



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

Tel: 0118 937 5454 Email: admin@cavershamprimary.reading.sch.uk



## Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> December 2025- Issue No. 14

Core Values: **Compassion**, **Enthusiasm**, **Cooperation**,  
**Determination**, **Respect**

### Message from the Co-Headteachers...

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderfully festive last week of term it has been at Caversham Primary School! We were treated to some amazing Christmas singing from our pupils in Years 3-6. We hope that you enjoyed their little slice of Christmas- it certainly helped to cheer up a bit of a grey start to the week!

School uniforms and Christmas hats were replaced with a very different look in Year 6 on Wednesday when our pupils and staff were transported back to Ancient Greece with their day of immersive learning from 'History Off The Page'. These curriculum enrichment opportunities are so important in giving the children memorable learning experiences which help them to deepen their understanding and knowledge. We are very grateful to the CPSA (and all of our parent community who are so generous with their time and money at events!) who fund these fantastic learning days for our pupils.

On Wednesday, pupils from across the school enjoyed their delicious Christmas lunches. This was followed on Thursday afternoon by Christmas Parties- a wonderful afternoon of games, dancing and fun! There was also a very special visitor who popped by each classroom to drop off a small treat.



The week has ended with an amazing Christmas surprise. We were very excited to be joined in school today by real reindeer! They are truly incredible creatures and it was a real privilege to have them visit Caversham Primary and find out a little more about them.

We finish both the term and 2025 feeling very proud of all of our children. They have approached their learning with determination, co-operation, respect, enthusiasm and compassion. We hope that every pupil is proud of all they have achieved since September. They will have reached the end of this term having faced new challenges, learned new things and made new friends. We feel very privileged to have played a small part in this amazing journey.

We would like to wish all of our families and children a restful and happy Christmas break.

We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and re- energised on Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**Mrs Grover & Mrs Jones-King**

**Co-Headteachers**





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## **Caversham Primary is a Rights Respecting School**

***RIGHT OF THE WEEK: Article 27 You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met.***

## **SAFEGUARDING**

We wish you all a happy and safe Christmas holiday. We know that while the Christmas holidays are seen as a magical time of year, for some children and families this is not the case. Please see the link below for some useful information and to access guidance and support. Please also use this link to report any concerns that you may have about a child's safety over the holidays

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/>

## **ATTENDANCE**



School re opens for pupils on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. We look forward to welcoming pupils back bright and early! Please remember that school starts at **8.40am** for pupils in Years R-6.

Our whole school attendance for the Autumn Term was 96.4%. Given that there was a 'blip' back in October where a huge number of people were poorly in one week, this is pleasing (although it would be great to beat it next term). Our school target is to reach at least 97% consistently. Well done everybody! Keep up the good work in 2026.

## **THANK YOU!**

On behalf of all the staff we would like to say a huge thank you for the many cards, emails of thanks, treats, gifts and Christmas good wishes that we have received. These are never expected but staff are so appreciative of these kind gestures.

## **APPRECIATION**

We would like to say an enormous thank you to our wonderful team of school staff. Every member of staff works tirelessly to ensure that the pupils in their care at Caversham Primary School can thrive. Their endless enthusiasm and commitment, even at the end of a long and busy term is quite incredible. We know that you will join us in wishing them all a restful Christmas break.

We'd also like to extend a thank you to our Governing Body for their hard work this term. Our Governors, who are all volunteers, have been working hard to support, challenge and monitor



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every aspect of school life. They play a crucial role in the ongoing success of the school and we are grateful for their time and efforts.

Thanks, of course, to you the members of our parent community. Thank you for your commitment to the school and its pupils. We truly appreciate the support that you give your children, the value that you place on learning and the time that so many of you give to help with school trips, parents reading, experience days... Thank you.

### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR....**



What a busy and successful start to the year it has been at Caversham Primary and we're only at Christmas! Our pupils have been on a range of exciting trips so far this year. They've been to Windsor Castle, The River Thames, The Kenton Theatre, local walks in Caversham and for our Year 6 pupils as far afield as Manor Adventure in Shropshire! Year 6 also enjoyed their Ancient Greek history day and many year groups have also worked with REInspired to bring learning to life in RE lessons. Lots of pupils have also had the opportunity to represent the school during sporting events.

We love being able to share the children's learning with you and so far this year we have enjoyed hosting Open Classroom events, alongside parents' evenings. It was also wonderful to see so many parents at the recent Christmas productions. Both EYFS and KS1 pupils put on amazing Christmas shows and brought some Christmas sparkle with their performances! Our KS2 pupils also had a chance to join in with the festivities at the Christmas singing events. A highlight of the term for our Year 5 pupils was undoubtedly their brilliant performance at The Hexagon as part of The Junior Music Festival.

It has been exciting to see pupils from across the school trying new skills and spending time doing activities they love outside of the school curriculum. Some of the clubs our pupils have enjoyed include Glee, Street- dance, football, Lego, Spanish, running club, crafts and colouring, knitting, netball, book club, comic club, school band and Smudge art club! We review our clubs offer each term to ensure that as many children as possible have access to a wide range of extra- curricular clubs.

### **COMING UP . . .**

<b>19/12/2025</b>	<b>Term 2 ends</b>
<b>22/12/2025- 06/01/2026</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAY</b>
<b>05/01/2025</b>	<b>INSET DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>
<b>06/01/2026</b>	<b>Term 3 starts</b>
14/01/2026	Year 4 and Year 5 VR experience day (more info to follow)
20/01/2026	Year 6 visit to Battle of Britain Bunker (more info to follow)

**SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS – CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS – RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS**



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26/01/2026	Year 3 visit to Earth Trust (more info to follow)
11/02/2026	Year 3 Tag Rugby Festival (more info to follow)
<b>13/02/2026</b>	<b>Term 3 ends</b>
<b>16/02/2026- 20/02/2026</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAY</b>
<b>23/02/2026</b>	<b>Term 4 starts</b>
25/02/2026	Year 6 visit to The O2 for Young Voices

### CPSA NEWS



We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Hendriks and her team on the committee (as well as the CPSA reps and volunteers) for the many brilliant CPSA events so far this year. Every event organised by the CPSA this term has provided a valuable opportunity to bring our

school community together as well as helping to raise a huge amount of money for school funds, which benefits every child at school. We are so grateful for the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of all involved in making these events happen. We know how much time and effort it takes to run events like the Christmas Fair, Quiz evenings, and many others! Events such as these help to make Caversham Primary School the very special community that it is.

*Mrs Grover & Mrs Jones-King, Co-Headteachers*

We end the year on a high!!

We are thrilled to announce that you have raised over **£7400** at the school Christmas fair! This is a wonderful amount that will be used to help fund the trim trail replacement. Thanks again to everyone who helped in every capacity and attended. Don't forget to ask if your company can help with match funding. Let us know if you have any questions.

We are also pleased to say that we have purchased some supplies (children's needles and wool) for Mrs Barraclough's lunch time knitting club to ensure it remains free for all children to participate. We loved seeing the garlands the children had knitted at the Christmas fair.

Merry Christmas to you all and we look forward to welcoming you to our AGM and school discos in the new year.

*Joanna Hendriks (CPSA Chair)*



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## **CLEAN AIR AND IDLING- A FRESH START FOR 2026!**

We would like to ask ALL of our parents and community to help us to keep our children safe as we start back at school in 2026.



We are aware that some members of our community are 'idling' their cars at drop off and pick up times. Idling is the act of sitting in a stationary vehicle with your engine running and producing harmful emissions. An idling engine can produce up to twice the emissions of a car in motion, releasing unnecessary sulphur dioxide, particulate matter and nitrogen oxide.

In their review published in 2019, Public Health England says air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to health in the UK, with between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths a year attributed to long-term exposure. There is strong evidence that air pollution causes the development of coronary heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and lung cancer, and exacerbates asthma. Children are particularly at risk from air pollution, as their immune systems, lungs and brains are still developing.

In the new year, school council will be working on a campaign to persuade all drivers in our community to switch off their engines outside of school. Thank you for your support with this.

***Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from all at  
Caversham Primary School!***





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## **YEAR GROUP UPDATES**

### **Reception: Doves and Ducks**



What a fabulous last week full of festivities! From a special Christmas lunch to our Christmas disco, the children have been busy enjoying their last week at school!



In English this week we have been looking at the book 'The Night Before Christmas'. The children have been loving Drawing Club and have been creating some amazingly imaginative stories! Next term we will be learning about the natural world starting with the story 'Somebody swallowed Stanley'.

In phonics this week we have been assessing the children's progress this term! We are so impressed with how well the children are doing. Please continue supporting at home. Next term we are going to be looking at the sounds /j/ and /v/. If your child is not yet really confident with their initial 6 sight words from this term, then please do encourage them to practise at home over the holidays. Next term we will be moving on to 12 new words so becoming secure with the first set will really help them with their confidence and reading fluency. In maths this week we have been learning about composition and numbers to 6. Next term we are going to be looking at simple patterns.

### **Year 1: Skylarks and Swallows**



After the fun of the KS1 play and the panto last week, festivities continued with Christmas lunch, parties where we played pass the parcel and Blu Tac the carrot on the snowman (!) and a surprise visit from some beautiful reindeer. We are Christmas



ready! We have also managed to fit in lots of learning and consolidation work. In phonics, we have been finishing off our workbooks, focussing on the high frequency words. We have also "sorted sounds" - looking at all of the different ways sounds can be spelt and using them in different sentences. We have now finished our "blue" sounds and are ready to start the "green" sounds next term. Look out for the Phonics Review in the book bags which sets out all of the sounds we have learnt this term. A copy is available on Google Classroom with the "How to support your child at home" document. In Maths we finished our unit on Shape and this week we did our end of unit quiz. We have also been consolidating our addition and subtraction skills with worksheets and fun colouring...although we had to work out the number sentence first in order to figure out what colours we needed. In Geography, we mapped out the playground - positioning the adventure playground, the train, library bus, stage and climbing wall on a map using symbols that we then drew in a key. In Art, we made snowmen cards for families or friends. We have had a great term and we are so proud of how well the children have settled in. They have worked really hard and are very ready for a break. We also wanted to say a very big THANK YOU! for the generous gifts you have given us. They are very much appreciated. We especially love the cards and your kind words. It means so much. We hope you all have a



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wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 6th January 2026!

## Year 2: Red Kites and Robins



Our final week this term has been packed full of festive fun! We have carried out a number of consolidation activities in English and Maths, but given them a festive twist! For instance: Christmas codebreaking and using the song, 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', to carry out addition and subtraction problems. One of the favourite Maths activities was this one:



It was great to see the children applying logic and working systematically to find all the possible combinations.

Elves have 2 hats.  

Elves have 2 jumpers.  

Elves have 2 pairs of trousers.  

**How many ways can Elves get dressed?**

We have also been busy carrying out Christmas craft activities too, which will all hopefully make it home in time for Christmas! On Wednesday, it was School Christmas Dinner – Sara and her team in the kitchen always go to great lengths to make this special for the children, and this year was no exception. It smelt delicious and there were lots of excited, hungry children in the lunch queue that day! The children looked so festive on Thursday when they came to school dressed in their own clothes, ready for the Christmas parties. We had so much fun dancing and playing party games! Father Christmas must have been impressed with all the children in Robins and Red Kites, because he popped in to see us all in the afternoon. Ho! Ho! Ho!

We finished the year with a KS1 assembly on Friday morning. It was lovely to get together at the end of such a busy term and celebrate all we have achieved so far, this academic year. The children have worked so hard across the curriculum and definitely deserve a rest over the Christmas break.

## Year 3: Alder and Ash



This week in Year 3, we have been working on our assessed pieces of writing. These were diary entries based upon the 'three little pigs'. We used our best handwriting and they turned out really well!



In Maths, we have been working on our problem-solving skills with festive maths challenges. In Art, we completed our final pastel drawings. Inspired by Georgia O'Keefe, these focused on extreme close-up images of flowers. We held our very own carol singing show earlier in the week and we hope all who came to watch had a lovely festive time.



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#### Year 4: Beech and Birch



Mr. Dines, Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Evans are so proud of everyone's efforts in school up to Christmas and cannot wait to see the children again next term.

This week in Year 4, we planned, wrote and published a story inspired by a short animation, showing great creativity and enthusiasm. In Maths, we reviewed our multiplication and division facts. Please continue to practise these during the Christmas break to help build confidence and fluency.



Have an amazing break! You deserve it! Year 4

#### Year 5: Hazel and Holly



We've enjoyed English this week, publishing our persuasive e-mails to Mrs Grover and Mrs Jones-King about things we think they should do to make Caversham Primary an even better school! We also read some poetry and performed The Grinch to our classmates. In maths, we had fun playing The Pirate Game and solving some Christmas-themed reasoning problems such as 'Which elf ate the most mince pies?' At the start of



the week, we went to Caversham and carried out our survey about what people did in Caversham. Did you know, most people surveyed liked going to the various coffee shops and Waitrose was their favourite shop in Caversham? This week, Christmas has been celebrated with a festive lunch, carols in the hall, class parties and a special reindeer treat! We're looking forward to the holidays and hope that everyone has a great time! Holly Class

#### Year 6: Spruce and Sycamore



What a festive week we have had! This amazing Monday we had a very festive maths lesson, where we were doubling the size of Christmas shapes by scaling up. Throughout the term we have been making teddy bear waistcoats and this week we showed them off on the catwalk, and took pictures in the hall. On Wednesday we had Greek Day, where we had a day



experiencing a day in the life of an Ancient Greek. On Thursday, we played a netball tournament between different teams throughout Year 6, and in the afternoon we played fun Christmas games and read this amazing story called Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. On Friday, we played board games that we brought in from home and saw some special visitors from Santa's sleigh! Overall, this term has been fantastic!

By Alyssa and Millie



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**SAVE THE DATE**

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
DISCO IN THE SCHOOL  
HALL WITH  
DJ GAZZ**



Saturday 31st January

3.30-4.15 pm

4.20-5.05 pm

5.10-5.55 pm

**GROOVY**

Adult bar in the dining hall

Tickets on sale early January, £4 per child



## CPSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thursday 29th January  
7.30 pm in the school hall

Join us to find out what the CPSA has achieved in the last year and our plans for the future. We would love to hear your suggestions for upcoming school community events and fundraising ideas.



DOORS OPEN 7.30 PM WITH A  
FREE DRINK ON ARRIVAL  
AGM STARTS AT 8PM

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CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
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### **CPSA: Beautiful Pre-Loved Clothes and Shoes looking for new homes!**

Thank you to all of you who donated beautiful items to our pre-loved clothes and shoes sale. We raised over £200 at the Christmas Fayre and have ten particularly special items remaining we would love to find new homes for and raise even more money for our school. Go on, treat yourself! Or a friend! If you are interested, please ask your Year Rep for Sarah's number to contact her directly.



**1) Brand new with tags - £10**  
Size 12 Seraphine maternity  
dress, floral pattern, long.

**2) Brand new with tags - £10** **3) Brand new with tags - £10**  
Size 12 Seraphine maternity  
dress, black and white floral, front tie, just below knee length.      Size 10 Seraphine maternity  
dress, red and white floral, tie  
at side, mid-calf length.



**4) Barely-worn Karen Millen Heels - £25**  
Size 39 (6), with box.



**5) Brand new Carvela ankle boots - £30**  
Black suede, size 38 (5), with box.



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**6) Brand new with tags - £50**  
Original price showing at £275!  
Donna Ida denim jumpsuit, XS



**7) Brand new with tags - £10**  
Size 12 Seraphine maternity  
white, just below knee, zip bust.



**8) Barely worn - £10**  
Size 12 Coast, strapless  
long, light red dress.



**9) Barely worn Bertie ankle boots - £15**  
Size 40 (6.5), open toes, black leather heels.



**10) Brand new Top Shop ribbon lace shoes - £20**  
Size 38 (5) Dark blue patent, high heels, with box.



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***\*\*Please note that Caversham Primary School is not endorsing any services, providers, schools, local clubs or organisations who promote activities or tickets through our newsletter. If you have any specific questions, please contact the provider directly***

Communication from Reading Mini Marathon

Hi there

We hope you are well. We are now less than 100 days to Reading Half and Mini Marathon! We wanted to share a couple of opportunities that may be of interest to your pupils and families.

You may already be aware that any child who enters the Mini Marathon and selects their school on the entry form is automatically included in the Schools Challenge. Teams are made up of the three fastest runners from each school in the following age categories:

- U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17

The top three fastest teams in each age group will be invited to a special awards evening to celebrate their achievement.

We had a great turn out at the awards evening this year with over 80 awards being given out! We would love to see even more schools represented at the event this year, so a gentle reminder for parents to select the school from the drop-down box on the entry form to ensure their child is included.

We are also running a **Mini Marathon T-Shirt Design Competition**. Any child who has entered the race can submit a design, please see attached the application form. The winner will receive 11 free entries for their school into next years event and a trophy on race day.

- **Deadline for entries:** 31st December



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Closing  
date for  
entries is  
31<sup>st</sup> December  
2025

## CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS

This is your chance to be the talk of the town on Race Day with up to 2,000 runners wearing your creation as adults and children take part in one of the largest Mini Marathons in the country.

### Win a special trophy, a sample of your T-shirt and 11 FREE entries for you and your school to the 2027 race.

The shortlisted entries selected by Goldline Events will be sent to an independent panel for scoring to decide the winning t-shirt design.

Competition open to children who are entered into the run and aged between 4 and 16 years on Race Day.

For full terms and conditions please refer to our website.  
[www.readinghalfmarathon.com](http://www.readinghalfmarathon.com)

All entries must be scanned and emailed to:  
[info@goldlineevents.co.uk](mailto:info@goldlineevents.co.uk)

All entries are welcome, however please be aware if your school is outside of Reading you may be asked to travel to Reading for a follow-up meeting.



### ENTER NOW AS THE COMPETITION CLOSSES ON 31ST DECEMBER 2025

- All you have to do is to draw your design on the T-shirt template on the next page.
- The T-shirt will be orange and your design will be printed in white.
- Make it simple, striking and visible from a distance.



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12TH  
JANUARY**

**Fully Funded Education Support Course**

**Online LIVE Webinars**

**6 Week Course**

**Mon - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 & 12.30 - 2.00**

**Support Session 4.00 - 4.30**

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**Prepare to Work in Schools**

**Wellbeing**

**Safeguarding & Prevent**

**Occupational Studies**

**Understanding Challenging Behaviours**

**Principles of SEN**

