 – 12 YEARS

Times: Mornings 9am -12 noon (£16)  
 Lunch Club\* 12 – 1pm (£3.00)  
 Afternoons 1.00pm – 4.00pm (£16)

*\*Bring packed lunch, supervised free play time*

Our camps are a great mix of gymnastics and trampolining as well as lots of fun and games!

**BOOK IN VIA OUR WEBSITE SHOP TODAY – [www.springbuds.co.uk](http://www.springbuds.co.uk)**

USE CODE CAMP-1010 FOR 10% OFF CAMP BOOKINGS OF 2 SESSIONS OR MORE  
 Code valid for Easter camps booked before the end of February



