

COULSDON CHRONICLE – WEEK 6 – OCTOBER 2026



Attendance Champions Week 6

1st Place – Years 1 & 2: 100%
3rd Place – Year 5: 99.05%
4th Place – Year R: 99%
5th Place – Year 3: 98.4%
6th Place – Year 6: 96.67%
7th Place – Year 4: 95.67%

Reflection

This time of year is a lovely opportunity to remind the children that being thankful is about more than appreciating what we have, it is also thinking about what we can give. Whether it is sharing a smile, helping a friend, saying thank you or donating food to someone who needs it, even the smallest act of kindness can have a big impact.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop

Parents Evening

A huge thank you to all the families who joined us for a Parents' Evening this week. It was lovely to welcome you into school to share the children's wonderful work and talk about their learning journeys. Every child has so much to be proud of, and it is a joy to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow. We also really enjoyed hearing your thoughts and feedback. Thank you for your lovely comments and for working so closely with us to support your children's learning.

Notes from the Head Teacher

Dear Families,

It has been another busy and exciting time in school, filled with lots of learning, smiles and wonderful achievements.

Here are a few little updates from us!

Harvest

Our Harvest celebrations are just around the corner! On Thursday morning, we will be walking to St John's Church for a special Harvest service.

The children have been busy practising a special Harvest song, and we cannot wait to hear their lovely voices filling the church as we come together to celebrate this special time of year. We are looking for parent volunteers who would be available to help walk with the children to and from the church. If you are able to lend a helping hand, please let Mrs Stevenson in the school office know. We would be very grateful for your support!

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will once again be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to Purley Food Hub. They do such wonderful work supporting local people and families, and we know they are always incredibly grateful for the generosity of our school community. If you are able to contribute, please pass your donations to your child's class teacher.

Christmas Choir

There is still time to sign up for the Christmas Choir!!

We begin rehearsals next Tuesday (13th October), and already have a few events booked in. If you would like your child/ren to participate in our Christmas Choir, please email the school office.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Jackson

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Pupil Press by Betsy Y6

Yesterday, all of the pupils and staff took part in a World Record attempt. The National Literacy Trust and the British Council were attempting to get the most people reading in a 12-hour period world-wide! Each class had an interactive session with a famous author online.

In Reception and KS1 they did a draw and read along with Rashmi Sirdeshpande, author of Super Uma. "I loved drawing the pictures of the unicorn called Chip." Says Anne, reception. Arabella, "We read a book [Super Uma] which made me very happy!"

KS2 worked with Frank Cottrell-Boyce on writing for film and television. "He was very kind and inspiring for other children and I can't wait to see if we broke the world record." Says Dylan, year 6. We will not know if the attempt was successful for a few weeks, but hopes are high. "I'm very excited for finding out if we broke the record because it would be cool if our school was part of something this big." Says Robbie, Year 6.



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Unleash Your Imagination: The BBC 500 Words Competition is Back!

Coulsdon Church of England Primary School are thrilled to announce that the UK's largest children's story-writing competition, BBC 500 Words, is officially open for entries! This fantastic competition invites children aged 5 to 11 to dive into their imaginations and write an original story using 500 words or fewer.

The prompt this year is simple: Write a story you would love to read.

Whether it is a tale about space-travelling hamsters, a magical portal inside the school's reading shed, or a dramatic rescue mystery, we would love our children to share their incredible ideas.

Why Take Part?

- It is all about creativity: The official rules state that spelling and grammar are not marked. The judges are looking for brilliant plots, unforgettable characters, and wonderful imagination. Every child can succeed, no matter their writing level!
- Amazing prizes: Finalists have the chance to win stacks of books for themselves and our school library and the winning stories will be read out on the BBC by famous celebrities.
- Two age categories: The competition is split into two categories to keep things fair: ages 5–7 and ages 8–11.

How to Enter:

- 1.Draft the story: Children can type or dictate their story. Keep an eye on the word count—it must be 500 words or fewer (the title does not count!).
- 2.Submit online: Parents or guardians must submit the story online. Read How to submit your stories in BBC Teach for a quick step-by-step guide.
- 3.The Deadline: All entries must be submitted by an adult before **Friday 6 November 2026 at 9pm**. Please note that the deadline is strict and no late entries can be accepted.

For extra inspiration, videos, and learning materials featuring live lessons with Sir Lenny Henry, please visit the official portal at bbc.co.uk/500words.

We cannot wait to see where our school's imagination takes us this year. Happy writing everyone!