



Caversham Primary School

Hemdean Road, Reading RG4 7RA

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

## Newsletter

30<sup>th</sup> January 2026- Issue No. 18

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

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a week of contrasts at Caversham Primary School. As usual, there have been many moments of excitement and enthusiasm, where we have felt the buzz of learning across the school. There have also though been moments of quiet reflection. On Tuesday, KS2 pupils and staff marked Holocaust Memorial Day in assembly. We sensitively explored themes of persecution, kindness and courage and reflected on where prejudice and discrimination can lead, helping our children to understand the importance of empathy, fairness and standing up for others. We ended the assembly with a short film called 'Your voice is amazing' which reminded us of the power that we all have to stand up and speak out against hatred and prejudice today.



We would like to thank our Year 3 pupils who showed all of our school values in abundance on their trip to The Earth Trust on Monday. We always feel such pride in our pupils when they represent the school so brilliantly on trips and visits, not only through their behaviours but in demonstrating such fantastic learning. Well done Year 3 and thank you to staff and parent volunteers who enabled such a positive learning experience to go ahead.

We hope that all of our children and families have a restful and relaxing weekend. We are looking forward to seeing you again on Monday as we head into the last two weeks of half term, with the first month of 2026 already behind us!

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

### ATTENDANCE:

Why is good attendance so important?

- ✓ Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- ✓ Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- ✓ Regular attenders find school routines, school work and friendships easier to cope with
- ✓ Regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- ✓ Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, and higher education, employment or training.







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## **GOOD NEWS TO SHARE**

If you would like to share any of your child's achievements in the newsletter, please do let us know.

## **CATERLINK PUPIL SURVEY- Message from Caterlink**

*We are carrying out our annual pupil survey to assist us in improving our catering service to our customers and we would value the opportunity to survey the pupils at your school.*

### **Survey closes on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Primary Pupil Survey Link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3RTFTV>

Please do follow the link and complete the survey with your child if you would like to give feedback to Caterlink- our school meals provider.

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

*RIGHT OF THE WEEK: Article 38 You have the right to protection and freedom from war. Children under 15 cannot be forced to go into the army or take part in war.*

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

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	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
	<b>16/02/26 -20/02/26 – HALF TERM</b>
23/02/26	<b>TERM STARTS</b>
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	<b>TERM ENDS</b>



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### **ADVANCE DATES FOR SUMMER TERM**

13/04/26	<b>INSET-</b> school closed to pupils
14/04/26	<b>TERM STARTS</b>
04/05/26	<b>Bank Holiday-</b> school closed to pupils and staff
Wk beg 11/05/26	Year 6 SATS week
22/05/26	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
	<b>25/05/26 -29/05/26 – HALF TERM</b>
01/06/26	<b>TERM STARTS</b>
<b>12/06/26</b>	<b>INSET-</b> 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	<b>TERM ENDS</b>



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CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL- ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

TERM 1

Staff Training Day – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Term Starts – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Staff Training Day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Term Ends – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

TERM 2

Term Starts – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Term Ends – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

TERM 3

Staff Training Day – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Term Starts – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Term Ends – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

TERM 4

Term Starts – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Term Ends – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

TERM 5

Staff Training Day – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Term Starts- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Bank Holiday – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Term Ends – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

TERM 6

Term Starts – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Staff Training Day – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Term Ends – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

\*School is closed to pupils on Staff Training Days



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CAVERSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL- ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

TERM 1

Staff Training Day – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

Term Starts – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

Staff Training Day – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

Term Ends – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026

TERM 2

Term Starts – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026

Term Ends – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026

TERM 3

Staff Training Day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Term Starts – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Term Ends – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027

TERM 4

Term Starts – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027

Term Ends – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027

Bank Holiday – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2027

TERM 5

Staff Training Day – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027

Term Starts- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2027

Bank Holiday – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027

Term Ends – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027

TERM 6

Staff Training Day – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Term Starts – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Term Ends – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027

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## YEAR GROUP UPDATES

### Reception: Doves and Ducks



This week we have started our topic, All About Space. The children have loved playing in our space role play corner, using our fabulous space station and thinking about what you would need to take with you on a trip to space! We have also been focusing on our theme of the week 'Working Towards a Goal' by using perseverance and resilience during activities.



Next week, we will be looking at the book 'The Way Back Home' and looking at what it takes to be a scientist! We will be using the book to help us to understand how the most basic sentences are formed so that, right from Reception, children begin to understand the crucial elements of a meaningful sentence. This knowledge will be built on throughout Reception and all the way through school all the way up to Year 6. As well as learning how to put sentences together we will be having a lot of fun conducting science experiments and exploring the surface of the moon.

This week in phonics we have been learning the sound /s/ said as a /z/ (as in pegs, dogs, beds) and our diagraph /qu/. If your child comes across a /qu/ please do remind them that the /q/ and the /u/ go together as one sound and they do not have to sound the /u/ out separately. Next week we will be revising the phonics sounds we have already learnt.

In maths this week we learnt all about circles and triangles. The children really enjoyed making shape collages and going on shape hunts around our environment. This week we will be going back to number by focusing on counting. We will also be deep diving into numbers 6,7 and 8.

Thank you for your ongoing support with the children's reading at home. We are so impressed with how well they are all doing and how much they enjoy reading! Please continue reading at home and just a reminder that books need to be in everyday so the class teacher can read with them in class, and most especially on a Tuesday when their books will be swapped over.

### Year 1: Skylarks and Swallows



A few soggy mornings this week have not detracted from our learning with super focus and enthusiasm! In English we began the week with a grammar lesson and the suffix -ed which, when added to the end of a verb means something happened in



the past. We then went "off topic" by looking at posters and what makes a poster really stand out, whether it's the writing or the colours used. What message is the poster trying to convey? We then created our own posters for anything from picking up litter, recycling to advertising art exhibitions and car sales. Moving on to the rest of the week, we started gearing up for writing our own fact file about Moles and learnt how sub headings are really useful for sorting out all the information we know about Moles into easy-to-read paragraphs with the same bits of information in each paragraph. In Maths we started the week with an end of unit assessment on Place Value to 20. We then had a couple of revision lessons on adding and subtracting then



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started our new unit on Addition and Subtraction within 20. Our first lesson was counting on within 20 so putting the bigger number in our heads and adding on more. We found it was much easier to add  $15 + 2$  than  $2 + 15$  especially when using a number line as we didn't have to do as many jumps! We then added ones using bonds so if we know that  $4 + 2 = 6$  then  $14 + 2 = 16$ . We added the ones first but "don't forget the tens"! In History, we learnt about the amazing explorer Matthew Henson who explored the North Pole with Robert Peary. Unfortunately, Matthew Henson was never given the same recognition for the amazing feat as Robert Peary until many years later. In Science, things got smelly as we investigated how stretchy our socks are and in DT we put together the 2 pieces of felt that we will decorate next week to make our puppets. Computing went with a zoom! as we made rockets - but we had to make sure we followed the instructions properly in order to make it. In phonics, the sounds were /air/ spelt <are> as in square, <ear> as in bear, <ere> as in there and /or/ sound spelt <al> as in ball. The high frequency words were any and because. Have a great weekend!

## Year 2: Red Kites and Robins



As always, Robins and Red Kites have been very busy this week! We have used 'The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck' to practise many skills in English. For example: writing an advertisement for the perfect place for Jemima to hatch her eggs; creating maps of Jemima's journey; writing different sentence types e.g. commands, questions, statements and exclamations, and finally using the text to infer meaning – i.e. What did the hospitable gentleman from the story *really* mean when he said he had a 'treat' for Jemima?



We have been looking at equal groups and arrays in maths as an introduction to our multiplication and division topic. I wonder how many arrays you can spot or maybe create at home?

The children have taken on the role of Florence Nightingale and written letters explaining the disgraceful conditions she found in the hospital in Scutari during the Crimean War. Due to her determination and with the

help of her nurses, she was able to clean up the hospital and obtain valuable resources.



Last week, the children created their own collage papers using paint. Their papers represented different textures and colours. This week, they teamed up with a classmate to create a collage using their papers. They had to decide where to position their paper, whether to tear or cut it and how to combine the pieces so that they reflected their chosen scene. In addition to this, they had to work co-operatively, using their skills to listen and communicate with each other.



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### Year 3: Alder and Ash



This week in English, we wrote an advice sheet about scarlet fever, as this is the illness the boy has in *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

In Maths, we have started our unit on length and perimeter, focusing on equivalent lengths.

In DT, we used nets of 3D shapes to create paper cones, which we will eventually place on top of our castle towers.



On Monday, we visited The Earth Trust Centre to learn all about the Romans. The adults were really impressed with our knowledge, and we had lots of fun playing Roman games.

### Year 4: Beech and Birch



We've had a fantastic and very full week of learning in Year 4 at Caversham Primary School.

In **English**, we are nearing the end of our class novel *Phileas's Fortune*. The children have been deeply engaged in thoughtful and mature discussions around the power of words and self-expression. The story has also opened up meaningful conversations about honesty, modesty, caring for others, and materialism. It has truly been a wonderful book that has sparked insight and reflection.



In **Maths**, we began our new topic on **Measurement**. The children have been learning about equivalent lengths and have started finding the perimeter of different shapes, using careful measuring and problem-solving skills.

In **Science**, we have been exploring **human impact on the environment**. The children have been learning about pollution, microplastics, and other environmental issues, while also discussing the positive actions they can take to help shape a better future for our planet.

During **PSHE**, our focus has been on **dreams and aspirations**. The children have been setting goals using the SMART framework and taking part in valuable discussions about resilience, perseverance, and achieving goals even when faced with challenges.

In **History**, we've been having great fun learning about the **Mayan civilization**, including fascinating facts about Mayan gods and beliefs. The children have shown real curiosity and enthusiasm for this topic.

Finally, in **PE**, we have continued developing our skills in **Gymnastics and Football**, focusing on teamwork, coordination, and building confidence in movement.

### The Year 4 Team



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## Year 5: Hazel and Holly



In English, we're writing balanced arguments about refugees based on our class book, 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'. We've been multiplying fractions in maths and calculating fractions of amounts. In computing, we've learnt about binary code and how the Mars Rover uses binary code to communicate back to Earth. In history, we are learning about life during the Tudor times, including religions and the clothes they wore. In RE, we are learning about the Afterlife and what happens to the



soul when people die. There are many different opinions. Did you know that the Ancient Egyptians were great believers in the Afterlife and some other religions believe there's a 'waiting-room' where the soul waits until a decision is made by a god as to where it goes next? In PE, we're doing gymnastics and handball. We've been working on inverted shapes, including bridges and cartwheels, and learning defensive skills in handball by learning different passes and how to intercept them. We're making pop-up books in DT, which we will share with Reception. We've been practising making different mechanisms. In science, we've been learning about the rotation of the planets in our Solar System.

Poppy-Rae, Sara, Hashim and James

## Year 6: Spruce and Sycamore



In English we have continued reading *The Lost Magician*, which is set during World War II. We have been analysing characters and their emotions, to make predictions about the story. Recently, in Maths, we have been learning algebra and working out the value of digits. We used bar models to help us.



This week in Science, we have been learning about light and shadow. Depending on how far away the object is, the shadow gets bigger or smaller. In Computing, we have been learning about RFID, which stands for Radio Frequency Identification. We looked at how that affects bar codes. In History we learned about the different planes the RAF used to defend themselves from the Luftwaffe. In Music we have continued learning the Young Voices songs. We enjoy the Sea Shanty medley, Disco Fever and Pop Medley. We also learned the dance moves to go with the music.

In RE, we learned about special places for the Muslim religion.

By Charlie and Matilda



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# CPSA VALENTINE'S DAY CAKE AND UNIFORM SALE!

**FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY  
3.10PM IN THE PLAYGROUND**



**Bring a £1 coin to speed up sales**

(card machine available)

Please bring cake donations to the playground during the morning drop off.



Caversham  
Primary School  
Association



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9th Feb 26

NATIONAL PIZZA DAY



Starting Monday 9 February  
Order a school meal every day that  
week  
(Monday - Friday)  
and you'll be entered into a prize draw  
to win a  
**£50 Domino's Voucher!**  
dough not miss out!

**caterlink**  
feeding the imagination



**£50**

A CHANCE TO  
**WIN**





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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](http://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**

**STEP 1**

SCAN THE QR CODE

**STEP 2**

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP

**STEP 3**

BOOK ONLINE  
SPACES LIMITED

BOOK

**CHILDCARE VOUCHERS AND TAX FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED**

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E: [INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION](mailto:INFO@NEXTTHING.EDUCATION) T: 01442 873150



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OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY

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

# SCIENCE BAZAAR

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



BOOK  
TICKETS

**MORGAN  
SINDALL**  
CONSTRUCTION

[www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/sciencebazaar)  
[sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sciencebazaar@brookes.ac.uk)



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NO PARKING ON SITE EXCEPT FOR ACCESS NEEDS

