

3rd March 2025



A word from Mrs Daniels

All of the children will have the opportunity to listen to at least one author speak this week and then will have a day focusing on the joy of books on Thursday. We have £700 to spend on new books thanks to all of you, please see below.

There has been lots going on in school and I am grateful to the staff team who are always so keen to receive training and embrace new learning themselves. Teachers in Reception to Year 3 are all having training every half term on Mastering Number and, as a staff team, we had music training from the Berkshire Music Trust after school last week. In addition, we frequently welcome visitors for training. Mrs Bond has been supporting our SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) by teaching about computing, we will soon be having 15 other teachers coming in to observe RWI and I have had a number of Heads visit recently. Without fail, they have commented on our lovely children, friendly staff and the 'warm and organised' feeling the school has— thank you everyone!

THIS WEEK

Monday 3rd March

Tuesday 4th March

Liz Flanagan (author) session for years 3 and 4

Wednesday 5th March

Dassu (author) virtual session for Years 5 and 6

Thursday 6th March

World Book Day

Fiona Barker (author) in school Rec and years 1 and 2

Oldfield football away A + B teams

Friday 7th March

Bags 2 School

(see page 9 for further details)

Inside this issue:

Over and Above Awards	2
Calendar for term 4	3
OPAL updates	4-5
Rotary Writing Competition	6-7
PTA Chair	8
Bags2School	9
RockSteady	10
Parent Governor	
Year 6 trip	11
Thought for the week and/or celebrations	12



£1200 was spent on books at The Scholastic Book Fair which means that the school will have approximately £700 to spend on books for our children—this is fantastic, thank you!

A special thank you to Year 5 and all the adults who helped and to Mrs O'Mahony for organising the event.

Over and Above Awards—Friday 28th February

Reception	Seth Robertson	Albie Thrift	Ellis Kibbler
Year 1	Daisy Salmon	Parker Irwin	Josh Clayton
Year 2	Rudy Pateman	Clara Gallagher	
Year 3	Ronnie Mason	Florence Elliot-Baker	
Year 4	Archie Thornton	Josephine Beaney	Teddy Haggerty
Year 5	Ethan Courtis	Ethan Davison	
Year 6	The whole of year 6		

Comic Relief
Friday 21st March
+ loose parts for OPAL



Children can choose what they wear to school on Friday 21st March and we will be collecting for Red Nose Day with all the money going to charity. In addition, we would really appreciate you bringing in a 'loose part' (see list on page 5) to support our OPAL project.

Thank you.

Calendar for term 4

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
3	4 Liz Flanagan (author) virtual session for years 3 and 4	5 Dassu virtual session for Years 5 and 6	6 World Book Day Fiona Barker (author) in school Rec and years 1 and 2 Oldfield football away A + B teams	7	8	9
10	11	12 Netball match— home	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 BBO computing hub event	21 Comic Relief and 'loose part' day! National poetry day	22	23
24 Year 6 - National Reading Champions quiz 7pm Governing Body meeting	25	26	27	28 Brief reports to parents	29 Parents in school day	30
31	1 Parent consultation meetings	2 2.30pm Rock Steady concert	3 Parent consulta- tion meetings	4 Last day of term—finish at 2pm	5	6

OPAL news



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are really appreciating the support that the parent community is giving to our OPAL project. The children are enjoying the changes we have made so far. We have further exciting things planned which we would appreciate help with. We will be holding an OPAL parent workday on Saturday 29th March and are asking that parents sign up on our volunteer sheet. This can be found...

<https://volunteersignup.org/XK4MC>

We will be looking for help with building a large sandpit, making mud kitchens, treating our wooden buildings and benches as well as constructing a lovely gravel play area. Power tools will be an advantage! Please do think about giving a little time if you are able.

Best wishes,

Mrs O'Mahony



... for a few hours on Saturday 29th March to help with some projects on the school grounds. Thank you!

The children are all extremely excited about our OPAL playground project. Now that our shed is in place, we'd like to collect loose parts for children to play with. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime. We would appreciate any of the following

- Suitcases of any size and type
- Anything on wheels/castors e.g. baby buggy
- Plastic milk crates/supermarket delivery crates/plastic bread trays
- Briefcases, especially hard cased ones
- Road signs and cones
- Kitchen pots, pans, baking trays, wooden spoons, chopping boards
- Tubes of various sizes and various materials
- Buckets
- Nets and thick ropes
- Keyboards/torches/laptops/calculators/mobile phones/desk phones/binoculars/cameras that are no longer working
- Fabric (large sheets/brightly coloured fabric)
- camping roll mats/yoga mats
- Guttering
- Noodles (the type you use in the swimming pool!!)
- Hats/scarves/jazzy shirts/elasticated skirts/waistcoats/wedding dresses/character costumes
- Planks of wood of various sizes

If you have any items to donate, please bring them to the playground on the morning of Friday 21st March—Comic Relief Day.



Rotary Writing Competition



Each year the Rotary run the Rotary Writing Competition and schools can submit up to five entries. Rotary then choose the winner from each school to read their work aloud to other finalists.

Congratulations to Hugo who was selected as the winner from Cookham Rise and who went on to be awarded second prize overall at the event last Thursday.

My thanks also to Mrs Bond who supported Rotary with structuring the competition and with hosting on the evening.

Overpage, you can read Hugo's submission.

Wonderful water

A day in the life of the giant otter

When I woke up, a crystal clear drop of water splashed against my nose, my eyes flickered open as the morning sun broke through the leaves. Abruptly, I began to think about how hungry I was ,my belly rumbled, the thought of fish hurt . Out of the corner of my eye, I spot a tiny little salmon poke his head above the water, slowly I begin to approach it then I jump and catch it in my mouth. As it slips down my throat the hungry sensation ends I am fuelled for the day. To awaken my body I start to paddle down stream to the Mantaro River were I could get to the Amazon, my favourite spot.

On my journey, I spot a fisherman on the river bank and I swim up to him, but he didn't seem interested and completely ignored me so I paddled away. The journey down the Mantaro is beautiful, the exotic birds sing peaceful songs and the capybara take sips from exiting streams and when I am lucky there is little fish to nibble on. Up ahead, there's a stronger current this means I am nearing the Amazon. Without warning, I go flying off a waterfall and I dive straight into the Amazon.

Under the water, I spot river dolphins that jump in and out of the river with delight the trees are a lush green and the undergrowth seems out of control. I drift down the river going were the current takes me, relaxing under the rainforest sun I feel warm and calm nothing could take this moment away from me.

My eyes begin to flair, my hair stands on end I can't believe my eyes. There's crisp packets, bin bags, toilet rolls all lying in the river, people were polluting my home, every Amazon animals home I swim under the rubbish pushing on I have to continue I can't look back. I feel uncomfortable knowing some animals may of died due to that rubbish in the river. The animals I saw earlier had disappeared and moved up stream ,I felt alone.

Just then my heart flipped, I saw a wonderful sight people in the river removing the rubbish they through in I truly believed they were careless about the Amazon. I left them behind and continued swimming but this time happiness was pumping through my veins the animals had returned and as the sun began to hide behind the trees I took a side stream to a little pond, my eyes slowly closed and I drifted of to sleep. I dreamt about my day and all the ups and downs I faced the Amazon, I thought to myself it is the best place to be.

Exciting opportunity- PTA Chair Role

Hello Everyone,

I truly can't believe this is my final year at Cookham Rise as a parent and a member of the PTA. Reflecting on the past six years, I can honestly say it's been an incredible journey filled with fun, collaboration, and a deep sense of community. Working alongside other parents, PTA members, school staff, and our local Cookham schools has been a highlight of my time here. As my time as Chair comes to a close, we are actively seeking someone to step into this rewarding role. I wanted to share a few insights to give you a sense of what the position entails:

1.It's the easiest role in the PTA!

Honestly, I don't do nearly as much as our amazing Secretary and Treasurer.

2.Chairing PTA Meetings:

The main responsibility is leading our one-hour meetings (only 6–7 per year). These are focused on ensuring our activities are productive and aligned with the school's goals and priorities.

3.Promoting & Supporting Fundraising Events:

Your level of involvement is flexible—you can do as much or as little as your time allows. We always have committees to help organise and run our annual fundraising events.

4.Approving Budgets:

This is a straightforward part of the role, as it's integrated into meeting agendas. Our wonderful Treasurer, Victoria, handles all the detailed work—you just need to provide a quick review and approval.

In truth, the Chair role is all about fostering collaboration and maintaining a positive and supportive environment. Together, we aim to create opportunities that enhance the educational experiences of our Cookham Rise children.

If you're interested or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. This is such a fulfilling role, and I know it will be a rewarding experience for the next Chair.

Please text 07871124701 if you want to know more!

Best regards,

Pip Bradley

Bags 2 School



BAG 2 SCHOOL

COOKHAM RISE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SHINE











Friday March 7th












Time for a spring clean? Support the school by bringing your unwanted clothes to raise funds for the school and support textile recycling.

Below is what we **can** and **can't** collect:



 Clothes	 Paired shoes	 Handbags	 Hats
 Bags	 Scarves and ties	 Bras	 Jewellery
 Socks	 Belts		

 Duvets and blankets	 Pillows and cushions	 Carpets, rugs and mats
 Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing	 School uniforms with and without logo	 Corporate clothing and workwear
 Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material	 Furniture and large items	 Batteries

Rocksteady

Rocksteady teach children to play an instrument in their very own band with no experience necessary! Guided by inspirational musicians, children learn songs they love in a fun and supportive in-school group setting. We currently have vacancies for keyboard, vocals, guitar. The lessons happen in school on Wednesday afternoons, and the children perform with their bands in a termly concert. If you would like to sign up, or just find out more, please go to <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Alison Rogers



Parent Governor Elections

Dear Parents

Last week you elected a new parent governor, Kim Field, to the Governing Body. Thank you to the four parents who put themselves forward. Also, thank you to all the parents who voted too. Its great to know that you are all so invested in your children's education. The governors look forward to welcoming Kim at the next meeting on 24th March.

Thank you all for your support.

Gaynor Sprules
Chair of Governors



Year 6 Visit To Eton College History Museum



Willow 6 took part in science and geography workshops at Eton College Natural History Museum last Thursday. They looked at evolution and adaptation in science, before finding out about climate change and greenhouse gases in their geography workshop. We also took advantage of the beautiful sunshine to spend 15 minutes in the park!



It was lovely to see the children so engaged and sharing their fabulous knowledge about animals!

Mrs Bond



Cookham Rise Primary School

High Road
Cookham
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 9JF

Tel:
01628 520961
Fax:
01628 532536
E-mail:

office@cookhamrise.org

Website:
www.cookhamriseprimary.org

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

Learning Quotes

Reading is to the mind, what
exercise is to the body



Addison

We want ALL of our
children to shine!

*That is part of the beauty
of literature. You discover
that your longings are
universal longings, that
you're not lonely and
isolated from anyone.
You belong.*

- F. Scott Fitzgerald

A green-themed graphic for Cookham Rise Primary School. At the top, it says 'COOKHAM RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL' above a sun icon and the word 'SHINE'. Below this are three icons: hands holding a heart labeled 'Kindness', a head with a question mark labeled 'Curiosity', and a target with an arrow labeled 'Personal best'. At the bottom, a yellow banner reads 'We want all our children to SHINE'.