Newsletter

2026-2027 Issue 7

16th October 2026

www.cookhamdean.org

office@cookhamdean.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November:

2nd: Return to School

4th: KS2 Drumming Workshop

6th: Cauliflower Cards Deadline

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:

8th: Y6 @ Boyne Hill Baptist Church

10th: Christmas Jumper Day

11th: Parent Forum @ 2.30pm

15th: Carol Service @ 9.30am

16th: Rocksteady Concert @ 1.30pm

18th: SEN Parent Support Group @ 8.45am

18th: Break Up @ 2.15pm

January:

4th: Inset Day

5th: Return to School

10th: Swimarathon

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

OCTOBER

Thursday 22nd:

* Spooks & Sparkles Disco

* AGM & PTA Meeting @ 7.30pm (The Jolley Farmer)

Friday 23rd:

* Break Up

SCHOOL NEWS

MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

We have been blessed with some rain this week but this means that children need outdoor shoes or welly boots so that they can play on the field. To keep our classes clean, this is a must. Your child should come home with welly boots/ outdoor shoes that have been in school. Please try them on to see if they still fit and then bring them back on Monday or bring in other wellies/shoes.

We have had some wonderful playtimes this week with the OPAL equipment!








OPAL

Is there anyone that could come into school to service our bikes used for OPAL? This would include checking tyres, brakes etc. The children would be very grateful. If you can help, please let the office know.

NUT FREE SCHOOL

Can I please remind all parents and carers that we are a **nut free school.** That means the following are not allowed in school, including packed lunches: whole nuts, peanut butter, Nutella and other chocolate nut spreads, cereal or granola bars containing nuts, nut oils, marzipan and pesto made with pine nuts. Thank you for your help in supporting our children with nut allergies which can be severe and life threatening.

ISINGPOP

As you know, iSingPop used the children from Cookham Dean Primary School to record their voices to be used to teach other schools. They have sent us the LINK so you can hear what your children sounded like. I think they sound amazing! **Password:** cookhamdeanalbumfiles

THE FLOURISHING FUND

We are very proud of the amazing fundraising that the PTA do for our school - the outdoor classroom is a great example of this! The Flourishing Fund is something a bit different and this money is used to fund our ever-tightening budget. If you can afford it, please look at the flyer on the next page and sign up to our flourishing fund so that our school can continue to flourish. Thank you.

SCHOOL NEWS

COOKHAM DEAN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to our school community.
We are so glad your family is joining us.

The Flourishing Fund is our regular-giving campaign. It exists to boost the school budget so that we can give our children every opportunity to flourish – better facilities, richer outdoor learning, extra teaching support - things that turn a good education into a great one and make school life truly special.

Cookham Dean funds things many schools don't have to. Your support helps us cover these costs and build something extraordinary for our children.

Whether it's £10, £20, £50 or more, every gift helps us collectively invest in the future of our children by giving them the resources and opportunities that help them flourish.



Great things happen when a community comes together, and this is exactly what the Flourishing Fund is about. Join us, invest in their future, and help every child at Cookham Dean flourish.

https://justgiving.com/campaign/vcfcookhamdeanprimary



Scan to join

The Flourishing Fund

Set it up once. Help every child flourish.

★ *Are you a UK taxpayer? Tick the Gift Aid box and the school will get 25% extra, completely free!* ★

"Set up once, and together we can make a real difference"

Mrs Reekie, Headteacher

The Flourishing Fund · Cookham Dean CE Primary School · Speak to the school office for more information

SCHOOL NEWS

COMMUNICATION

In this day and age, it is so difficult keeping track of the various forms of communication - is it email/ WhatsApp/messages/Facebook messenger etc. To clarify how we communicate with you, please see below. We try to make it as simple and as clear as we can but it is a communication overloaded world that we try to navigate. We have had long discussions as teachers to try to make sure you have access to the information you need whilst also managing teacher workload.



Newsletter - whole school information, important dates, what your child is learning - **A DEFINITE READ**

Dojo via teachers - reminders and celebrating work

Email via the office - trips, absences, teacher meetings, appointments, events, whole school information, concerns, pick ups etc

Please note that teachers do not access email or Dojo during the school day so if there are any last minute changes, they must go via the office.

Can I please also ask that any messages before school are either emailed to the office or given to the adult on the gate / KS1 door. Please do not go into the classrooms as the teachers are setting up for the day or welcoming the children. Thank you.

CAULIFLOWER CARDS

The Cauliflower Cards paperwork has been sent home this week. If you wish to order Christmas cards or personalised gifts featuring your child's festive artwork, please complete the design at home, fill in the form, scan the QR code to order online, and return the form and artwork to the school office by **Friday 6th November**.



INCLUSION AMBASSADOR NEWS

Today in assembly, two of our Inclusion Ambassadors, Arthur and Otis introduced **DLD Awareness Day 2026.** DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder and is a hidden condition that affects 1 in every 14 children. That means we could have two children in every class with DLD! Children with DLD may find it harder to understand instructions, learn new words, explain their ideas, or join in conversations. Our Inclusion Ambassadors urged everyone to make sure they are patient, kind, and supportive, and suggested strategies to help such as:

- speaking clearly
- giving people extra thinking time
- listening carefully
- making sure everyone feels included in games, lessons, and conversations.

We will continue to discuss this area of SEND in our Inclusion Ambassador meetings. Please discuss with your child how they can help ensure that children with DLD feel supported and included.

Mrs Taylor, Deputy Headteacher & SENCO



SCARECROW TRAIL

Year 5 have been busy making a Cookham Dean Primary School scarecrow for The Odney Club's scarecrow trail. This will run from 23rd October to 2nd November. Please do go and see if you can find 'Frank' - named by Year 5!

THE ODNEY CLUB
BERKSHIRE



SCHOOL NEWS

THE BIG FUTURE SURVEY

With less than two weeks until The Big Future closes, I am asking for your support in making one final, concerted effort to ensure as many children and young people as possible have the opportunity to take part. The survey can be completed HERE. The Big Future is my final national survey of children and young people as Children's Commissioner for England. It is a vital opportunity for pupils to tell me what matters to them, what they want for their futures and what they believe needs to change. With the deadline fast approaching, every school that takes part can make a real difference. I want to hear from children in every part of England, from every background and in every type of school. We cannot achieve that without your help. Thank you for your support and for helping me ensure that children's voices are at the heart of decisions about their futures.

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner for England

READATHON



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Win a trip to Legoland as MP launches card competition



Josh Reynolds' Christmas card competition is back for another year. Ref: 137493-2

Maidenhead's MP is inviting primary school pupils to take part in this year's Christmas card competition to be in with a chance of winning a trip to Legoland Windsor.

As part of the annual competition, youngsters across the area are asked to come up with a design for his official Christmas card.

The closing date for entries is Monday, November 30, and the prize for the winning entry will be a day out to Legoland for five people with parking.

The competition has been running for more than 20 years, with Mr Reynolds continuing the tradition from former Maidenhead MP Theresa May, following his election in 2024.

Pupils aged 11 and under, who live within the Maidenhead constituency, are being asked to create a design, following the theme of 'Maidenhead at Christmas'.

"I'm so pleased to be launching my Christmas card competition for the third year running," Mr Reynolds said.

"I think it'd be good to be able to see variations of Maidenhead at Christmas and the festivities that we can put on for the town, but also a bit of creativity.

"Christmas cards that have been designed in the past had Santa rowing under Maidenhead Bridge which is really interesting.

"Something to show some of the real variety that we have across our town.

"There's a fantastic prize on offer.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the table covered in Christmas cards this year, same as it has been for the last two years, from a variety of places and schools and community groups that I know will want to take part again to continue this long-standing Maidonian tradition."

The suggested size for the designs is A5, and they need to be bold and bright and preferably done using paint, crayons and felt tips.

This is because coloured pencils do not reproduce well when printed.

Two-dimensional designs are preferred as materials such as glitter and cotton wool do not work when printed.

A winner and runners-up will be chosen.

The winning entry will be printed and sent across Maidenhead beyond.

Entries need to feature the full name, age and school or organisation (such as cub pack or brownie) of the entrant as well as the parent's name, phone number and address.

The competition entries should be sent to Maidenhead Advertiser, 48 Bell Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1HX.

The cards will be judged soon after the closing date.

SCHOOL NEWS

ERSA

Emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA)

What is ERSA?

Emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA) describes a group of children and young people who experience difficulties attending school. ERSA is rooted in psychological, relational and emotional factors.



ERSA can range from children and young people who are still attending school, but present with anxiety, through to those with no attendance at school for an extended period. Although children's and young people's behaviours might not be recognisable as ERSA at the early stages, they highlight their vulnerability to becoming ERSA if action is not taken. Children and young people with ERSA often want to attend school, but their anxiety and absence of necessary coping skills leaves them unable to do so.

How can we be supported if my child is experiencing ERSA?

The ERSA toolkit is guidance intended to support schools and parents in early intervention. The ERSA toolkit includes a graduated response guide, outlining to schools and parents the appropriate resources, measures, and referrals to be implemented at the varying stages of ERSA. Early intervention determines more successful outcomes.

More information can be found here.

Who can I contact?

Please contact your child's school if you feel they would benefit from the ERSA toolkit.

achieving for children

PTA DISCO



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
Elise

Year 2
Sofia

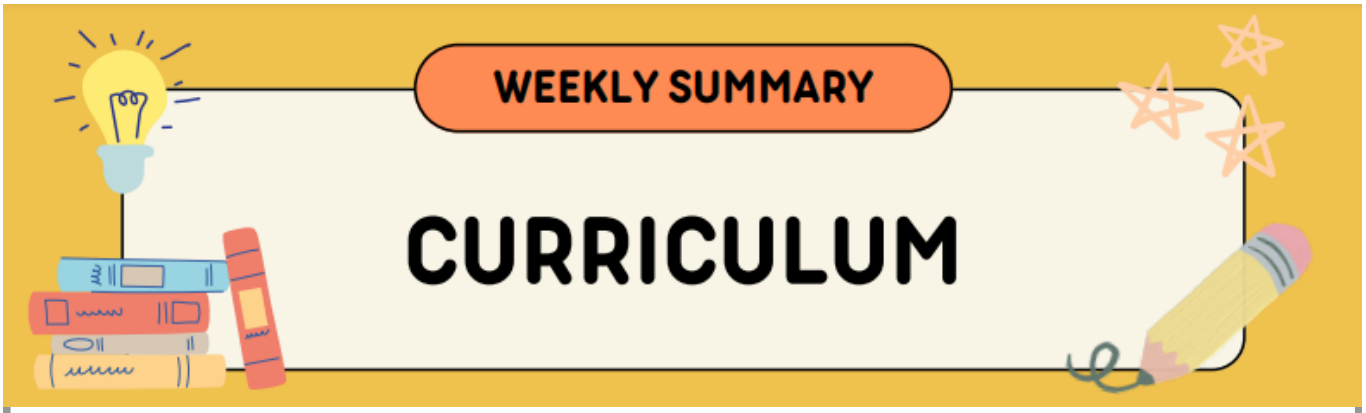
Year 3
Danny

Year 4
Sienna & Everly

Year 5
Zachary

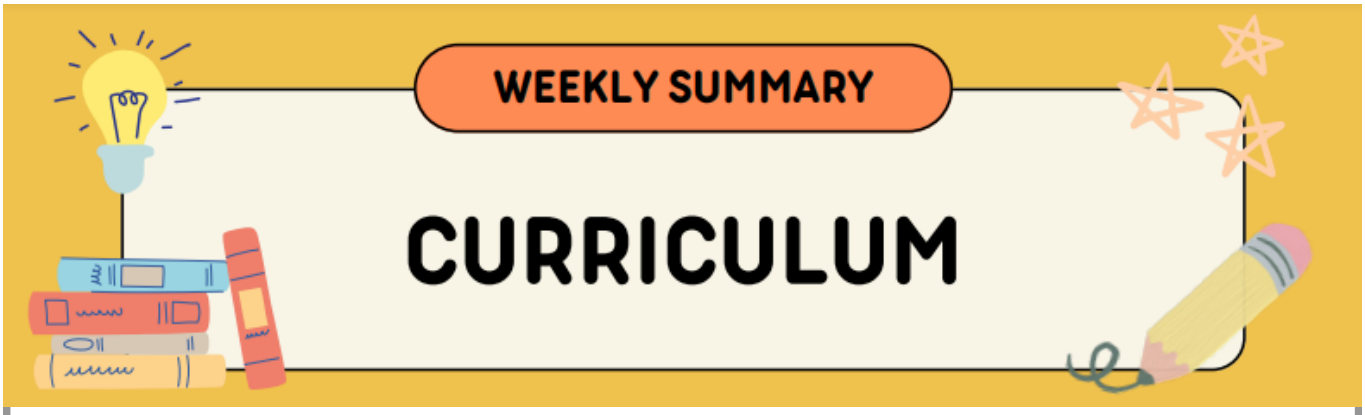
Year 6
Ms Savage

CLEANEST CLASSROOM OF THE WEEK: YEAR 6



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 Maths the children continued to learn about the numbers 1,2 and 3. They focused on counting them, representing them on five frames, 1 more and 1 less and also learning about the composition of the numbers. In Phonics the children learned the phonemes 'h', 'b', 'f' and 'l' and practised blending and reading these sounds as well as writing the graphemes for these sounds. In Literacy the children have been working on their second Drawing Club text which is 'Stuck' by Oliver Jeffers. They drew the main character and the setting and also practised letter formation. Finally, in PSHE the children have been learning about the Zones of Regulation and the different emotions within these. They then made different Zones of Regulation feeling jars to put up in our classroom. Well done Reception for another great week!
Year 1	Year 1 have had a lovely week of learning and have enjoyed starting our new book, *Deep Dark Wood*, making predictions about what might happen next before describing the setting of the woods. In Maths, we have been comparing numbers using the language more than, less than and equal to, as well as ordering numbers from smallest to greatest. In Science, we had lots of fun exploring our senses by going on a walk around the school and using our sight, hearing, smell and touch to investigate the world around us. The children enjoyed discovering how our senses help us learn more about our surroundings. We are looking forward to exploring our sense of taste next week!
Year 2	Year 2 have been busy creating some fantastic non-fiction fact sheets all about meerkats! We have brought these together to make a class book for our book corner, and the children will be bringing home their own copy today to share their amazing work. In RE, we have been asking thoughtful questions as we explore what Christians believe about the Holy Trinity. In Maths, we have been practising using tens frames and number lines to support our understanding of number. We also had a brilliant time on our Active 60 trip!



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Year 3	Year 3 have had a wonderful week! In English, we wrote diary entries based on a day living in Pompeii when the volcano was about to erupt! We were really impressed with all the emotive and figurative language the children used. In maths, we used a number line to help us subtract 10s and 1s, including crossing into the next 10 or 100. In geography, we explained where and why earthquakes happen and designed our own houses using features that could withstand an earthquake. In art, we used our observational skills to draw our favourite soft toys, thinking about how we could create different textures.
Year 4	In Year 4 this week we have been writing our own incredible edibles from our book Madame Pamplemousse. In maths we have been adding and subtracting 4 digit numbers. We had a special treat on Thursday, when we joined the Royal Opera House online for an opera taster session.
Year 5	It has been a great week in Year 5. In maths, the children have worked hard to find common factors, prime numbers and square numbers. They drew upon their times tables knowledge, as well as a few tips and tricks. In English, the children brilliantly showed their understanding of The Promise by summarising the story and showing that the story is like a circle. We were also lucky to have an online session from the Royal Opera House to give a taste of what opera is like. This linked to our music curriculum this term, where the children have been exploring musical theatre. Finally, this week, Year 5 assembled Frank, an ex-pupil of Cookham Dean who will make up a part of The Odney Club's scarecrow trail over half term! I hope everyone has a great weekend!
Year 6	It's been another busy and creative week in Year 6! In English, we've carried out author studies, exploring what makes our favourite writers distinctive before emulating their styles in novellas of our own creation. We certainly have some budding authors in the making! Our creativity has continued as we've been designing album covers for our iSingPOP CD. In PSHE, we've been learning about nutrition and analysing our own food diaries to think about how we can make healthy, balanced choices. And in Maths? We've been smashing long division! A fantastic week of creativity, reflection and hard work. Well done, Year 6!

LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS





