



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

Newsletter

16th January 2026- Issue No. 16

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

Message from the Co-Headteachers...

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have only been back at school for two weeks this term! There has already been so much going on. It is always wonderful to see pupils across the school engaging enthusiastically in their learning and this week has certainly been no exception. As well as some fantastic core curriculum learning happening in classrooms there have been opportunities for some of our pupils to learn in a different way to usual. Year 4 and 5 had a fantastic day on Wednesday when they had a Virtual Reality workshop at school. This incredible learning experience complemented the work that the children had completed in lessons but the technology was able to give them a very different and unique perspective.

We were also very pleased to welcome the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to Caversham Primary School on Tuesday of this week. It was very exciting for everybody when they arrived on the school playground in their fire engine! Our Year 5 pupils (along with some others who managed a sneaky visit...) were fascinated to learn all about fires and the fire brigade, look at and climb inside the engine, try out the equipment and even put on the uniform. It's always fantastic to be able to work with other organisations in our local community and we're very grateful to the fire service for visiting us.



What a wonderful week at school! We're already looking forward to next week.

Happy weekend all,

Mrs Grover & Mrs Jones-King,

Co-Headteachers



CENSUS DAY

Thank you for your support in encouraging our pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try a school meal on Census Day this week.



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ATTENDANCE:

If your child is not well enough to attend school (please see the attendance tab on our website for NHS guidance around this), please contact the school office by email or telephone on the morning of each day that they will be absent. Please ensure that you give specific information e.g. 'high temperature and cough', 'vomiting' etc rather than 'feeling unwell'. Thank you for your understanding.

As part of our safeguarding and attendance procedures, the office team will call parents of any child not present in school.

SAFEGUARDING



SHARING PHOTOS AND VIDEOS ONLINE

Increasingly, young children are using phones and tablets to create photos and videos and share them online. Whilst this can be fun, sharing images can also be risky.

It's important your child understands what's ok to share and what they should discuss with you first.

What are the risks?

- Once an image has been shared, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it or shared it.
- Personal or embarrassing pictures in the wrong hands can lead to bullying.
- Knowing that others have seen embarrassing images can cause stress and anxiety, and affect a child's confidence and self-esteem.
- Unwanted pictures online could affect educational and job opportunities later in life.
- Sharing images, particularly sexualised images, can increase the likelihood of a child receiving inappropriate sexual contact from strangers online.

(CEOP Education- The [CEOP Education](https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk) team is a part of the National Crime Agency and run an education programme which provides training, resources and information for children and young people aged 4 - 18, their families and professionals who work with them)

Most children at primary school are too young to fully understand the consequences of sharing pictures and videos online.

For further resources, please follow the links below:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/Has-your-child-shared-a-picture-or-video-online-/>

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/home-activity-worksheets/>



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DRIVING SAFELY AROUND SCHOOL

We would like to remind all parents about the importance of driving safely and considerately near our school. **This is to keep your children safe!**

We have had reports this week of cars mounting pavements at speed and of drivers accelerating, revving engines and turning without looking in Victoria Road.



Driving Without Due Care & Attention (Careless Driving) is a criminal offence and could incur a fixed penalty notice (FPN), points on your driving licence, a fine of up to £5,000 or disqualification from driving.

Driving without due care and attention near to schools or vulnerable road users is considered an aggravating factor and will likely increase the severity of any penalty.

More importantly than this, careless or dangerous driving near our school puts your children at serious risk of harm.

We would urge all parents who witness dangerous or careless driving to report it to the police.

Please can we ask that all members of our community work together to keep each other and our children safe. We can't even begin to imagine having to write in our weekly newsletter about an accident outside our school gates.

LOST PROPERTY



We know that it can be frustrating when your child loses something at school. We encourage all of the children to look after their property and keep it safe but we know that sometimes things do end up lost. Where uniform is named, school staff will always try to reunite items with their owners. Our lost property bin is located inside the school building, next to the school office to keep it dry and warm.

We would like to remind parents that we also have a 'Uniform Swap' cupboard in school (next to the lost property bin) so that parents have an opportunity to replace lost uniform etc. **All uniform in the Uniform Swap is free and parents are welcome to help themselves.** We also continue to hold second hand uniform sales regularly as this helps to raise money for the school



*Please note that any unnamed uniform will go directly into the uniform swap cupboard. If clothing is not clearly labelled, staff will not be searching for the owner. Please ensure that all uniform is named.

MANOR ADVENTURE RESIDENTIAL- SEPTEMBER 2026

We will be holding a brief introductory meeting for parents at **6pm on Tuesday 27th January 2026**. We would encourage as many of our current Year 5 parents to attend as possible!



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DATES FOR THE DIARY

20/01/26	Year 6 Battle of Britain Trip
26/01/26	Year 3 Earth Trust Trip
27/01/26	Manor Information Evening for Y6 parents @ 6pm
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 Govs 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)
17/03/26	Parents' Evening (In person- at school)
19/03/26	Parents' Evening (Virtual- online)
24/03/26	Open Classrooms 3.15pm- 3.45pm)
26/03/26	Open Classrooms 3.15pm- 3.45pm)
27/03/26	TERM ENDS

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



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Caversham Primary is a Rights Respecting School

RIGHT OF THE WEEK: Article 31- You have the right to play and rest.

CPSA NEWS

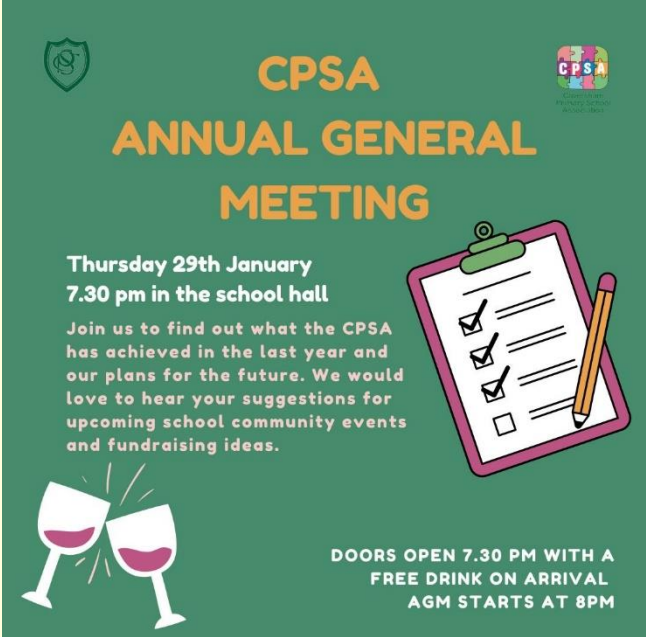
Discos Saturday 31st January!

We were thrilled the tickets sold out so quickly! It's a popular event. Sorry to those who didn't get tickets this time (there are 2 tickets available for the 5.10...)

We are still very short on parent volunteers for the event set up, running of the event and clear down. In order for this (and future discos) to go ahead then please do let your CPSA rep know soonest when you are available to help. Thank you.

Don't forget our Agm on Thursday 29th January. 7.30pm in the school hall. It's a great opportunity to hear from the CPSA committee and co-heads about the past year's finances and plans going forward. We love hearing your suggestions on fundraisers and spending ideas too. Free drink on arrival.

Joanna Hendrikx
Chair of CPSA



The poster is green with white and orange text. It features a school crest in the top left, a CPSA logo in the top right, and an illustration of a clipboard with a checklist and a pencil on the right. At the bottom left, there is an illustration of two wine glasses clinking. The text is as follows:

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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YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Reception: Doves and Ducks



We have had another fabulous week of fun and learning in Reception! We have been busy learning all about our theme for this week - Whales and other sea creatures and migration. Our book this week, 'Little whale,' has sparked some brilliant discussions all about under the sea. The children have enjoyed learning all about different animals and about why animals make such long journeys. We have also been designing boats thinking about what materials would work best for our boat and why.



Next week our book is 'The Street Beneath My Feet,' which is a non-fiction book about exploration and discovery.

In phonics this week we have been learning the sounds /w/ and /x/ and our sight words were 'we' and 'me.' The children are doing really well at blending and writing words using our new sounds. Next week we will be learning sounds /y/ and /z/ and our sight words will be 'be' and 'was.'

In maths this week we have been continuing to engage in activities that develop our understanding of number composition and numbers within numbers. We have been continuing to strengthen our understanding of numbers to 5 and exploring numbers 6 and 7. Next week we will be focusing on comparison and the children will be encouraged to notice when quantities are equal or unequal.

Year 1: Skylarks and Swallows



What a mixture of sunshine and showers we had this week! The children are still going out to play in the rain so please make sure they all wear their coats with hoods every day. It's also been a busy week. In English, we have continued with our lovely book,



Mole's Star by Britta Teckentrup. We started the week with a grammar lesson and learnt that by using the prefix un- the word changes to the opposite meaning. It doesn't work all the time though - someone can be happy or unhappy but they can't be sad or unsad and something can be pretty but not unpretty. We then thought about how Mole feels at the beginning of the book and why. Our sentences had to include the word because and we remembered how to spell the word because by using the mnemonic Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants. We decided that Mole often feels unhappy because he is lonely in his burrow but sometimes, Mole feels happy when he sits on his rock and looks up at the stars. We thought about times when we have felt a little bit unhappy and what can make us feel happy again. In the book, Mole wishes on a shooting star and we wrote about what wish we would make if we saw a shooting star. We then thought about how all of the animals felt when they discovered all of the stars had disappeared because Mole had put them all in his burrow.

In Maths we have been learning teen numbers - it's really important to remember that numbers in the teens start with a 1 and teen numbers are a group of ten and then some extra ones. So, if we write 51 instead of 15 we have written fifty one which has 5 tens and 1 one rather than 15 which is



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1 ten and 5 ones! We had a practical lesson with different manipulatives like numicon, straw bundles, ten frames, dienes and bead strings and made teen numbers with them. We also counted backwards and forwards within 20.

In RE, we identified what a Jewish story teaches about a special relationship with God by reading the story of Abraham. We also talked about who is special to us.

In History we started our Explorers topic by thinking about what makes a good explorer - what characteristics would they have to have and what sort of equipment would they need to take because obviously someone exploring Antarctica would not have much use for a pair of flip flops!

In Computing we are using Sketchpad to create a space rocket and then labelling it. Getting to grips with logging on and then using a new platform is quite a challenge but we are really trying our best!

Our phonic sounds this week have been the /ar/ sound spelt <a> as in father and <al> as in palm and the long /oo/ sound spelt <ou> as in soup, the /oa/ sound spelt <ou> as in shoulder and the short /oo/ sound spelt <oul> as in should. The high frequency words were thought and through.

Year 2: Red Kites and Robins



Thank goodness for the children from Red Kites and Robins this week! Without their every-day cheerfulness and energy, the dreary January days would be quite hard to bear!



We have been super busy across all areas of our curriculum. In English, the children have been using 'The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck' to develop their inference skills. They have used evidence from the text to discuss the 'bushy-tailed gentleman' and thought about whether he can be trusted. They have practised their note-taking skills to collect information about the lifecycle of a duck, and then used their notes to present the information in well-punctuated sentences.



This week, we have continued with the topic of money. The children have been totalling different coins and notes. This has required them to apply their knowledge of place value as well as their knowledge of money. At the end of the week, the children were challenged to find change given. This is a tricky skill to master, so we will be continuing it into next week.



It was lovely to remind ourselves that sunny days are ahead of us, when the children planted their own sunflower seeds during the Science session. They will be keeping a seed diary over the term to track their seed's development.

Following on from our history session last week where we looked for clues in a painting of Florence Nightingale, we have been studying the timeline of her life and learning a little bit more about when, where and how she lived. We are beginning to understand what motivated her to become a nurse and to make significant changes to her profession.



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Last week, Robins and Red Kites were introduced to their 'January Challenge'! We have explored the meaning of 'challenge' and 'achievement' in PSHE and talked about the positive feelings we get when we reach a goal. The children were asked to choose a challenge (see list on Google Classroom) to work on in January. At the end of the month, the children will have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have achieved.



Year 3: Alder and Ash



This week in English, we explored the theme 'Real' through our class text *The Velveteen Rabbit*. We discussed what it means to be "real" and shared our thoughts on whether we think the Rabbit will eventually become Real.



In Maths, we have been linking our multiplication and division knowledge, using related facts to help us solve problems. For example, when working out 30×4 , we used 3×4 to support our thinking.

In Science, we investigated how different surfaces affect how well a spinning top spins. We learned that rougher surfaces create more friction, causing the spinning top to stop more quickly.

In RE, we explored scriptures within the Jewish religion. We learned the differences between the Torah scroll and the Chumash, and we can explain where and how each is used.

In DT, we learned about the key features of a castle in preparation for designing and building our own castles in the coming weeks. Please start collecting toilet rolls, kitchen roll tubes, and egg boxes at home to support this project.

Year 4: Beech and Birch



It's hard to believe we're already at the end of Week 2 in the Spring term of Year 4 at Caversham Primary School! In maths, we have been focusing on division, using multiplication as a helpful tool to solve problems—please continue to practise fact families at home to support this learning. In science, the children explored biodegradable items and learned about different

recycling methods, while in history we began our exciting topic on the Mayan civilisation, examining and discussing a range of artefacts. In PE, everyone had great fun developing different balances as part of our gymnastics unit. A great week of learning all round!



Year 4



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Year 5: Hazel and Holly



In outdoor PE we did handball. We learnt how to do multiple passes. We also did a match. In indoor PE we are doing gymnastics and movement.

In Science we're learning about how the planets rotate around the sun and we did Prime VR day.

On Tuesday, we saw a fire truck and some people got to wear the fireman uniform. We learned loads of facts about fires.



In English we are focusing on paragraphs and learning about sentences such as topic sentences person, time and place.

In Maths, times tables and formal written methods. We have started doing the bus stop method.

In Music we have been learning different sounds and we are learning about Egyptians.

By Austin & Eddy (Holly)

Year 6: Spruce and Sycamore



This week in English we did a piece of persuasive writing about why reading is good for you, and we continued reading *The Lost Magician*. In Maths we learned algebra and learned how to make a solution to solve algebra. In Art we learned about street art and graffiti and made our own to encourage people to stop climate change. It was football and 70s disco dancing in PE: we learned



to pass and practised our disco moves. We continued learning about World War II in History. We also started a WWII reading Challenge where we have to read books with a World War II theme. Finally, in Science we explored how shadows worked and how they can be changed.

By James and Mateo



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

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EST. 1993

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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**

Next Thing Education Presents

TECH CAMP

FEBRUARY CAMPS 2026

Katesgrove Primary School, RG1 2NL

£39.99 PER DAY OR £175 FOR 5 DAYS
9 AM - 4PM, AGES 5-11

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE
www.nextthing.education

Childcare Vouchers WE ALSO ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHILD CARE

SCAN ME

FEB HALF TERM 2026

Coding & Robots

Circuitry & Inventions

LEGO Engineering

Minecraft Madness

Tech Fun

Movie Making | Video Game Design | Robot Coding | STEM Experiments | Engineering
Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY - LIMITED SPACES

What Parents Say

"Absolutely Fantastic!
First time attending &
my son loved it!"

★★★★★

HOW TO BOOK

<p>STEP 1</p> <p>SCAN THE QR CODE</p>	<p>STEP 2</p> <p>FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP</p>	<p>STEP 3</p> <p>BOOK ONLINE SPACES LIMITED</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; font-weight: bold;">BOOK</div>
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CHILD CARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

W: WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION
E: INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150



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Council Tax Funding Consultation

Have Your Say

Take part in a consultation on how your fire service is funded. The consultation closes at 9am on 2 February 2026. Please contact us for more information:



rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay



precepting@rbfrs.co.uk



0118 945 2888



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FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CLUB

All Children Welcome
Aged 2-9 years

**Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th
February
9am – 3pm**

**Activities such as Dance, Arts & Crafts, Games &
Baking**

£45 per day - Sibling discount available

**Limited spaces available so booking is essential –
please email laryne@kingfisherkindergarten.uk**





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RIVER ACADEMY

Held at: River Academy
7 Richfield Avenue
Reading
RG1 8EQ

Community Lectures

A new series of FREE public lectures
Open to all!



Join Dr Dan Renshaw for his second community lecture at River Academy. Dr Renshaw will explore our local Victorian History!

Dr Dan Renshaw
University of Reading

Lecture: *Berkshire in the nineteenth century- challenges and change*

How did the technological and social changes of the nineteenth century impact on the lives of people living in the county of Berkshire? In this talk we'll look at what life was like at the beginning of the century, and what had changed and what had stayed the same by the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, both in expanding industrial centres such as Reading and in the Berkshire countryside.

Free termly academic lectures for the school and wider community

No need to register - everyone welcome!

The chance to meet academics and ask questions!



Tuesday 20th January
4-5pm
Arrive by 3.45pm



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together



University of Reading



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MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP



Ofsted
Registered



FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Price + Offers

from £25 per day

Sibling discount: **10% off**

Early Bird discount
(15% off)
Code: **FHT15**



Age

5 - 12 Years Old

Dates + Times

**Monday 16th – Friday 20th
February**

**Standard day: 9am-3pm
Extended day: 9am-5pm**

Venues

Newbury:
Winchcombe School

Maidenhead:
Alwyn Infant School

Reading:
Calcot Junior School

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!

For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email admin@mnrcoaching.com www.mnrcoaching.com





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FREE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!
MOST SUITABLE FOR 5-16 YRS

SCIENCE BAZAAR

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

Saturday 21 February 2026

9:30am - 11:30am Relaxed autism-friendly early opening
11:30am-4pm Open to all

Fun activities, hands-on workshops, experiments, talks, show, competitions and cafe



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TICKETS



www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar
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Oxford Brookes University, Headington Campus, OX3 0BP

NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS





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FOOTBALL CAMP

Click here to book



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FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Price + Offers

from £20 per day

Sibling discount: 10% off

Early Bird discount
(15% off)
Code: FHT15



Age

5 - 12 Years Old

Dates + Times

Monday 16th – Friday 20th
February

Standard day: 9am-3pm
Extended day: 9am-5pm

Venues

Newbury:
Winchcombe School

Maidenhead:
Alwyn Infant School

Reading:
Calcot Junior School



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For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email admin@mnrcoaching.com www.mnrcoaching.com



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