

# PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 65: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. We hope everyone enjoyed a happy and restful Easter break. The children have returned full of enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see such positive attitudes to learning across the school. This term promises to be a busy and exciting one, with plenty of opportunities for learning, celebration, teamwork and creativity as we continue to grow together as a school community.

## Netball Finals Success!



Parkend put in an excellent performance at the Primary Netball Finals, reaching the final and finishing as well-deserved winners with a 6-2 victory. After a tight opening, the team grew in confidence, found their shooting shoes and showed great teamwork and determination throughout the match. This success builds on their strong performances earlier in the competition and is something the children should feel very proud of. The team will be leading a future assembly to promote netball further, sharing why they enjoyed the competition so much and encouraging others to get involved. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported the team throughout the event, your encouragement and commitment made a real difference. Well done to Parkend on becoming Forest of Dean Champions!

## Look Who's Talking:

Congratulations to Pippa, who represented the Forest of Dean at the *Look Who's Talking* final last Friday at the Guildhall in Gloucester. Pippa confidently delivered her two-minute speech to a very high standard. The competition was extremely strong, but she was unfazed and did an amazing job presenting her talk. The judges commented on the exceptional quality of the children's speeches and the preparation that had gone into them.

We are very proud of Pippa's achievement and the effort she put into reaching the final.



## Reception Places - September 2026

Reception allocation day for September 2026 has now taken place. **If your child has been offered a place at our school, please ensure you accept the offer as soon as possible.**

Both of our schools are oversubscribed this year, with several families currently on the waiting list. We want to make sure that no child loses their place unnecessarily, particularly as appeals have been submitted to the Local Authority due to high demand.

### Class updates:

#### Reception: Learning About Plants

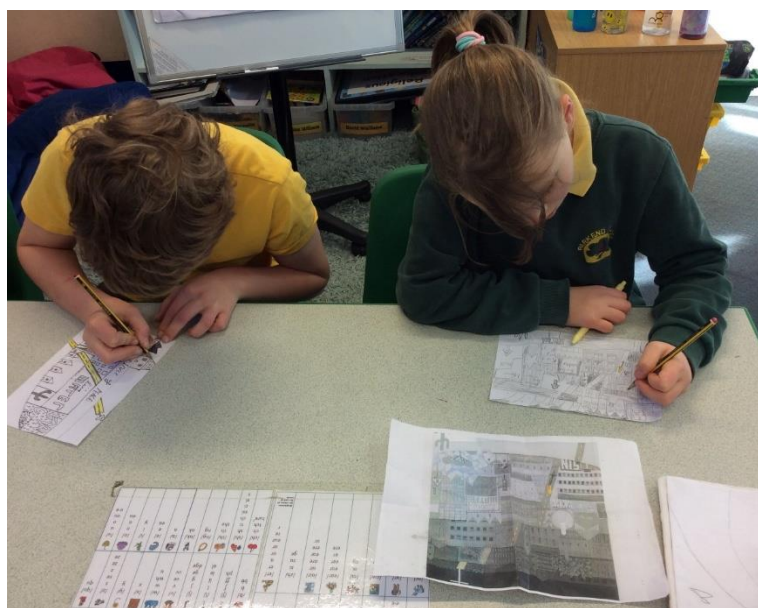


Reception children have been busy learning about plants by investigating whether seeds need soil to grow. They planted seeds in different ways and made predictions about what they thought would happen. The children really enjoyed the hands-on activity, which helped them develop their understanding of how plants grow while encouraging curiosity and discussion.

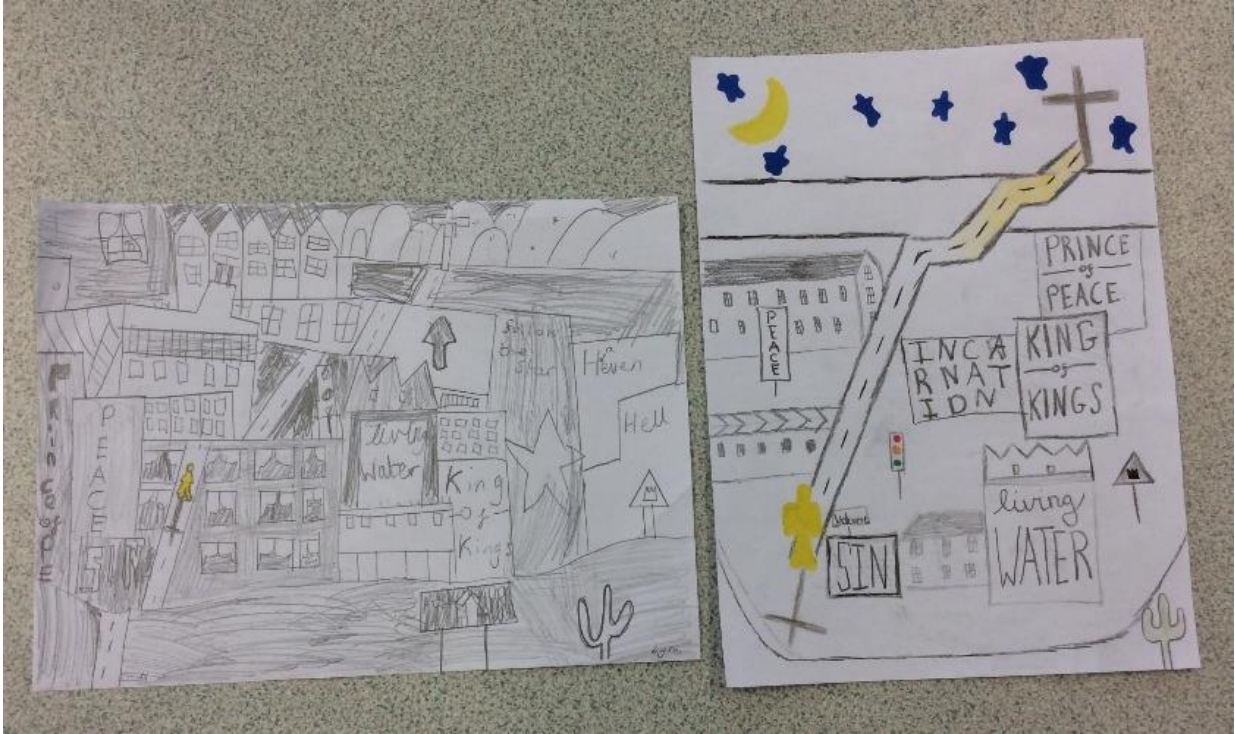


**Foxes Class** have had a fantastic start to the summer term. The children have thrown themselves into their new History topic on the Anglo-Saxons, asking thoughtful questions and showing real curiosity about life in the past. In English, the class have begun exploring the poem '*The Sound Collector*' and have enjoyed experimenting with language and thinking about the many sounds that fill our everyday lives. During Guided Reading, they have started '*The Beast and the Bethany*', which has already had the children laughing and is proving to be a fun and engaging read. It has been a brilliant first few weeks, and staff are excited for everything still to come this term!

In RE, **Wild Boar Class** have been exploring '*The Big Frieze*', an artwork by Emma Yarlett that tells the Big Story from the Bible. As it was Easter, the children focused on the Incarnation panel, looking closely at the details and discussing the meaning behind the different symbols. Inspired by this, they created their own versions of the panel and produced some truly fabulous artwork, showing both creativity and a developing understanding of the story.



Pride in ourselves, Achieve the best we can, Curious thinkers, Everyone together  
The small school with BIG ideas



**Star of the Week and Lunchtime Stars:**

**Week Ending 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**Week Ending 17<sup>th</sup> April**



Lunchtime Star = Eevee  
Congratulations to Hazel, Eloise and Tabitha

Lunchtime Star = Shelby  
Congratulations to Roman, Leonardo and Willow

### House Points:

Week ending 27<sup>th</sup> March = Red 93, Green 80 and Yellow 72

Week ending 17<sup>th</sup> April = Yellow 114, Red 82 and Green 72

### Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = **94.03%**

Class name	Attendance week ending 27.3.26	Attendance week ending 17.4.26
Hedgehogs	90.51%	95.57%
Foxes	95.71%	95.71%
Wild Boar	91.36%	100% - Fantastic!

### More Sporting Success:



On Thursday 23rd April, six of our children attended a **10-Pin Bowling** event organised by Panathlon, involving 14 schools in total. The event took place at Ten Pin, Barnwood, Gloucester. Congratulations to the children who attended. They showed great enthusiasm throughout the event and some even learnt a new skill.

A group of our children enjoyed a **Tennis Festival** at Dene Magna School on Tuesday 14th April, where they took part in a variety of fun tennis challenges and games. The children impressed everyone with their focus, energy, and willingness to have a go, developing their skills while enjoying the morning of sport. It was lovely to see their confidence grow as the session progressed. Thank you to all parents & carers for your continued support with transporting children to all of these events. It really is appreciated and couldn't happen without you.

Kind regards,

*K. Burke*

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools

Federation



**Out of School Celebrations:**



Congratulations to Alyssa for her brilliant litter-picking efforts over Easter. Using her own litter picker, she helped clear rubbish on local walks and behind Parkend Cricket Club. A wonderful example of caring for our community.

Also congratulations to Hazel coming second in a mountain bike race, another fantastic achievement.



**Community Links:**

## SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
The Speech House Hotel Grounds  
Forest of Dean Gloucestershire  
GL16 7EL

**KIDS COOKERY SESSIONS**  
Learn some simple cookery skills which can be replicated at home. You will be taught how to make the dishes by Harts Barn Cookery School & take home your food at the end of the workshop.  
More info...  
[www.forestshowcase.org](http://www.forestshowcase.org)

Making Dips, chopping veggie sticks & making either nettle veggie burgers or vietnamese spring rolls

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

**AMAZING LEGO DISPLAYS**

**NEW & RETIRED LEGO SETS**

**BUILD CHALLENGES**

**ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES**

**CHARITY TOMBOLA**

**MILLIONS OF LOOSE BRICKS**

**PLUS SO MUCH MORE!!**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
GL1 LEISURE CENTRE  
**GLoucester BRICK FESTIVAL**

**MORE LEGO® THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF**



# Learn to swim at Freedom Leisure Lydney

Developing confident and competent swimmers  
through fun and enjoyment

**ENQUIRE TODAY!**

Freedom Leisure Lydney: **01594 842383**  
Church Road, Lydney, GL15 5DZ



Scan the QR code for more information  
[www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/freedom-leisure-lydney/swimming-lessons](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/freedom-leisure-lydney/swimming-lessons)



## Swim school parent membership!

Do you have children enrolled on our  
swimming lessons in the Forest of Dean?

You qualify for our special Swim Parent Membership rate,  
available for use at ALL of the Forest of Dean centres.

- Workout in 4 fully equipped gyms
- Swim and relax in our 3 pools
- Choose from over 60 fitness classes per week
- Get fit and socialise with racket sports



SCAN ME

# IT'S PARTY TIME!



We have a great range  
of parties available

- Bouncy castle parties
- Pool parties



SCAN ME

### Contact us:

Freedom Leisure Lydney  
**01594 842383**  
[www.freedom-leisure.co.uk](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk)



# MAY HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

**VENUES** Wyedean School / Freedom Leisure Lydney  
**TIMINGS** 9:00am – 3:00pm  
**AGES** 5 – 12 years  
**PRICE** £20 per day (10% discount for District & Wildcats players)  
**DATES** Tuesday 26th May · Wednesday 27th May · Thursday 28th May

## WEDNESDAY THEME – STREET SOCCER

A fast-paced day of skills, flair & creativity

### What to expect:

- Skills & Tricks
- 1v1 Battles
- Panna & Nutmegs
- Street Tournament

### Prizes:

- Street King / Queen
- Best Skills
- Best Goal
- Best Celebration

Whether your child loves **SKILLS, SCORING GOALS,**  
or just playing with friends – this is a day not to miss!

## BOOK NOW

[Prostars.ipalbookings.com](http://Prostars.ipalbookings.com)

07444 436637

mark@prostars-fse.com

**IMPORTANT DATES:** We will add new dates each Newsletter in red

Autumn Term 1	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Final Year 6 SATs Booster Club
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Archery at Viney Hill *Letter sent for selected children*
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> May	5.30pm Parent Residential Evening - information for children and parents at Yorkley School Hall
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May - Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Final Eco Club After-school
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Foxes and Oberon's Federation trip to Caerleon. *Letter sent*
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Mountain Biking at Wyedean *Letter to follow for selected children*
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	End of Term 5
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Start of Term 6 - Children in
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Phonics Screening Check Week
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Parkend Sports Day 9am followed by family picnic (morning)
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 & 6 London Residential
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Father's Day (Hedgehog Class) Share a book with a special person 8.35-9am
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Five Acres High Primary Maths Challenge Day *Letter to follow for selected Year 5/6 children*
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Wyedean Transition Day - Year 6
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 Taster Day at The Dean Academy
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Five Acres Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 1)
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Five Acres Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 2)
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> July	The Dean Academy Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 1)
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> July	The Dean Academy Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 2)
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Written Reports out to Parents
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Term 6 - School finishes 1.15