# Newsletter

2026-2027 Issue 8

23rd October 2026

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**November:**

7th: Cookham Dean Village Fireworks

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:**

4th: KS1 Choir Concert @ 9am

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 TERM

### NOVEMBER

**Monday 2nd:**

* Return to School

**Wednesday 4th:**

* KS2 Drumming Workshop

**Wednesday 6th:**

* Cauliflower Cards Deadline

HALF TERM

# SCHOOL NEWS

## MRS REEKIE'S MESSAGE

What an amazing first half of the term! iSingPop, Harvest Festival, KS1 Big Active 60, new outdoor classroom completed, school trips, school photos including Receptions 'My First Photo' in the Maidenhead Advertiser plus lots and lots of learning. And it is only going to get better with so many exciting events leading up to Christmas, keep an eye on the newsletter for more details after half term In the meantime, have a lovely (and hopefully not so wet half term). Thank you for all your help and support.

## BIRTHDAY BOOKS




As we are trying to teach children about healthy choices, we ask that parents do not bring in sweets if it is your child's birthday. Instead, we ask that your child donates a book to their class library. Your child can share the book with their class and we will put a sticker in it to say who it is donated by. One little girl brought her book into school all wrapped up like a present!

## UNIFORM

Can I please remind parents about the uniform expectations - after half term, we revert to our winter uniform.

**Girls** - dark grey skirt, trousers, school tie, white blouse/shirt, red school cardigan/ jumper, black/red/grey/white socks or tights, black shoes

**Boys** - dark grey trousers, white shirt, school tie, red school jumper, black or grey socks, black shoes

Thank you for your support in making sure the children are smart in their school uniform - smart on the outside, smart on the inside!

## HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations to team Topaz who are currently in the lead with 339 points!

TOPAZ - 339

EMERALD - 334

AMETHYST - 240

SAPPHIRE - 238

DIAMOND - 230

RUBY - 198

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

We will be holding our remembrance service at 10.45am on Wednesday 11th November. All parents and carers are invited to join us at school for this service.

## OUTDOOR TABLE

Is anyone thinking of getting rid of an outdoor table? If so, we would be very grateful if you could donate it to the school for OPAL. Thank you!

## PICK-UP

If there is a change to pick-up arrangements in KS1, please let the office know by 2pm so that we can ensure the message gets to the classes. Thank you.

## WET WEATHER

Please make sure that your child has a showerproof coat in school every day and has outdoor shoes/wellies in their class welly store. Even when it is raining (not stormy) we will be outside enjoying fresh air!



# SCHOOL NEWS

## PTA DISCO

Thank you to the PTA for a brilliant Halloween disco last night - the children had a wonderful time! There were some amazing costumes and some amazing dancing. Well done to everyone involved.

## LAST WEEK OF THE READATHON

Half term week is the last week of our Readathon campaign. In week 4 we are encouraging the children to 'share the story' by reading to someone else. How many different people can they read to? Or how many different stories? Perhaps they could be sponsored by or for each new person they read to? We hope you and your children have enjoyed taking part in the Readathon. If you would like to sponsor your child(ren), please visit the JustGiving page. Thank you and have a great half term!




## OPAL

If you are having a clear out over half term, we are looking for the following for our **mud kitchen**: pots and pans, kitchen utensils (big and small spoons), sieves, plastic bottles. And then for our **small world**: animals, mini figures, natural objects (shells, stones, bark).

## COMPETITION REMINDER

Children aged 11 and under are invited to submit a design for the Christmas cards that Joshua Reynolds will be sending out this year.

**Theme:** Maidenhead at Christmas

**Prize:** A family ticket to Legoland for 5 people, including parking

**Deadline:** Monday 30th November 2026

**Address:** Maidenhead Advertiser, 48 Bell Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1HX



Each entry must include the child's full name, age and school, plus a parent's name, phone number and address. Good luck to everyone taking part!

## THE FLOURISHING FUND

The Flourishing Fund donations from our parents make such a difference to our school - thank you to those who have already signed up. This fund helps us retain high-quality staff, provide comfortable classrooms and beautiful grounds, and offer an exciting curriculum full of amazing learning opportunities. The flourishing fund allows us to keep creating an environment where children feel happy, supported and inspired, with wonderful experiences that help them learn, grow and flourish. If you have a spare moment over half term, please look at the attached poster and sign up - any amount is gratefully received.

## COOKHAM DEAN VILLAGE FIREWORKS

The annual village firework display is being held on Saturday 7th November on the old cricket ground opposite the village hall. As always it is a great family event that supports both the village and the school. Entry is £20 per family or £10 per person. Gates open at 5:30, the bonfire will be lit at 6:15, the children's lantern parade is at 6:30 and fireworks will kick off at 7:15. We will be selling lanterns for the parade on Thursday 5th November at the school gates from 3-3:30; they are £5 each (card or exact cash). They can also be bought on the night for £6. Please do re-use lanterns from last year if you can. This year - for the first time - we will be offering one child the chance to press **GO** and launch the fireworks via a raffle - further details to follow! Huge thanks to all the volunteers who have already signed up to help man the entrance gates - we just have a few slots left to fill HERE.

*Nina Griffith & Nicola Studer, Y3/5 Parents*

# SCHOOL NEWS

## THE SKIN LAB




## HALF TERM JOBS

Over half term, thanks to the PTA we will be having aircon installed in the hall and thanks to Southby Productions (one of our parents) we are having a new sound system installed. We are all very excited!

## CAULIFLOWER CARDS

Don't forgot to return your child's form and artwork to the school office by **Friday 6th November.** If you miss the deadline, you will need to post the form and artwork directly to Cauliflower Cards. Items will be delivered before Christmas. Thank you.

## RBWM YOUNG CARERS AWARD



Some children may carry out extra tasks at home because a family member has an illness, disability, mental health difficulty or other support needs. These children may help with practical tasks, look after brothers or sisters, offer emotional support, or help a family member manage everyday life.

Children who provide regular care or support in this way are often known as *young carers*. However, families may not recognise this term, as helping at home can feel like a normal part of family life. Children may not always talk about their responsibilities or realise that they can access support.

At our school, we want every child to feel understood, included and supported. We are raising awareness of children who help care for family members and would encourage parents and carers to reflect on whether their child has additional responsibilities at home that may affect their wellbeing, learning or time to enjoy being a child.

These children may face barriers such as tiredness, worries, difficulty concentrating, reduced time for homework or friendships, and feeling different from their peers. Families may also be reluctant to ask for help because of stigma, concerns about being judged, or simply not knowing what support is available.

We are working towards achieving the **Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) Young Carers Award**, which will help us develop our understanding and ensure that children with caring responsibilities are recognised and supported appropriately.

If you think your child may be helping or supporting someone at home, please get in touch with the office. You do not need to be sure whether the term *young carer* applies to your family. We are here to listen, offer support and work together to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, thrive and enjoy their childhood.

Further information regarding the RBWM offer can be found at: https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/local-offer/information-and-advice/information-for-carers/young-carers-and-siblings

*Mr Salter, Year 5 Teacher & Young Carers Champion*

# SCHOOL NEWS

## COPAS TURKEYS




## BOOK REVIEWS




## 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**
Everyone

**Year 2**
Charlie

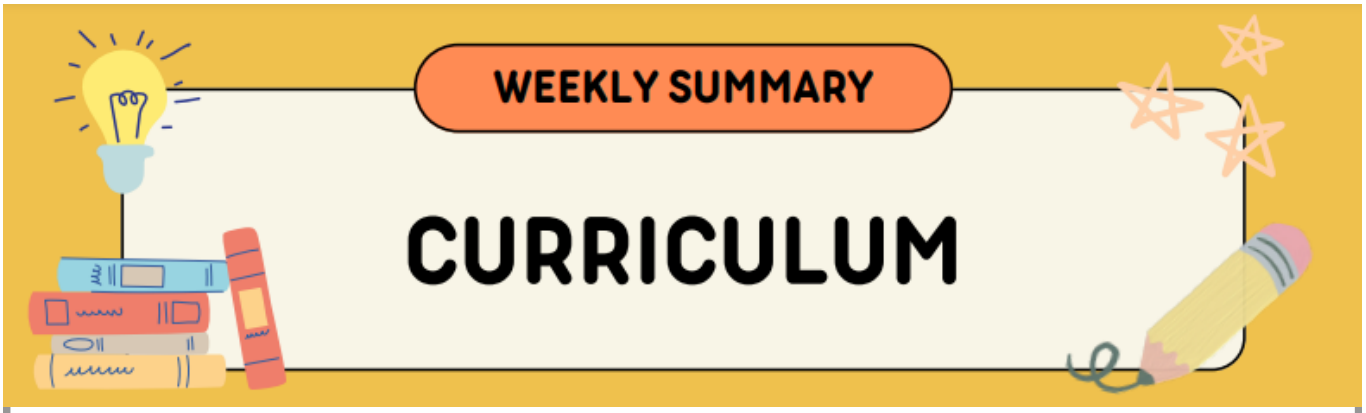
**Year 3**
Arabella & Sophie

**Year 4**
Harvey

**Year 5**
Bertie

**Year 6**
Tommy

**CLEANEST CLASSROOM OF THE WEEK: YEAR 1**




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 have reviewed all the sounds they have learned in Phonics this half-term and have played initial sound spotting games, blending games and I-spy sound games. They have also been working hard practising the letter formation of each of the sounds. In RE we have been learning about religious celebrations including Diwali and Eid. The children created beautiful Mendhi patterns and made their own Diya lamps. In Literacy Drawing Club the children have been learning about a text called 'Christopher Pumpkin' by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. They focused on describing and drawing the character and the setting and thinking of another imaginary character who could join the story. Reception also practised writing some CVC words along with their drawings. In Maths the children have focused on counting skills, subitising and comparison using the language of 'more than' and 'fewer than'. Well done Reception for a brilliant first half-term in school. Wishing everyone a great half-term! |
| **Year 1** | Year 1 have had another fantastic week of learning and lots of fun along the way! In English, we have been exploring monsters, using exciting adjectives to describe them before creating our very own fact files explaining how to look after a monster. In Maths, we have finished our place value topic to 10 and have started addition and subtraction, learning how to use a part-part-whole model to add two numbers together. In Computing, we were very excited to finally log on to the computers, and the children showed fantastic resilience and determination as they practised using the keyboards and mouse skills. In History, we explored what childhood was like in the 1960s, discussing the similarities and differences between growing up then and being a child today. Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd November. |
| **Year 2** | Year 2 have made a fantastic start to our new addition and subtraction unit in maths. In RE, we enjoyed some thoughtful discussions to bring our unit to a close. The children's handwriting and presentation continue to blow us away, and we are so proud of the care they are taking with their work. We have practised our spellings this week and sent them home, but there will be no homework over half term. Have a fantastic half term, everyone! |
| **Year 3** | Year 3 have had another fabulous week! In maths, we have been using the column method for addition and subtraction. To conclude our work on volcanoes, we used all the information we have learnt to write non-chronological reports about volcanoes. I was really impressed with the technical language the children could confidently use. In PSHE, we discussed when we should ask an adult for help and who we could ask. We have been really proud of Year 3 and how well they have settled into Key Stage 2 this half term. We hope you all have a great half term! |



# 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Year 4** | This week in Year 4 we have completed our unit on adding and subtracting 4 digit numbers and in English we finished off Madame Pamplemousse and her Incredible Edibles by writing a recipe. In science we were thinking about food chains and what would happen if one animal from the food chain disappeared and in geography we thought about whether it was a good or bad thing to buy locally/or imported. We hope you all have a lovely half term holiday! |
| **Year 5** | It has been a brilliant final week of term in Year 5. In maths, the children have been multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000. In English, the children have been exploring personal and impersonal style. We have enjoyed starting to read our new text Treason, which links with our Tudor history topic next term. We have had a great morning today, putting on a maths challenge Traitors game. The Traitors' role was to try to subtly sabotage their teams' challenges! |
| **Year 6** | What a fantastic start to the year it has been in Year 6! The children have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, maturity and a real love of learning. In English, we have enjoyed author studies, exploring the unique style of Matt Goodfellow. before using their techniques to create novellas of our own. We have also been captivated by *The Final Year*, engaging in thoughtful discussions about characters, reading choices and personal growth. Our reading sessions have continued to flourish through our Take One Book approach, helping children to develop their comprehension skills, confidence and enjoyment of literature. Many pupils have enthusiastically recommended books to their peers and discussed authors' styles with increasing maturity. In Maths, the children have shown resilience and determination, making excellent progress and tackling challenging concepts with growing confidence. We have been particularly impressed by their perseverance and problem-solving skills. Beyond the classroom, pupils have explored nutrition and healthy lifestyles in PSHE, designed album covers for our iSingPOP project. Our local history topic culminated in a trip to the local graveyard to investigate the graves of those families we discovered in the 1851 census. It was great seeing history in action. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude, hard work and kindness shown by Year 6 this term and look forward to another exciting term ahead. Have a wonderful Half term break! |

# LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS




MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2026

## FREE COMMUNITY SELF DEFENCE CLASS

**For primary school children aged 4 to 11 - and their families!**

Keep your child active, confident and safe this half term. Our fun, friendly class teaches age-appropriate personal safety and self defence skills in a positive, supportive environment. No experience or kit needed - just comfy clothes!

**WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN**

- Stranger danger awareness
- How to say NO with confidence
- Simple, safe escape techniques
- Dealing with bullying
- Confidence, focus & self-control
- Respect and good listening
- Teamwork and making friends
- Fun fitness and coordination

**Taught by Matt Fiddes University-trained instructors - DBS checked - First aid trained - Safeguarding trained**

*Places are limited - call/text 07903683880 or book at www.mattfiddes.com*

Cut out and bring this voucher to class

VOUCHER

**FREE**

SELF DEFENCE CLASS

Half Term October 2026

**This voucher entitles the holder to ONE FREE half term self defence class**

Booking essential - limited spaces. One voucher per child.

**Child's name:**

**Age:** **School:**

**Parent / carer name:**

**Contact number:**

**Book: call/text 07903683880 or online at www.mattfiddes.com**

Email: Mrmiles@mattfiddes.com

Valid during October half term 2026 only. No cash alternative. Parents and carers are welcome to stay and watch.

## Swim Street

**Pssst..** Have you heard there's a local swimming pool teaching babies, children and adults to swim in your neighbourhood?




**www.swimstreet.co.uk**

BEACONSFIELD - FLACKWELL HEATH - COOKHAM

# LOCAL INFO / EVENTS / CLUBS

