



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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



Newsletter

5th December 2025- Issue No. 12

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

Message from the Co-Headteachers...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's really beginning to feel festive in school following the Christmas Fun Day at the weekend! It was so lovely to see so many of our families there, enjoying themselves and of course raising money for an exciting project in school. We would like to thank EVERYONE! Those that organised, donated, attended, volunteered... it is hugely appreciated! We hope you felt the lovely community atmosphere that we did – it is one of the things that makes Caversham Primary School such a special place! The money raised will go towards a HUGE project to replace the train and trim trail on the playground. We aim to replace them with 2 fancy new trim trails in the summer holidays. Both the incoming and outgoing School Councils will be working on this project to gather the thoughts and ideas of our pupils and lead on the final design.

We are now looking forward to the Reception and KS1 productions coming up next week and the visits to The Kenton theatre – the festivities continue! Please remember, if you have not yet returned the forms for The Panto trip, if we do not have these by Monday, we will assume that you do not want your child to attend and will make provision in school. Monday will be a strict deadline as we need to finalise staffing.

A few notices:

If you are joining us to watch one of the wonderful performances next week, please remember we ask that you do not take any photographs during the performance but will instead ensure there is ample opportunity to take photo keepsake photos at the end. This is not only an important safeguarding request but also ensures the children can focus on the job at hand – it is very brave to stand up in front of a large audience!

Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat – on particularly rainy or cold days, we may make the decision to keep children inside if they do not have a coat in school.

Club Collections - Following some feedback regarding pick-up after clubs, from next week, we will trial Magical Maths Club collection from the external classroom doors to the side of the school. Hopefully, this will ease the number of parents on the path outside school. Please ensure you wait outside the classroom doors and leave enough space so that the club leaders can ensure that every child reaches their grown up safely. Football collection will continue to be from the main office entrance.

Wishing all of our families a lovely weekend.

See you on Monday morning!

Mrs Grover & Mrs Jones-King

Co-Headteachers



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Caversham Primary is a Rights Respecting School

RIGHT OF THE WEEK: Article 23-You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability.

SAFEGUARDING

As the afternoons are becoming dark earlier and the weather gets colder, please remember to keep yourselves safe. If you are waiting outside the school in the dark, please do not step out into the road and make sure you can be easily seen by vehicles on the roads.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Please remember that every minute a child is late for school is a minute of lost learning!

We have clear procedures to follow regarding attendance and punctuality and children arriving late at school could be marked on our registers with an unauthorised morning absence so please do try and arrive at school on time and ready to start learning.

Letters will be sent out over the next few weeks to the parents of any children who are regularly arriving at school late to ensure you are aware of the impact this has on their learning. This is part of our policy and procedures and ensures that we maximise the learning opportunities in school. We are always happy to work with parents who are finding it challenging to get to school on time.

COMING UP . . .

08/12/2025	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Christmas performance to parents @ 1.30pm
09/12/2025	Whole School trip to Kenton Theatre
10/12/2025	Whole School trip to Kenton Theatre
11/12/2025	EYFS (Reception) Christmas performance to parents @ 10.45am
11/12/2025	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Christmas performance to parents @ 1.30pm
12/12/2025	EYFS (Reception) Christmas performance to parents @ 10.45am
12/12/2025	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Christmas performance to parents @ 1.30pm
15/12/2025	Year 3 & 4 Carols in the Hall @ 2.45pm- parents welcome!
16/12/2025	Year 5 & 6 Carols in the Hall @ 2.45pm- parents welcome!
17/12/2025	Pupil Christmas Lunch
17/12/2025	Y6 Greek Day with History Off the Page (more info to follow)
18/12/2025	Christmas parties- during school day



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19/12/2025

Term 2 ends

22/12/2025- 06/01/2026

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

05/01/2025

INSET DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

CPSA NEWS

To those who attended our Christmas Fair we hope you had a fun and magical Christmas event. We thank you for supporting our event and for helping raise money to replace the adventure trails in the playground for our children to enjoy for years ahead. More information will follow soon from our Co-Heads to tell us about the plans and please do save the date for our AGM on Thursday 29th January 7.30pm to find out all about future plans along with the summary of our last financial year. Complimentary drink on arrival.

Don't forget to ask your company if they can help with match funding your volunteering efforts at the event. It can make a huge difference. Please email the CPSA for more information.

We have a lot of thank yous! The day could not have been such a success without the help and support of our amazing CPSA reps and volunteers who donated so much of their time before, during and after the event. So much work goes into organising and running these events and it wouldn't be possible without everyone's generous contributions so thank you all!

Thank you for your donations of cakes, books, cuddlies, toys and games and all the generous donations to the tombola. A special thank you to our Reception parents for providing 5 luxurious hampers for the raffle.

We had such a mix of fantastic activities this year. We are sure you'll agree that the Grotto was incredible and a special thanks to the year 5 team for making the magic come alive. A huge thanks to our special Santa. Without your magic twinkle it would not have been the same. An extra thank you to our year 5 elves for brilliantly supporting Santa and managing the families with so much enthusiasm.

A big thank you to all year groups and volunteers for your efforts and creating so many different Christmas experiences and spaces across the school. From beautiful face painting to games (ran by enthusiastic year 6 students), from arts and crafts to tombolas with some big cuddlies too- there was plenty to keep you busy. New for this year was our pre-loved clothing and uniform room. A huge thanks to Sarah and her team for continuing to support the CPSA with this eco friendly initiative. Along with lovely tasty refreshments and mulled wine galore! Thank you to our teachers for serving us as well as the year 1 team.

A few of extra thank yous for those working hard behind the scenes. Vicki and Charlotte on our raffle promos and creatives; the raffle team, especially Claire and Emma, and all the generous raffle donators for our biggest ever raffle to date; Julia and Anthony on the financial side alongside our trustees; Rachael and Astrid for decorating the school Christmas tree (kindly donated by Richfield Garden Centre who are



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offering our parents 10% off when they mention the school); the school band and singers for playing for us; the beautiful music from our violinists, the governors for welcoming everyone on the front desk; school council for managing the adopt a teddy room; Mrs Barraclough and Mr Wright for running knitting club with the children and selling their knitted Christmas garlands; and senior management/office staff/ and Mr Soby for being there to help us on the day and in the planning stages.

I hope we've not forgotten to mention anyone as we haven't forgotten what you've done!

It's been a pleasure to run the CPSA Christmas Fun Day with you to bring our school community together whilst raising money for our school. When we have the total money raised we will let you know.

Please email any event feedback to CPSA@cavershamprimary.reading.sch.uk

Joanna Hendrikx

Chair of the CPSA.





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Peter Pan – The Kenton Theatre, Henley - Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December 2025

Tuesday 9th December 2025

Year R Doves

Year 1 Skylarks

Year 2 Robins

Year 3 Alder

Year 4 Beech

Year 5 Hazel

Year 6 Spruce

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Year R Ducks

Year 1 Swallows

Year 2 Red Kites

Year 3 Ash

Year 4 Birch

Year 5 Holly

Year 6 Sycamore

On both days pupils will leave school at approximately 9:30am returning during lunch time.

*On both Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December the school dinner option for **all pupils** will be **a packed lunch only**. You will be able to order this in the normal way through ParentPay. Alternatively, pupils can bring their own packed lunch from home.*

All pupils will need to bring a snack (nut free) and a named water bottle with them.

*Kind regards
School Office*

Sporting News

On Thursday evening, our Year 5 footballers travelled to EP Collier School to earn a hard-fought victory. All 10 representatives of Caversham Primary displayed exemplary behaviour, wonderful teamwork and steely determination. We are very proud of their efforts.

Good News at Caversham Primary School

Some good news to report, Hattie in Year 6 has passed her grade 1 clarinet with Merit! We are very proud of her and the musician she is and is becoming!

Well done Hattie – we look forward to a celebration Assembly performance soon!



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CPSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thursday 29th January
7.30 pm in the school hall

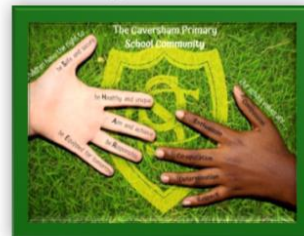
Join us to find out what the CPSA has achieved in the last year and our plans for the future. We would love to hear your suggestions for upcoming school community events and fundraising ideas.



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



Caversham Primary School
Learning for Life



School Tours for Reception 2026

Join us for a school tour with the Co-Heads Mrs Jones-King and Mrs Grover.

Please contact the school office to book your visit:



- Tuesday 21st October 2025 10.45am
- Friday 7th November 2025 10.45am
- Tuesday 11th November 2025 10.45am
- Monday 17th November 2025 10.45am
- Friday 28th November 2025 9.00am
- Friday 5th December 2025 10.45am
- Friday 9th January 2026 9.00am



We look forward to meeting you!

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SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS – CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS – RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS



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YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Reception: Doves and Ducks



This week in reception we have been busy becoming builders and architects! Talking about which materials are best for building a strong house (for when the big bad wolf comes calling!), which pig made the best decision and what the children would do. Next week we are going to be focusing on all things Christmas play! The children are beyond excited to perform in front of all the adults! They have been working so hard to remember the songs and actions and we are very proud of them all.

This week in phonics we have been learning the letters /ll/ and /ss/. Our sight word for this week has been 'no'. Next week we are going to be focusing on double letters and 2 syllable words. Our sight words will be 'into.'

In maths we have been learning all about the purpose of counting and the stable order principle. Next week we will consolidate our understanding of the composition of 5 by investigating the part, part whole method.

We are very impressed with how well the children are doing with their reading! The children enjoy their reading sessions with the adults. Please make sure you are reading with your children at home and that you are bringing your books in every day.



Year 1: Skylarks and Swallows



Another great week in Year 1. In Maths, we finished our unit of Addition and Subtraction to 10 with Fact Families - creating 8 number sentences with 3 numbers ie with the numbers 6, 3 and 9



$$6 + 3 = 9 \quad 9 = 6 + 3$$

$$3 + 6 = 9 \quad 9 = 6 + 3$$

$$9 - 6 = 3 \quad 3 = 9 - 6$$

$$9 - 3 = 6 \quad 9 - 3 = 6$$

We need to remember when adding, that the whole equals part plus part but with subtracting the whole take away the part equals the other part. We also started our new unit on Shapes by looking at 3D shapes - cones, spheres, cylinders, cubes, cuboids, triangular prisms and pyramids and trying to identify them in everyday objects. In English, we learnt about using time adverbials when writing instructions or sequencing a story. We then started planning our own stories based on Orion and the Dark by drawing our own character and thinking about what they are afraid of. We then drew a character who could help overcome the fear and what sort of adventure they go on together. We will start writing our books next week. In RE we learnt about the Christmas story



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and sequenced pictures to tell our friends about the birth of Jesus. We have also been practising our play Santa's on Strike. We have been working really hard to learn the songs and our dance moves. We are really excited for you to see it next week. Our phonics this week have been /ou/ as <ou> as in cloud and /oi/ as in <oy> in toy and the high frequency words water and where. We hope you have a lovely weekend and we are looking forward to seeing you next week for our play.

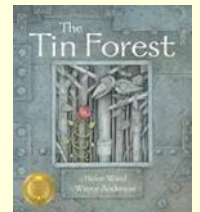
Year 2: Red Kites and Robins



It's getting very Christmassy in Year 2! The children are trying really hard to contain themselves and retain an element of 'business as usual', despite all the excitement of the CPS Christmas Fayre, Advent calendars and the twinkling of Christmas trees and their lights. This week, we have seen the last throes of our play rehearsals and the children did splendidly in their recent dress rehearsal! Please support them over the weekend to practise their lines in their loudest, most expressive and well-paced voices!



Robins and Red Kites have enjoyed the story, 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward, this term. It has challenged them to explore topics such as recycling, our environment, creativity and emotions e.g. loneliness, contentment and pride. This week, they have been thinking of ways that they can innovate this story in preparation for writing their own stories. We have been helping the children to map out their ideas and develop their creative writing through the use of extended noun phrases. For example: 'bird' becomes: 'a majestic, large-billed toucan'. 'Trees' becomes 'towering trees with leaves the size of human hands'.



Our Maths' topic on shape is drawing to a close and we will be consolidating all we have learned about 2D and 3D shape properties, symmetry and pattern next week, through some practical activities. One area the children have found challenging is accurately counting the number of faces, vertices and edges that 3D shapes have. Next week, we are going to re-visit this again by building the shapes using straws and play dough. If you have any plastic straws at home that you no-longer need, please send them in on Monday. They would be very welcome, thank you!



This term, the children have been developing their understanding of design criteria. Their challenge was to make a chair for a teddy that was strong, stable, comfortable and the right size. We were very impressed by the way they were able to evaluate and improve their original product by applying their knowledge of strong shapes and how to stiffen a material to increase its strength. This session provided valuable reminders that our first attempt is usually not our best! We saw great teamwork, communication and resilience – well done Red Kites and Robins!



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Year 3: Alder and Ash



This week in year 3 we have been working really hard in all our subjects. In English, we have completed the story of 'The Bear and The Piano', and in the process learnt about prepositions, evaluation and recounting. In Maths, we have been recapping the 3,4 and 8 times tables after finishing off our multiplication and division unit. In Art, we have been dissecting and illustrating flowers. In Geography, we learnt about the human and physical features of New Delhi and in PE we have continued to develop our dance and basketball skills.



Year 4: Beech and Birch



This week in Year 4 has been packed with excitement! We've finished reading How to Train Your Dragon — and we loved every moment of it! The children are now busy planning and writing their own alternate endings to the story. In Maths, we've been digging deeper into multiplication and division, especially multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. Science has sparked some real curiosity as we mastered the parts of a complete electrical circuit. In PSHE, we've been celebrating what makes each of us unique and exploring the idea of self-esteem. Overall, it's been a fantastic week.



Beech and Birch, Year 4.

Year 5: Hazel and Holly



This week we wrote persuasive adverts for our magical objects and creatures that we made up inspired by our reading of Wizards of Once. It was a lot of fun. We are now learning about persuasive emails. In maths, we've been subtracting fractions where we have to 'break the whole' to subtract a larger fraction from the fractional part of a mixed number. We learnt three ways to do this so everyone now has a method they prefer. In geography, we've agreed a list of questions to ask adults how they use Caversham when we go on our field trip on two weeks. In French, we've started to learn saying the time and in PE we carried on with our basketball skills. Science was great fun when we learnt about the viscosity of different liquids including marmite, milk and washing-up liquid.



Adhvaita, Michael & Sebastien - Holly Class



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Year 6: Spruce and Sycamore



What a fun week we have had! In Maths we have been learning about ratio, and linking it to our work on fractions. In English we have continued reading *The Arrival* and are now becoming world-renowned experts on one of the mysterious creatures within it. Look out for our non-chronological reports next week!



Miss Mulcahy's favourite lesson of the week was our Bhangra dance, where the children took their dance moves and performed in different formations. It was a joy to watch! Mrs Homer's favourite lesson was Science, where we played a game all about natural selection - each child given a different 'beak' to see how well they survived. Those that were very successful had babies and continued the species.

We finished the week off with a fantastic festive performance from Key Stage 1, who performed, *Santa on Strike*. They acted and sang amazingly well and have got us feeling all Christmassy!

Miss Mulcahy and Mrs Homer



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CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL,
IF YOU SELL YOUR HOME
THROUGH THEM**

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SAVE THE DATE

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

GROOVY

Saturday 31st January
3.30-4.15 pm
4.20-5.05 pm
5.10-5.55 pm

Adult bar in the dining hall
Tickets on sale early January, £4 per child



**CATERLINK
Christmas
MENU 2025**

Main
Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Vegan Chipolata Sausage, Roast Potatoes, Garden Peas, Carrots, Sprouts and Gravy.
OR
Roast Parsnip & Sweet Potato Loaf with Stuffing, Vegan Chipolata Sausage, Roast Potatoes, Garden Peas, Carrots, Sprouts and Gravy.

Dessert
Gingerbread Biscuit
or
Chocolate Orange Brownie
or
Fresh Fruit



Christmas Fayre
on
Saturday 6th December
12.00 - 2.30pm
at
Wyfold RDA stables
Wyfold Court, Kingwood, RG9 5WG
(off the Stoke Row-Peppard Road)

Visit Father Christmas in his grotto, enjoy some home-made soup, hot dogs and mince pies, play some Christmas games, shop for gifts and take your chance on the tombola and raffle, all to the sound of live music from JustUs.

RDA
Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving

Admission £3 (under 12s free)
PLEASE BRING CASH



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Poster designed by **Scouts**
89th Reading (Milestone Wood)

CHRISTMAS POST

45p a card

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers will deliver your cards by hand across Caversham and Emmer Green (but not south of the river or to Sonning Common, Kidmore End or Tokers Green)

Post your cards at:

- . Budgens (Emmer Green)
- . Caversham Library
- . Coop (Henley Road)
- . Woodcote Way Stores
- . Ela's Cafe (at Playhatch Garden Centre)
- . Balmore Park & Emmer Green doctors surgeries
- . St Andrew's, St Barnabas, St John's and St Peter's churches
- . Gosbrook Rd & Highmoor Rd Methodist churches

STARTS SATURDAY 23rd NOV
LAST POSTING DAY: THURSDAY 18th DEC

Proceeds to support, and make accessible, for everyone in our local group to visit the International Jamboree JBOES in Kinshasa in 2026.

****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**