

School News

Issue 1

6th January 2026



A word from Mrs Daniels ...

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and on behalf of the whole staff team wish you a happy and healthy 2026.

All parents are warmly invited to a meeting this Thursday where I will talk about:

Our new Sunset Club

The renewed OFSTED framework

Our School Development Plan and the key things we are working on at the moment

I will be presenting for about 30—45mins with additional time for questions.

Good luck to all the children swimming on Sunday at Braywick Leisure Centre raising money for charity and thank you to all the parents involved for their support!



THIS WEEK

Tuesday 6th Jan

Wednesday 7th Jan

Thursday 8th Jan

RWI school development day

7pm Information evening for all parents re OFSTED, our SDP and our extended school day offer

Friday 9th Jan

Sunday 11th Jan

5pm Swimathon

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End of term Over and Aboves

Reception	Axel Cooper	Joven Lachhar
Year 1	Albie Thrift	Enzo Spence
Year 2	Ava Christie	Taylor Ojambo
Year 3	Aston Spence	Liya Lachhar
Year 4	Isla Hayes	Zach Finn
Year 5	Emily Martin	Barnaby Riley
Year 6	Molly Price	Bella Pady



Calendar for term 3

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
5 Jan INSET day	6	7	8 RWI school development day 7pm Information evening for all parents re OFSTED and our extended school day offer	9	10	11
12 9.15am Finance committee	13	14	15 Open the book assembly	16	17	18
19 7pm GB meeting	20	21	22	23 KS2 VR day	24	25
26	27	28 Reptile day!	29 Reptile day!	30	31	1
2 New website launch day	3 Internet safety day workshops and assembly	4	5	6 PTA Quiz Night	7	8
9	10	11	12 Year 3 dance festival	13	14	15

Half term break Monday 16th February—Friday 20th February

Thank you to Edwards and Ward and our Year 6 helpers for a lovely Christmas lunch!



KS2 carols



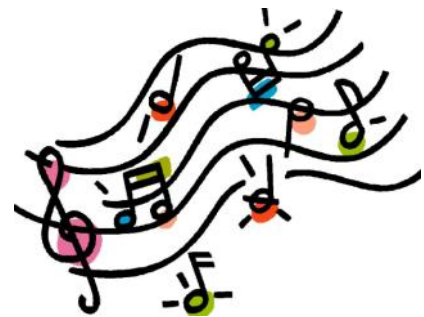
Well done to all of KS2 for their lovely singing at the end of last term.

Farewell to Ms Hone and information about choir

At the end of last term Miss Hone found out that she had been successful in her application to be the new Art Technician at Sir William Borlase. With a four week notice period this means that she will be leaving us a week on Friday to take up her new position. We would like to thank Miss Hone for all she has done at Cookham Rise, not just supporting children in class but also as a Play Leader at lunchtime and leading our school choir. We wish her every happiness and success in her new role.

We are currently recruiting for a new Teaching Assistant with all the information available on our website.

Mrs Rogers has kindly said that she will take up the mantle of leading choir. As she has her PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time on a Thursday, choir will now move to this day at 8.15am.



Year 5 clarinet concert to the school

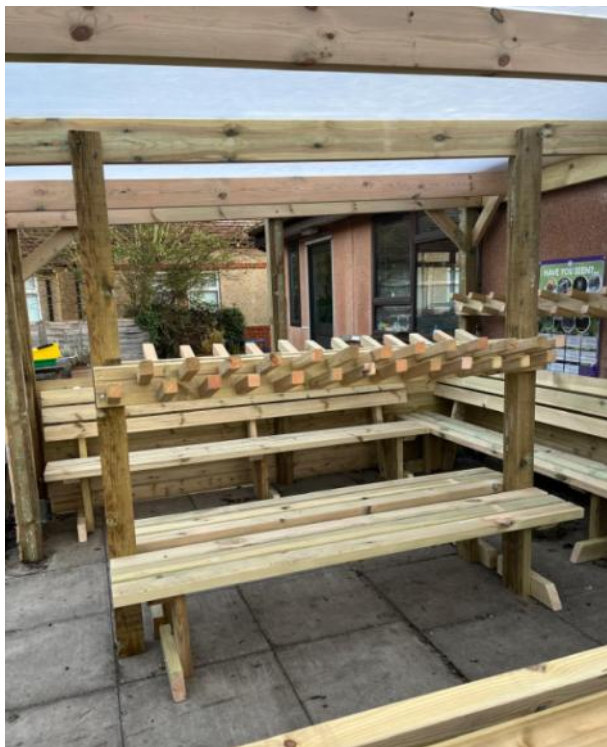
Year 5 performed to the whole school at the end of last term. We were all very impressed by how well they have learned to play the clarinet in their first term of learning.



New welly storage for Years 4 and 5

Over the holidays we have had a fantastic covered structure built outside years 4 and 5 to store their wellies as well as to give them seating space.

We are very grateful to the PTA for funding this.



Molly Maid Maidenhead & Marlow back community heroes with 'Molly Maid House' play project at Cookham Rise Primary

As part of the Molly Maid Community Heroes programme, Molly Maid Maidenhead & Marlow has partnered with Cookham Rise Primary School to bring an imaginative new learning space the 'Molly Maid House' to life, championing outdoor play, teamwork and real-world life skills for local children. The initiative supports the school's OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach, giving pupils a safe, engaging setting to role-play everyday home routines cleaning, washing, tidying and caring for their environment in age-appropriate, playful ways.

Built around a branded playhouse and equipped with child-friendly household props, the project emphasises "learning by doing" from laying the foundations and slabs (safety, stability), to assembling the structure (teamwork, problem solving), and decorating and setting up the interior so children can experience the tools and habits that help keep a "home" clean and tidy. The play space will be accessible to the entire school roll (over 200 pupils), ensuring every child can benefit from inclusive outdoor play that builds confidence and practical life skills.

The franchise is also planning an interactive play activity where children can safely explore pretend "cleaning" with empty Molly Maid bottles and sprays, reinforcing healthy habits through role-play. The school will share the story in its newsletter, and local media are set to cover the opening to celebrate the community effort that made it possible. In addition, the team has contributed items for a Christmas raffle and provided carriers and bottles for the school's needs, further supporting enrichment and fundraising.

Molly Maid Maidenhead & Marlow, said:

"This project is about recognising everyday community heroes teachers, support staff, parents and carers who nurture children's independence and life skills. By backing OPAL with a practical, child-led play space, we're giving pupils a fun way to learn teamwork, responsibility and pride in their environment. We're thrilled to celebrate what makes our community special and to keep investing in it for the long term."







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The miraculous power of reading aloud to your child

These are some highlights from *The Enchanted Hour: The miraculous power of reading aloud in the age of distraction* by Meghan Cox Gurdon

Let's walk through what happens when we read aloud to children—of any age.

1. It builds stronger brains.

Integrates multiple regions at once: vision, language, emotion, and imagination.

Reinforces cognitive pathways that help children think more clearly, retain more, and imagine more deeply.

Known as “The Goldilocks Effect” —screens are overstimulating, audio under-stimulating... reading aloud is just right.

2. It accelerates vocabulary.

A child read to regularly hears over 200,000 more words annually than peers.

Books expose students to words they'll never encounter in everyday conversation.

Vocabulary in early years predicts long-term academic outcomes—not just in English, but across the curriculum.

3. It improves attention and focus.

When children are read to, they show stronger focus, persistence, and self-regulation.

These traits correlate with success in other subjects

4. It's an emotional regulator.

Reading aloud releases neurochemicals like oxytocin and dopamine.

Calms the nervous system.

Builds empathy and trust—between teacher/parent and child, and among peers.

Together, let's make 2026 a year for lots of reading!



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