



CLAIRES COURT  
JUNIORS

# Weekly Bulletin

**9 January 2026 - Spring Term - Week 1**

## Principal's Blog

Please read Mr Wilding's latest blog: [\*\*"Making the 'Magic' happen in 2026."\*\*](#)

## CLASS BULLETINS

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

## School Closure Policy

A reminder that if school is closed due to weather conditions or any other reason, an announcement will be posted on our website, so please check there as your main source of information. Depending on the circumstances for the closure we will also communicate via text message or email and separate communications will be sent directly from Vectare regarding coach operation.



## Lions Club of Maidenhead 41st Swimarathon - Braywick Leisure Centre

Please pop along to support all the swimmers from Claires Court who are participating in this event to raise funds for good causes in Maidenhead and also for the Lions Club on **Sunday 11 January from 12.30pm-2pm**. Please find the Just Giving Page for Juniors Page [here](#).

## Association for Families of Independent Schooling (AFIS)

Claires Court is a founding partner school for the Association for Families of Independent Schooling (AFIS). AFIS is the only membership organisation that brings together families who choose and value independent education in the U.K.

and British international schooling. Their work supports their member families, and the wider sector, by championing choice, fair representation, and greater access to independent education. You can join AFIS [here](#).

AFIS Members can save money from day one with heavily discounted prices from local businesses, and well-known brands such as Waterstones, Clarks, [Booking.com](#). Also, AFIS has commissioned the University of Chichester to conduct research investigating "what are the demographic profiles of independent school families and why do they choose independent education for their families?" With AFIS, Claires Court wishes to make sure as many families as possible are allowed to contribute their views, as part of the mission to give independent school parents a voice in the national education conversation and provide evidence.

### **Claires Court Speaker Series: Josh Reynolds, MP**



The image shows a 'Save the Date' card for a speaker series. At the top is the Claires Court logo, which is a shield with 'CC' in the center and the words 'CLAIRES COURT' around it. Below the logo is the text 'SPEAKER SERIES: SAVE THE DATE'. To the right is a circular portrait of a man, identified as Josh Reynolds. To the left of the portrait are five icons with corresponding details: a calendar icon for 'DATE' (06 February, 2026), a clock icon for 'TIME' (6-8PM), a location pin icon for 'LOCATION' (College Avenue), a wine glass icon for 'Bar Available' (PTA Cash Bar), and a dollar sign icon for 'TICKET PRICE' (Adults £5, Accompanying children free (1:1)). At the bottom right, the text reads 'JOSH REYNOLDS MP, MAIDENHEAD'.

Save the Date for a unique evening with Maidenhead's MP, Josh Reynolds!

He will be sharing his story so far in a fireside chat hosted by his former teacher, Mr. Richards. This is your chance to ask questions, get an insider's view of Parliament, and hear his vision for our local area.

Tickets are available now on the Claires Court PTA [site](#).

### **Books of the Week**

We're excited to launch our new Book of the Week feature, put together by Miss Dockerill, our Head of English, and Miss Murphy, our School Librarian. Each week, we'll be sharing staff recommendations. This week, we have recommendations from Mrs Ortiz, Teacher of MFL.



## Our Books of the Week

Poor Duncan just wants to colour in. But when he opens his box of crayons, he only finds letters, all saying the same thing: We quit!

Beige is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown, Blue needs a break from colouring in all that water, while Pink just wants to be used. Green has no complaints, but Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking to each other.

### Why I Loved This Book

I really enjoyed reading 'El dia que los crayones renunciaron' which means 'The day the crayons quit'. I think it's a really clever book and I love that each crayon has their own personality. I also find the reasons why the crayons want to 'quit' very funny!



Syms Covington has landed the job of a lifetime - cabin boy and fiddler on Charles Darwin's Beagle - but when he is separated from the crew during a storm, his life takes a truly extraordinary turn.

Shipwrecked on a Galapagos island, he makes a discovery that could change the world - and make his fortune. But should he share his find, or will it lead to the extinction of a legendary species?

There's one person who could help, but he's busy writing a book ...

### Why I Loved This Book

I like the combination of fact and fantasy, focusing on Darwin's famous voyage to the Galapagos Island and the main character's discovery of a dragon-like creature. I find the idea of arriving on an island and looking up to see dragon-like creatures soaring overhead terrifying!!

## Tub-To-Pub 2026

Mr Wragg will once again be collecting plastic Celebrations / Heroes / Roses / Cracker tubs to be recycled and raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Further information can be found at [TUB2PUB](#). Last year the school collected 127 tubs which was fantastic, 52 more than the previous year and potentially 127 less tubs going to landfill. Overall the campaign collected 240,000 tubs raising £10,916 for Macmillan. Tubs should be handed into Form Tutors or the staff room with the final collection being 6 February 2026. **It's an environmental win-win!**

## Juniors Drive

We kindly ask all parents to follow our procedure for coach access on the school drive. If you are entering from the mini roundabout by the Thicket Car Park and a coach is leaving the site, please pull into the National Trust car park to allow the coach to exit safely.

The 'Bus Lane' on the main drive is reserved for coaches only when they are arriving or departing. During these times, please move across to the opposite side of the drive to give them priority. At all other times, this lane may be used as normal.

## Chess Lessons

**Looking to sharpen your strategy and level up your game?** Mat Dydak, an expert player, offers **1:1 chess lessons every Friday to Year 2 to Year 6 pupils!** Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, this is a fantastic opportunity to boost your skills and have fun while doing it. If you'd like more information, please contact the school office [juniors@clairescourt.net](mailto:juniors@clairescourt.net).