



Newsletter



2026-2027 Issue 6

9th October 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October:

22nd: Spooks & Sparkles Disco

22nd: AGM & PTA Meeting @
7.30pm (The Jolley Farmer)

23rd: Break Up

November:

2nd: Return to School

11th: Remembrance Service @
10.45am

13th: Children In Need

14th: Pond Volunteering

16th: Anti-Bullying Week

16th: SEN Parent Support Group
@ 8.45am

16th: Y6 @ Science Museum

17th & 19th: Y1-Y6 Parents
Evening

20th: Inset Day

23rd: Young Shakespeare
Company Performance

28th: Cookham Dean Christmas
Fair

December:

2nd: Rocksteady Concert @
1.30pm

10th: Christmas Jumper Day

11th: Parent Forum @ 2.30pm

15th: Carol Service @ 9.30am

18th: SEN Parent Support Group
@ 8.45am

18th: Break Up @ 2.15pm

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

OCTOBER

Saturday 10th:

* World Mental Health Day

Monday 12th:

* Y6 NCMP

* SEN Parent Support Group @
8.45am

Tuesday 13th:

* Y2 @ Reading Museum

* Reception Parents Evening

Thursday 15th:

* Reception Parents Evening

Friday 16th:

* Y5 Ufton Court Meeting @ 9am

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

I am very happy to announce that Cookham Dean Primary School has appeared in **The Times Top 1000 Primary Schools** at **689th**. There are just 4 schools from RBWM higher than us in this table. Schools are ranked using the average scaled scores achieved by Year 6 pupils. Of course, we know that we are much more than excellent results! I am currently conducting tours of our school for September 2027 Reception intake and on the tours, one of the comments that reoccurs is how happy and confident our children are - and that cannot be measured.

HEADTEACHER FOR THE MORNING

Hugo in Year 3 won the opportunity to be headteacher for the morning by guessing the closest time it took for the Cookham Dean Primary School go-kart to complete the race at the Gravity Grand Prix. So on Friday 11th December, Hugo will be in charge - watch out for his plans in the newsletter.

COOKHAM DEAN CHRISTMAS FAIR

Please see below a flyer for the Cookham Dean Christmas Fair. We have been asked to sing at the fair at 2pm. Please let the office know by Friday 16th October if your child is able to take part. Thank you.



RECEPTION PARENTS EVENING

Thank you for all signing up for the parents evenings next week. They will take place in the Reception classroom. We will run a strict 10 minutes per child so that other parents are not delayed. Please do not close the KS1 gate behind you so that parents can come in. Thank you.

ISINGPOP

As you know the children were asked to record the songs learnt this year so that they can be used to teach other schools. You can find the recording link [HERE](#).
Password: cookhamdeanalbumfiles. Enjoy!

SCHOOL NEWS

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

As part of our World Mental Health Day activities next week, we are encouraging our children to think about the small things we can all do to look after our mental wellbeing and support the people around us. Each day, each class will be thinking about one small act they can do for themselves or others to support their mental health.

Mental health is something we all have, and looking after it is important at every age. If you would like to find out more, the following resources offer practical advice and support for adults and families:

 **NHS Every Mind Matters** - practical tips for managing stress, improving sleep, connecting with others and looking after your wellbeing. You can also complete the free **Mind Plan** to receive personalised suggestions.

 **Mind - Supporting a Young Person** - advice for parents and carers about talking to children and young people about their mental health and wellbeing.

 **Mental Health Foundation** - information and resources to help families learn more about mental health and wellbeing.

Remember, looking after our mental health doesn't have to mean making big changes. Sometimes small, positive actions - talking to someone, getting outside, being active, taking time to rest or doing something we enjoy - can make a difference.

Mrs Lodge & the Emotional Wellbeing Ambassadors



YEAR 6 NETBALL



On Wednesday 30th September, our Year 6 netball team travelled to All Saints School for a match. It was a really fun and enjoyable game, and the team played brilliantly to win 4-0. Gigi scored the most goals, and Zain was named Player of the Match. Well done to everyone who took part, and thank you to Mrs Reekie for organising the fixture.

Sophie D, Year 6

READATHON

October Readathon!

Our whole-school Readathon starts this October! Children from Reception to Year 6 will receive a Readathon Passport with fun reading challenges to complete throughout the month.

The aim is simple - read, have fun and raise money for our school! Children can read independently, with a grown-up or enjoy listening to a story.

How it works

Complete the weekly challenges in your Readathon Passport and record your progress. There's no pressure to complete everything - we just want everyone to enjoy getting involved!

Sponsor your child

Ask family, friends, grandparents and neighbours to sponsor your child for taking part. Simply share our [sponsorship link](#) or QR code so they can donate online.

Every donation helps support additional resources and opportunities for our children.

Ready, set... READ!  



Maddi Parkinson, PTA Chair

SCHOOL NEWS

FRIENDSHIP AMBASSADORS

Last week, our Year 2 children expertly delivered speeches to apply to become Friendship Ambassadors. We were overwhelmed by the number of fantastic applications! Our Year 5 and 6 Emotional Wellbeing Ambassadors decided that everyone would make a fantastic ambassador, so we have created three groups - one for each term - meaning everyone gets a turn.

The Friendship Ambassadors will be out on the playground every day, helping children to find and make new friends to play with.

Congratulations to all our wonderful Friendship Ambassadors!

Mrs Lodge, Year 2 Teacher

Friendship Ambassadors Year 2

Autumn Term

Elsie
Ariana
Amaya
Margot
Ophelia
Yahya
Jack

Spring Term

Tig
Rowan
Lucas
Maisie
Amelia
Arabella
Ruby

Summer Term

Charlie
Pera
Issac
Rose
Beatrix
Florence
Mutasim

MAIDENHEAD BOUNDARY WALK



On Sunday 4th October, a beautiful sunny day, a group of more than 50 from Cookham Dean Primary School took part in the Maidenhead Boundary Walk, organised by Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Club. The walk takes in just over 13 miles of roads and countryside around Maidenhead and 17 children from school completed the walk from Years 1 to 6! Such a brilliant achievement, and a very long way for some little legs. The group has already raised £610 for their efforts, but if anyone else would like to sponsor them the [JustGiving page](#) is still open.

Tori Dixon, Y6 Parent

POND

Over the summer we had some wonderful volunteers who came to clear the pond (in the bottom right hand corner of the field!). It was completely overgrown and has a hole in the lining - not very conducive to pond life. We are very keen to get this wonderful resource up and running again and the PTA have agreed to fund the renovation. We need to put in the new lining and are asking for volunteers to help. Please let the office know by Friday 6th November if you are able to. Thank you.

Date & Time: 14th November, 10am - 12.30PM

Resources: 4 volunteers to clear the pond and 2 to finish the painting the fence

Tools: Bring a garden fork - small ones work very well. Plus gardening gloves.

Objective: To clear the pond and prepare the old liner in preparation for laying down the new liner.

Clothing: Waterproof walking boots or wellies.

OPEN THE BOOK

Yesterday, Open the Book came into assembly to read a Bible story. They are a group from our church who love telling stories and spreading the word of God. During the story they involved the children by splitting them in half and telling them to make horse and carriage noises, they also took three Year 6 volunteers to play parts in the Bible reading. The story was about Saul, who was a great follower of Jesus but in Jerusalem anyone who followed Jesus was arrested so Saul went up north. On his way, Saul encountered a king who was trying to read the Bible. So, Saul helped him. Overall, it was a very interactive assembly (which always makes it more fun). Myself and all the children can't wait for them to come back next time!

Jamie, Year 6

POETRY WORKSHOP

On Thursday 8th October, the student favourite author and poet, Simon Mole, came in. First, he met Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in the hall before break and after break he saw Years 3,4,5 and 6. During the session, himself and his musician friend (Gecko) played songs, read poems and made poems out of our ideas. Overall, it was a fun and interactive experience, and I would recommend it for other schools. See the attached poem by Audrey from Year 3 inspired by Simon.

Jamie, Year 6

KS1 THE BIG ACTIVE 60 FESTIVAL

We went to a really big school and had fun doing sports against other teams. We did really well and our teacher said we tried our best.

Maisie, Year 2

SCHOOL NEWS

SAVE THE DATE



WOODWIND LESSONS

Learn a Woodwind instrument

at Cookham Dean School

LESSONS ALSO AVAILABLE IN

Saxophone
 Recorder
 Flute
 Clarinet
 Oboe

Spaces are limited and fill quickly so if your child is interested in starting their musical journey, now is the time to secure a place!

Try a Free Taster Lesson

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to register. Enter the code FREE TASTER in the comments box. You will not be charged for any lessons until you confirm that you wish to go ahead.

Why Learn a Musical Instrument?

- Boost memory and coordination
- Build confidence and creativity
- Develop perseverance and resilience
- Support emotional wellbeing
- Improve listening skills and teamwork

Lesson Information

- Fees start from just £10.60 per lesson. View all information on our [website](#).
- Discounts are available pupils eligible for Pupil Premium or families receiving benefits.
- We also offer affordable instrument hire!

If you have any questions or problems registering, email admissions@berkshmusictrust.org.uk

The 6 Rs - CHAMPION OF THE WEEK!

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

Resilience, Responsibility, Readiness, Resourcefulness, Respect & Reflectiveness

Year 1
Mia

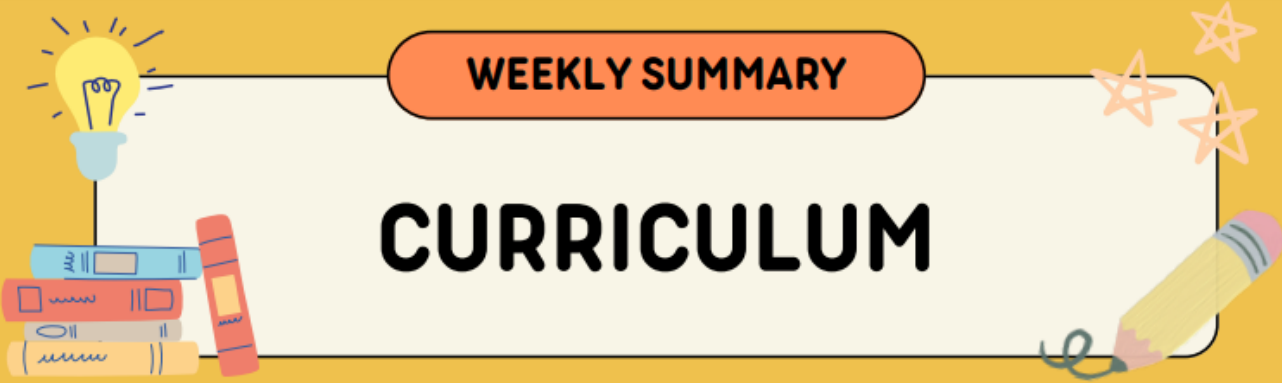
Year 2
Margot

Year 3
Max

Year 4
Thomas

Year 5
Max

Year 6
Arthur & Rufus



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 Reception really enjoyed taking part in the Harvest Festival at Church - thank you for all the kind donations made. In Phonics, Reception learned new phonemes including 'ck', 'u', 'e' and 'r' and also practised forming these letters. In Literacy the children worked on their first Drawing Club text which was 'The Gingerbread man. This included the children drawing and describing the main character, and the setting as well as creating their own character that the old woman could bake next time. In Maths the children learned about patterns and repeated patterns and then went on to create their own repeated patterns. Finally, in PE the children continued learning about gymnastics which included balancing as well as jumping and landing safely.
Year 1	Year 1 have had another fantastic week of learning! In English, we explored adjectives to describe Stanley from our book <i>Stanley's Stick</i> before writing the beginning of the story. In Maths, we have been comparing groups of objects using the language of more and fewer, as well as greater than, less than and equal to. In Science, we continued learning about our bodies, while in History we thought about our favourite memories and shared what makes them special. In Computing, we have been learning about the different parts of a computer and discovering what each part is called.
Year 2	This week, Year 2 have been enjoying our non-fiction unit in English, finding out lots of interesting facts about meerkats. In PE, we have been developing our ball skills, focusing on throwing and catching with control. We also had some thoughtful discussions about ways we can save water, have been working hard on our handwriting and really enjoyed taking part in Active 60 on Tuesday. Another great week!



WEEKLY SUMMARY



CURRICULUM

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Year 3	Year 3 have had a wonderful week. In maths, we have been adding 1s and 10s with exchanging. I have been really impressed with the mathematical explanations the children could give. In geography, we have been discussing the positives and negatives of living near a volcano. In PSHE, we discussed what factors can affect our sleep and created our own 'sleep champion plan.' However, the highlight of our week was yesterday's poetry workshop with Simon Mole. He inspired us all to write spooky spell poetry, which we are going to use to make a KS2 spell book.
Year 4	This week in Year 4 we have been finishing our recount about Cogges Farm, finished our short story from our book <i>Madame Pamplemousse</i> and have started to write a poem, inspired by Simon Mole, a local poet who visited our school yesterday. In maths we have just started look at adding 4-digit numbers with one exchange and in science we researched the diets of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. A very busy week!
Year 5	It has been a great week in Year 5. In maths, the children have been working on multiples and factors. They have used their times tables knowledge to find highest common multiples and factors. In English, the children finalised their biographies, focusing on using formal tone and adverbials for cohesion. In history, the children explored why there are different versions of the same Viking saga. KS2 were really lucky to have Simon Mole and Gecko in on Thursday for an enjoyable spoken word poetry session. The children loved it and it has inspired some great writing.
Year 6	I have been incredibly proud of Year 6 this week. In Literacy, we have been exploring the powerful emotions of love and grief, creating some sensational poetry through personification. We were also fortunate to take part in an inspiring workshop with Simon Mole, which has sparked our creativity and motivated us to begin creating our own spell books of poems. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of long multiplication and applying our skills to a range of challenging problem-solving activities. In RE, we have been studying the Vedas, the sacred Hindu texts. We have explored the heroes, values and messages they contain, using our <i>Windows, Mirrors and Doors</i> approach to help us make connections, reflect on our own experiences and gain insight into the lives and beliefs of others.

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



'SUP'PER PADDLE?

Late afternoon paddle followed by an
early evening supper
£40 for 1 adult and 1 child

**ALL CREATURES
GREAT & SMALL**

*All humans must be accompanied
by a pet*

Sunday 11th October 2026 - 4 pm
Holy Trinity Church

Join us for a joyful service with a blessing of our
pets and a chance to remember our faithful pets
now and gone by — bring a picture of a much-
loved pet, as together we give thanks for the joy
they bring and for God's wonderful creation.

**MEGA
CITY**

HALF TERM OFFERS

BOWLING	BOWLING	BOWLING
Kids	Adults	Kids
1 Game	1 Game	Bowl & Eat
£6	£8	£11

BOWLING	BATTING CAGE
1 Hour	1 Hour
Up to 6 people	Up to 6 people
£31	£32

TOTAL FOOTBALL	LASER TAG
30 minutes	2 Games
up to 6 people	Laser Tag
£20	£14pp

**To Book and for more offers please
visit www.mega-city.co.uk**

Mega City **Tel: 01753 969 323**
233 - 249 High St
Slough, SL1 1BN

Offers available Mon 26th October- 30th October,
between 10am-5pm. Offers can not be used in
conjunction with any other discounts. T&C's Apply

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS



SAMURAI KICKBOXING

FITNESS • CONFIDENCE • FUN

Have you sorted your childcare for **OCTOBER HALF TERM YET?**

Our Samurai October Half Term Camps are fast approaching!

Whether your child is already part of Samurai or their friends have never tried kickboxing before, our camps are a brilliant way to keep them **active, entertained and having fun** during the school holidays - **no experience necessary!**



Kickboxing & martial arts



Games, challenges & activities



Fitness, confidence & teamwork



Halloween fancy dress day!



Grading for 1st or next belt

HALLOWEEN FUN!

One of our camp days will be a Halloween Fancy Dress Day, so children can come dressed up in their favourite spooky outfit and enjoy a day packed with kickboxing, games, challenges and Halloween fun!

15% OFF

We're currently offering **15% off** all camps booked by **Tuesday 13th October** - just **£29.75** for the day!

So if you need childcare for October Half Term, now is a great time to get it booked and save 15%.

CAMPS RUNNING AT:

 **Ascot Road Primary School, Watford**
Thurs 29th & Fri 30th Oct

 **Butler's Court School, Beaconsfield**
Mon 26th & Tues 27th Oct

 **Altwood School, Maidenhead**
Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct

SPACES ARE LIMITED, so don't leave it until the last minute!

BOOK OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP & SAVE 15% >

We can't wait for a week of kickboxing, fun, challenges and Halloween mayhem!

SAMURAI KICKBOXING

Furze Platt Senior School Open Evening Feedback Form 2026



The White Oak

COOKHAM, BERKSHIRE

Festive Menu

Great celebrations deserve great food. Discover our seasonal menu, thoughtfully crafted to bring everyone together

Our festive menu is prices:

- 2 courses £36 per person
- 3 courses £42 per person

Sides and cheese courses will be charged as additions

£15 per person deposit required for all festive menu bookings

Pre-order required for tables of 9 or more

Bespoke promotional prices available for community clubs and local charities, please contact us to discuss your needs further.



Enquire with Andrea at
info@thewhiteoak.pub



Starters

White onion soup, truffled 'Cheddar' croquette *(pb)*
Heritage beets, quinoa, vegan curds, hazelnuts *(pb)*
Smoked mackerel crumpet, pickles, radish
Ham hock terrine, cornichons, remoulade

Mains

Norfolk turkey, sage stuffing, bread sauce, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, honey roast parsnips, sprouts and chestnuts, roasting juices
Hampshire pork rib-eye, glazed carrots, trotter gravy
Chalk stream trout, mussels, white beans
Roast cauliflower risotto, toasted almonds, 'feta' *(pb)*
Celeriac and Tunworth pie, greens *(v)*

Puddings

Christmas pudding, custard
Sticky toffee pudding, clotted cream
Cherry and almond trifle *(pb, gf)*
Chocolate tart, condensed milk ice cream
Crème brûlée, cranberry shortbread *(gf)*

Sides

Sprout tops, chestnuts
Carrots and parsnips
Garlic and parmesan mash
Pub chips
Butterhead lettuce, shallots, lemon

British Cheeseboard 9.5

Served with sourdough crackers, real ale and onion chutney

Spennwood, Berkshire ewe's milk, soft, unpasteurised

Kidderton Ash, Cheshire goat's milk, semi soft, pasteurised

Cashel Blue, Tipperary cow's milk, soft, pasteurised

Black Bomber Cheddar, Snowdonia cow's milk, hard, pasteurised

