

School News

Issue 3

21st September 2026



A word from Mrs Daniels ...

My thanks to the Reception parents who attended the evening meeting last week about safeguarding, OPAL and behaviour.

A great deal of work goes into safeguarding our children in a range of ways such as risk assessments, DBS checks, pastoral care etc. This week we will have our first fire drill of the school year to check that everyone is able to evacuate the building safely.

Children in Year 6 have now all been assigned roles and have the badges to prove it! It is a credit to all of them that they are keen to get started on supporting the school in a range of ways. We will be sharing the work they are doing in future newsletters. This week they will start the important role of showing prospective parents around the school.

THIS WEEK

Monday 21st September

Tuesday 22nd September

Prospective parent show around

Wednesday 23rd September

Thursday 24th September

Friday 25th September

PTA Bingo event cancelled

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Two pleas -

Please park considerately in the local area and do not park on the yellow lines when it is not permitted. This is to keep our children safe and to ensure our neighbours can come and go from their homes.

Secondly, the office is very busy at the moment and the team are spending quite a lot of their time delivering forgotten items to children. Where possible, it is good for children to be in charge of remembering their own equipment for the day— a checklist by the front door can help and would help the office team too!

Thank you.

Over and Above Awards—Friday 18th September

Reception	Connie	Hana	
Year 1	Axel	Sophia	
Year 2	Xanthe	Cleo	
Year 3	Ava	Ilana	
Year 4	Clara	Flynn	
Year 5	Alfie	Amber	Elsie
Year 6	Rhys	Belle	



Calendar for term 1

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
28 7pm Governing Body meeting	29	30	1 RWI school development day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Simon Mole KS2 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Three workshops in school	21	22 6.30pm Meeting for Rec parents— reading, writing and maths	23	24	25

Speech and Language Support

The Speech and Language School age team from the NHS are offering two online workshops on supporting the communication and language development of school age children. These are designed for parents and carers and will be delivered at different times throughout the year. This support would be great if:-

Your child struggles to follow the instructions that are given to them

They find it difficult to understand and answer questions

Your child struggles to pay attention to you

There is no charge for this support. Further details and links to sign up can be found here:

[School age language development workshops | Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)

PE Update from Mrs Pateman

PE News



Hello and congratulations to our new house captains!

Welcome Back

Our clubs have all started back up, with a fantastic couple of weeks for running club. It's great to see so many taking part, we've been lucky with the weather so far!



Up and coming events...

- Bowls Buddies, KS2, Tuesday 22nd September. Intent: engage and try something new!
- Baseball Festival, Yrs 4&5, Wednesday 30th September. Intent: participation.
- Active 60, year 2, Tuesday 6th October. Intent: engage and be active.
- Girls football tournament, 5&6, Wednesday 7th October. Intent: competition.
- Try it Festival, KS2, Thursday 13th October. Intent: engage and try something new.

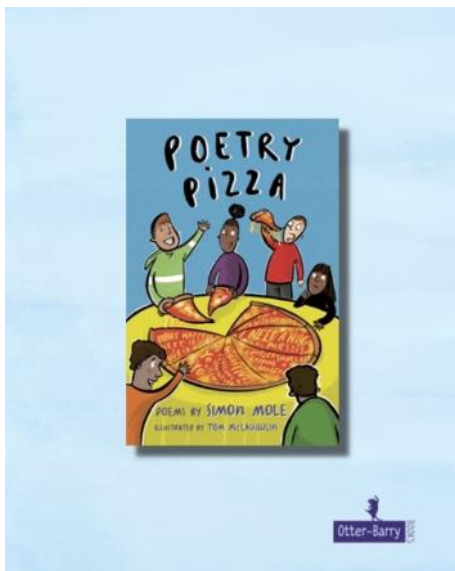
Simon Mole—KS2 poetry

Dear Parents,

To support and enrich the English curriculum this term, we are delighted that acclaimed children's author Simon Mole will be visiting Cookham Rise on **Thursday 8th October** and performing an inspiring poetry and music show alongside musician Gecko for **years 3, 4, 5 & 6**.

Simon is a National Poetry Day Ambassador whose YouTube tutorial videos are used by hundreds of thousands of children and teachers across the world each year, and have been featured on BBC Bitesize.

Very excitingly, children who wish to are able to purchase a personalised signed copy of Simon's latest poetry collection 'Poetry Pizza' which he will be reading from on the day, and was a Guardian Books of the Month pick.



Poetry Pizza £8.99 (paperback) KS2

Bursting with laughs, lyricism, and heartwarming moments, *Poetry Pizza* is a spellbinding collection of poems. Funny, fantastical, and full of feeling - there's a poem in here for everyone!

"This is a wonderful book packed full of beats pizazz and rhythms, mingled with strong feelings." — Michael Rosen

You can order the book from Simon's website at the link below, by **Thursday October 1st**.

<https://www.simonmole.com/bookshop/cookham-rise-primary-school>

Make sure to fill in your child's name and class name on the order form!

Simon will sign and distribute them when he comes into school.

GEMS

GEMS - Supporting parents and carers

As a parent or carer, you may want more information, guidance, or connection to better understand and support your child's unique ways of thinking, learning, and experiencing the world. At GEMS, we recognise this and provide a variety of FREE virtual courses and workshops to help you build your understanding of autism and/or ADHD.

Your child does not need to have a diagnosis for you to attend, they may be waiting for an assessment, or you may simply recognise traits of autism and/or ADHD. Our trainers have extensive lived and professional experience in these areas, and you'll also have the opportunity to share ideas and strategies with other parents and carers in a supportive environment.

If you live in, or your GP is based in, East Berkshire (Slough, Windsor, Maidenhead, or Bracknell), you can see what's on offer and book a place by following this link

[Workshops - Gems4health](#)



Active ideas to use at home



We buy into some great resources and as part of the 'Get Set' package there is a link for families with lots of active ideas. If you follow the link you will see them separated into age ranges. There are also sections on giving back, physical challenges and self-care ideas.

[Get Set 4 PE - Resource Bank](#)

Sunrise Club Plan



We had 27 responses to the survey with the vast majority of those replying, who use the club, wanting a 7.40am start. There was a much more mixed response regarding the provision of breakfast with fewer than half of those replying wanting it.

I hope you'll be pleased to know that we will be starting the club from 7.40am at the beginning of January 2027. In the interim, we will be making changes to office and TA working hours and recruiting an additional member of staff.

I am also attending a Heads briefing in October regarding a wider offering with regards to breakfast clubs and so want to incorporate any changes being made national-



Birthdays

At our staff meeting last week we made the decision to no longer allow birthday sweets/gifts for the class to be brought into school. This is something that many schools already have had in place, including Cookham Nursery.

It is very generous of families to provide sweets and we do know that children enjoy giving things to their friends but we have an increasing number of pupils in the school with food allergies and intolerances and it is also inline with the healthy eating guidance that schools are subject to.

In assembly on Friday all children who have had a birthday that week or over the preceding holiday are invited to come to the front so that the whole school can sing to them and classes also sing to children individually on their birthdays when they fall on a school day.

If you wanted to gift e.g. a picture book to a class instead of sweets, which could then be read to the class and put in their class library that would be very welcomed but is absolutely not expected.

Thank you for your understanding.

WhatsApp Groups

I think it is lovely that we have class WhatsApp groups, they can be very positive when used to remind, support and organise events etc.

I would be grateful, if you have an issue with the school, if you would come to us directly so that we can work with you and solve it.

Thank you for your support with this.



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We want ALL of our
children to shine!

