



A word from Mrs Daniels ...

The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about a range of animals last week—please see pages 4—7 for some photos. This week, my thanks to Mrs Bond who has organised an internet safety day tomorrow with workshops for KS2 and an assembly for the whole school. Today, and in subsequent newsletters, I'll also be sharing advice from The National College to support parents to keep children safe online. This week the focus is on AI generated videos.

My thanks to Mrs Pateman who continues to drive PE forwards in school and works hard to ensure that we enter a range of sporting events. We couldn't do this without support from staff and parents—so thank you all very much.

I am very pleased to welcome a new member of staff to the team today. Sophie Brocklebank is joining us as a Teaching Assistant in Year 5 to replace Katie Hone who left us a few weeks ago.

Finally, we are updating our website which I look forward to launching after half term.

THIS WEEK

Monday 2nd February

Tuesday 3rd February

Internet safety day workshops
and assembly

Wednesday 4th February

Thursday 5th February

Friday 6th February

PTA Quiz Night

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I am delighted that bookings for Sunset Club are now open. A booking form was sent out last week for families wanting to book regular slots. WAC4U have confirmed that they have a cancellation notice period of two weeks.

After half term we will be able to share with you information about the staffing of the club.



Over and Above Friday 30th January 2026

Reception	Isla Mayes-Ryder	Maisie Robertson	
Year 1	Whole class		
Year 2	Emmeline Kersey	Parker Irwin	
Year 3	Heidi Andrews	Freddie Danks-Burrows	
Year 4	Esmail Harvey	George Leathers	George O'Neill
Year 5	Jessica Snodgrass	Kairi Stevens	
Year 6	Henry Rees	Ethan Davison	



The Golden Boot Award Winners last week were...

Year 5 were the winners last week for their consistently good tidying up across the week. They will have an extra 15mins of OPAL time this week.

Calendar for term 3

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
9 Feb Rec height, weight and vision	10	11	12 Year 3 dance festival	13	14	15

Calendar for term 4

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
23 Feb Website launch Book Fair in school this week	24	25 Parent consultation slots released	26 Year 1 Active 60 festival	27	28	1
2 March	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Open the Book assembly	13	14	15
16 GB Finance committee meeting	17 Wayne Dixon—Year 6 Easter cracked	18 Year 6 at Eton	19	20 Reports to parents	21	22
23 7pm Governing Body meeting	24 Parent consultations	25	26 Parent consultations	27 Last day of term Finish at 1.30pm	28	29

Staff training day—Monday 13th April

Children return to school on Tuesday 14th April

Animals



We went beyond reptiles and had a range of animals in school last week. We were visited by an owl, a tarantula, a snake and, most unusual of all, an armadillo.

Our thanks, once again, to the PTA for funding this.









What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DEEPIAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

PE Update from Mrs Pateman

PE News

What we've been up to this week...



Basketball

12 children from 5 and 6 got the opportunity to go to the basketball festival at Desborough. From all accounts they had a fantastic time, winning all their games whilst showing collaboration and teamwork. Mrs Mack commented on what fabulous ambassadors they were for the school. Well done team!

Panathlon

Oliver in year 5 took part in this years Panathlon held at Braywick. A fantastic morning to inspire and encourage all children regardless of needs to participate in sport.



Our Field

Due to all the wet weather, we have made the decision to pause Monday and Thursday afterschool football (year 5 &6), until after half-term, to give the grass time to recover. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Coming up...

Girls Football Match V's Cookham Dean postponed due to sodden pitch – to be re-scheduled after half term.

Dance Festival, year 3, Thursday 12th February. Always a fantastic day and opportunity for our children. They are practicing hard. I can't wait to watch it!

Active 60 Festival – Year 1, Thursday 26th February, Braywick

Simon Mole

Poet and children's author Simon Mole has visited us at Cookham Rise many times, and lots of the KS2 students will remember being part of the creative process for his latest book, Poetry Pizza. The book has now been published, complete with a mention of Cookham Rise in the acknowledgements, and a quote from Michael Rosen on the back cover!

Simon is offering to deliver signed copies to us at school. Any interested pupils can order via his website: <https://www.simonmole.com/bookshop/p/poetry-pizza>

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

Simon Mole is a firm favourite with our keystage 1 children. After its premiere at the Natural History Museum, Simon will be performing his new show with musician Gecko at Norden Farm on Saturday 21st February.

The Great Big Bug Show is packed full of poems, raps and songs about all your favourite bugs (and some you haven't heard of yet!). Expect Minibeasts and Massive Beats. In this show, every tune is an earworm - even the ones about woodlice!

Tickets are available here: <https://norden.farm/events/the-great-big-bug-show>



Information from Newlands regarding Smartphones



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29th January 2026

Dear Year 6 Parents and Carers

Last year, Newlands worked closely with the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and other local schools to better understand the impact that smartphones are having on our children and start the process of updating our policy to better protect our young people from the risks smartphones pose.

After extensive feedback from students, staff and families as well as looking at the global research into the impact of smartphones on young people, we are currently revising our Mobile Phone Policy.

The biggest change is that we will be banning smartphones for all students in Years 7-11 from September 2026. The policy will set out the evidence and reasoning behind this as well as the consequences for students who bring a smartphone to school. We are letting you know this now, in the hope that as parents and carers you will delay buying your child a smartphone in Year 6 and indeed refrain from purchasing this sort of device until at least the end of Year 9.

Students will still be able to bring a basic phone with no internet connectivity, better known as a brick phone if parents wish, and our revised Mobile Phone Policy will reflect this and will clarify the differences between smartphones and brick phones.

This decision is supported by:

- Clear evidence that removing smartphones improves focus, behaviour and learning as well as dramatically improving wellbeing.
- Strong feedback from our community about the pressures of constant online access and the rise in social media related issues.
- Our work with the Smartphone Free Childhood movement and the growing number of schools making the same change.
- The Government's ongoing consultation and new guidance for schools regarding restricting both phone use in school and social media for under 16s, reflecting wider concern across the country.

We realise that for some parents, families and students, there will be lots of questions and concerns around this decision.

Later this year we will be hosting a Parents' Information Evening for you and releasing more information about practical arrangements so do look out for this important event in the summer term. As well as covering the broader aspects of Transition, we will also include measures parents can take to ensure their daughter is safe online, as well as addressing frequently asked questions in relation to mobile phone use. This meeting will take place on **Thursday 18th June at 6.00pm** so please put this date in your diaries.

Thank you for your support as we take this important step to improve student wellbeing and learning at Newlands.

Kind regards



Miss Jo Capon
Headteacher

**COOKHAM RISE
PRIMARY PTA**



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"I haven't really achieved anything,"
said the boy.
"You are kind," said the mole,
"which is everything."
Charlie

We want ALL of our
children to shine!

