



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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



Newsletter

9th January 2026- Issue No. 15

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

Message from the Co-Headteachers...

Dear Parents and Carers,



We have had the most wonderful start to the year with the flurry of snow on Tuesday morning! We all went out to the playground to play in the snow – snow angels, snow people and lots of snowflake catching was enjoyed by all! We are so proud of the way that every single child respected our 'please don't run' request in order to keep everyone safe. It was a magical first play time of 2026!



This week, we have put on the last of the school tours for this academic year and as usual, the school looked wonderful – we saw so much enthusiasm and curiosity as we showed off what we have on offer. We are so proud of our community and very much enjoy the opportunity to share what a special school Caversham Primary is.

Office Hours- the school office is open from 8.00am- 4.00pm Monday – Friday. Please do not call the office after 4.00pm unless it is regarding urgent After School Club information such as a different adult collecting a child. Thank you for your support in keeping our systems streamlined and effective.

Arriving at school: Next week, Reception drop- off will look a little different – please bring your child directly to the classroom door where teachers will be on hand to bring the children in. Once you have dropped your child, please either make your way through the garden, straight down the steps to the playground or, if you have a pushchair, make your way back down the wibbly wobbly path. We will review this process again once we have created a further pathway along to Duck class and as the weather improves.

Competition time: We have been invited to join a competition to design a new logo for Balmore Park Surgery. The children have been given information in assembly and if they would like to design and submit an entry, they may hand it in to Mr Brown by 20th January.

The top tips were:

- Keep it simple
- Make it bright and cheerful
- Consider incorporating a medical theme



The winning submission will be adopted as the surgery's new logo – how exciting!

We wish you all a lovely weekend!

Mrs Grover & Mrs Jones-King, Co-Headteachers



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

CENSUS DAY

Next Thursday (15th January 2026) is school Census day. We have to provide information to the Department for Education (DfE), which dictates how much funding the school receives.

One of the key funding categories is how many children take up Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) on census day. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free meal every day. Some parents choose not to take this offer and supply their children with a packed lunch. We would like your help to try and encourage your child to take up the UFSM offer and if at all possible, use next Thursday (15th January) to give it a go if they don't usually!

The potential funding available to the School for each pupil who books a UFSM on census day is £2.58 x 190 days = £490.20 per pupil!

Many thanks for your support in encouraging as many of our pupils as possible to try school meals!

ATTENDANCE:

The gates will be locked at 8.50am and anyone arriving at school after this time will need to sign in, late, at the school office.

Please remember, every second a child is not in school is a moment of lost learning!

SAFEGUARDING

Our school motto is '**Learning for Life**' and in light of this we are keen to provide learning for our community in areas of safeguarding that our DSL team (Designated Safeguarding Leads) are trained in. We are trained to have a 'it could happen here' approach to safeguarding and we have robust procedures in place to respond to any concerns.

We plan to provide information regarding specific areas of safeguarding over the year to support everyone in our school community to be vigilant and supportive of each other.

Insight into safeguarding: What is county lines?

The following information can be found on the NSPCC website so please take a look if you would like to find out more.

County lines is a type of criminal exploitation. Urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns.

It can happen in any part of the UK. County lines is against the law and a form of child abuse.

Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. Other forms of criminal exploitation include child sexual exploitation, trafficking, gang and knife crime.



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

County lines gangs are highly organised criminal networks that use sophisticated, frequently evolving techniques to groom young people and evade capture by the police.

How county lines works:

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs. Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

Dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines” are used to help facilitate county lines drug deals. Phones are usually cheap, disposable and old fashioned (known as ‘burner’ phones). They are changed frequently to avoid detection by the police.

Gangs use the phones to receive orders and contact young people to instruct them where to deliver drugs. This may be to a dealer or drug user locally or in another county.

Phrases that young people may use to refer to county lines include:

‘running a line’,

‘going OT/out there’

‘going country’

‘going cunch’

These all refer to going out of town to deliver drugs or money.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

09/01/26	School tour for prospective new starters- EYFS Sept 2026
13/01/26	Year 5 Fire Brigade visit
14/01/26	Year 4 & Year 5 VR day (school hall)
20/01/26	Year 6 Battle of Britain Trip
26/01/26	Year 3 Earth Trust Trip
29/01/26	CPSA AGM 7.30pm
10/02/26	Y6 to Highdown to watch Grease.
11/02/26	Year 3 Rugby Festival @ The Heights (whole year group)
12/02/26	Finance & Personnel Gobs meeting 7.30pm
13/02/26	TERM ENDS
	16/02/26 -20/02/26 – HALF TERM
23/02/26	TERM STARTS
25/02/26	Year 6 Young Voices @ The O2
04/03/26	Year 6 Hockey Festival @ Highdown (whole year group)
05/03/26	World Book Day 2026
11/03/26- 13/03/26	Book Fair at school
16/03/26- 20/03/26	Year 5 Bikeability (Level 1 & 2)
27/03/26	TERM ENDS



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

ADVANCE DATES FOR SUMMER TERM

13/04/26	INSET- school closed to pupils
14/04/26	TERM STARTS
04/05/26	Bank Holiday- school closed to pupils and staff
Wk beg 11/05/26	Year 6 SATS week
22/05/26	TERM ENDS
	25/05/26 -29/05/26 – HALF TERM
01/06/26	TERM STARTS
12/06/26	INSET- school closed to pupils
01/07/26	EYFS & KS1 Sports Day 1pm- 3pm
02/07/26	Y5/6 Sports Day 9.30am-11.45am
02/07/26	Y3/4 Sports Day 1pm-3pm
08/07/26	Reserve EYFS & KS1 Sports Day 1pm- 3pm
09/07/26	Reserve Y5/6 Sports Day 9.30am-11.45am
09/07/26	Reserve Y3/4 Sports Day 1pm-3pm
14/07/26	Y6 Production Performance to Parents @ 6.30pm
15/07/26	Y6 Production Performance to Parents @ 1.30pm
16/07/26	Y6 Production Performance to Parents @ 6.30pm
21/07/26	Year 6 Leavers' assembly for parents @ 9.30am
21/07/26	Year 6 Leavers' disco for pupils 6pm- 7pm
22/07/26	TERM ENDS

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Exciting news... we now have a new school website! You can view the new website at the usual web address: www.cavershamprimary.org

Important Information:

While we are finalising the transition from the old website to the new website, it might appear a little strange (e.g. you may still see the old website or 'browser caching' may occur). Please be reassured this is a normal part of the process and can be easily remedied. To rectify this, please clear the cache and cookies on the device that you are using. In addition to this, in order to view the website in all its glory, we would advise you to carry out a 'hard refresh' (you can do this by pressing CTRL + F5 or CMD, SHIFT + R – depending on the type of device you are using) when first visiting the website address.

We hope you enjoy it!

Caversham Primary is a Rights Respecting School

RIGHT OF THE WEEK: Article 16- You have the right to privacy.



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

CPSA NEWS

We are looking forward to another year of fun fundraising! We are still raising money to replace the adventure trails in the playground this year!

We will be launching sales of our Back to School discos on Saturday 31st January next Monday from 8pm. The link will be sent via school email and WhatsApp so keep an eye out.

Tickets are first come first served with 60 tickets per slot. Slots are 3.30-4.15 (younger children eg KS1), 4.20-5.05 (all children), 5.10-5.55 (older children eg KS2). We have suggested age ranges for the slots to keep children safe and more with their peers but families with siblings are welcome to attend whenever suits. Any child is welcome at any time, but due to limited numbers children must currently attend the school to join the disco.

There will be a bar for adults in the dining hall and adults must remain on site during the disco. The hall will be supervised and you are welcome to stay with children in the disco who are younger or prefer you there. Or you can escape to the bar!

We also look forward to welcoming you to our AGM on Thursday 27th January from 7.30pm in the school hall. It's an informative evening with the CPSA trustees and the Co-Heads with a chance to ask questions and give us your suggestions too. Free drink on arrival!

Joanna Hendriks (CPSA Chair)

A note from Mrs Homer...

Boys and girls in Years 1 to 6 are invited to the Shiplake College Schools' Cross-Country Competition on Saturday 7 February 2026. No pre-registration required (please arrive 15 minutes before race time). The first race (Year 1 boys) is at 9.00am, with the final race (Year 6 girls) at 10.15am. A full break down of race times and distances is at

www.shiplake.org.uk/schoolscrosscountry

Hot drinks and refreshments available to purchase from 8.30am.

See you there!

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

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Reception: Doves and Ducks



We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and welcome everyone back after the Christmas holidays. The children have returned back to school so brilliantly and we have had a fun-filled first week.



This term's topic is 'Sea and Space' and the children have already been busy learning all about the sea and how we can look after it. The book we have been reading this week is 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley'. We have been discussing what objects are natural and which are manmade. We have also been talking about the beginning, middle and ending of books and continuing our drawing club which the children are really enjoying. Next week we will be looking at the book 'Little Whale'.

In phonics this week we have been looking at the sounds /j/ and /v/. Next week we will be looking at the sounds /w/ and /x/ and sight words /we/ and /me/.

In maths this week we have been learning all about patterns, using songs, musical instruments and actions to support our learning. Next week we will be moving on with our number knowledge to numbers to 6.

This week we have jumped straight back into our reading sessions. We appreciate all your support with reading with your child at home. Just a reminder that books will be changed on a Tuesday and books need to be in every day.

From Monday of next week, we are going to slightly change the way that you bring your children into school and pick them up. This is partly to ease congestion and partly to help the children transition even better into the classroom in the mornings. Instead of dropping your children at the garden gate, please bring them directly to the classroom door where teachers will be on hand to bring the children in. Once you have dropped your child, please either make your way through the garden, straight down the steps to the playground or, if you have a pushchair, make your way back down the wibbly wobbly path. We hope that this will help keep the path nice and clear so that people do not have to walk on the mud. In due course, we will be extending the wibbly wobbly path round to the gate that leads directly into Duck Class and that will help create an even more effective 1-way system. At pick up please come to the classroom door and we will do the same thing in reverse.

Year 1: Skylarks and Swallows



It was lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and to hear about what they had all got up to during the Christmas holiday. We started a new book in English called 'Mole's Star' by Britta Teckentrup. We decided that before we read the

book, we would learn about real moles so we wrote some questions about





Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

what we would like to find out. We then watched some videos and looked through books to try to answer them. We found out lots of interesting and amazing facts; did you know that moles bite the head off worms so that they cannot escape and then they come back and eat them later! In maths we are now looking at numbers from 0-20. This week we have concentrated on the teen numbers and are starting to partition the numbers into tens and ones. We used the cold weather (including the snow which the children had great fun playing in!) to think about the season of winter during our science lesson. We thought about what clothes we wear and what different types of weather we may have. We also learnt about animals that hibernate, birds that migrate and the changes in the length of daylight hours. In PE we are starting a topic on dance and over several weeks will be creating our own dance inspired by magic toys in a toy shop. In outdoor PE we took a week out of the usual scheme to learn some playground games which the children can then play during playtime.

Our phonic sounds this week were 'au' in astronaut and 'aw' in strawberry. Both make the 'or' sound.

As mentioned on Google Classroom, our PE days have changed this term to Thursdays and Fridays. Please ensure long hair is tied back and earrings are covered.

Year 2: Red Kites and Robins



How lovely it was to see everyone returning to school this week after the Christmas holiday!

There were stories of exciting journeys, stories of even more exciting presents and lots of smiling faces! Sounds like Santa really delivered!



In English, we eased back into things with some dictation work. Children listen to a sentence read aloud by the teacher and then write down the sentence, thinking carefully about what punctuation the sentence needs and how to spell each word correctly. The sentence is read aloud repeatedly, allowing brain power to fully focus on recording and punctuating the sentence without having to memorise it first!

Towards the end of the week, we introduced our new focus text for this term – The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck by Beatrix Potter.

As we usually do at the start of our learning, we first looked closely at the front cover and made some predictions about the story using the evidence we could see. We then listened to the first few pages of the book and had a class discussion about the 'main events' that we had heard in the first part of the story. Finally, we split into small groups and used drama to recreate the events that we had discussed!



Our new topic in Maths is all about Money.

Over the week we practised counting coins, counting notes and counting both to find total amounts of money. Of course, in order to do this successfully we need to be able to identify each coin and



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

note so this would be a good thing to practise at home if you're not confident! This BBC webpage is quite a useful resource and includes some fun activities to try:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zhwy6g8>

It's going to be an action-packed term full of brilliant learning.

Robins and Red Kites will rise to the challenge!

Year 3: Alder and Ash



Welcome back! We hope you all had a joyous and restful break and are looking forward to a happy new year. This week, we have returned to working on multiplication and division in Maths. We have begun to explore the story of the Velveteen Rabbit in English. In History, we are learning about the Roman Empire. PE has seen us begin to hone our handball skills, as

well as developing some funky line dancing moves. We will be crafting our very own 3D castles in DT, so any spare cardboard would be greatly appreciated!



Year 4: Beech and Birch



This week in year 4, we have been looking at multiplying 2 and 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers in maths and have worked out the most efficient method to do this. In English we have started a new book called 'Phileas's Fortune' about a world where you have to buy every word you use. In science, we looked at the impact of litter on the environment and how to prevent

littering. In history we have started a new topic about the Ancient Mayas. We have found out how long they were around for and why they don't exist anymore. In spelling we have been looking at words that end in -ous and looked at word meanings.



Aurick (Birch)

Year 5: Hazel and Holly



Our topic this term in Science is Space. The week we were learning about the solar system and order of the planets. We found lots of facts about the planets of the solar system, for example, Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system.





Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

In PSHE we are talking about our future and careers. We were talking about whether we need money to achieve our dreams and goals. We played the shopping memory game, My Mother went to market and she bought...

In DT we are learning how to make pop up books and will be practicing the techniques. In Maths we have been studying multiplication. This week we learnt doing multiplication mentally, using column multiplication and doing long multiplication using grid multiplication, for example 203×50 . We are also doing long multiplication using formal written methods. Overall, we are doing different types of multiplication.

In English the book we are reading is called, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. He has lion eyes and his name is Ahmet. Why he has lion eyes is because he has grey, silver-blue eyes with golden brown specks and they look like the bright ocean on a half sunny and half cloudy day. We had to write a paragraph about if we were new to school. We also did a Point/Evidence/Explanation about the characters.

In French we are learning about how to tell the time. We already know our numbers to twelve as saying what the hour is is pretty simple. Then, we put $1/4$ to make 15 past the hour then $1/2$ to make 30 mins and subtract $1/4$ to make 45 minutes past/quarter to. Subtracting a $1/4$ was a bit hard because it would be 45 minutes past the hour.

In computing we are doing online safety. It includes safe passwords, how to keep yourself safe against scammers.

In RE our question this term is 'What happens when we die?'

In outdoor PE we are doing handball. It is where you throw balls to the end of the pitch by passing to your teammate and can't let the other team get it. It is an invasion game but not a contact sport. This week we were passing whilst moving.

Year 6: Spruce and Sycamore



Maths- For maths we are doing recipes and looking at the numbers in recipes and when to increase and decrease them for more people.

PE- In PE we are doing football and lots of fun activities to help with tackling and defence.



English- For English we are writing about a book called 'Battle of Britain' to fit with our History.

Science- We are learning about how light travels and how it can travel through translucent materials.

History- We will be learning about World War 2 including how Churchill saved Britain.

By Jacob and Aaron



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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



**15% OF BRIDGES' COMMISSION
COULD GO TO
CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL,
IF YOU SELL YOUR HOME
THROUGH THEM**

BRIDGES

Independent Estate Agents

EST. 1993

<https://www.bridgesproperty.co.uk/>



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



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

****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**

Bring a friend to junior parkrun

Sunday 11 January

**We want you to share the magic of
junior parkrun with a friend!**

Find your local junior parkrun event at: parkrun.com/junior

junior parkrun





Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You are the expert of your child

You Are Not Alone - Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply hang back and listen in.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents said:

*'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the last year'*

Jo (parent)

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I **really do feel less alone** and more validated. My hope is back'*

Louise (parent)

'Thank you so much for your support. I nearly chicken out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone'

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the **next drop-in on Tuesday 6th January**, please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the **Zoom** link.

