

# PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 56: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



The Harvest Festival Service marked our first opportunity this academic year to gather as a whole school community in our local church. It was a pleasure to welcome everyone and we are grateful to all who attended. The children performed their harvest songs with great joy and energy, and our older students impressed us with their clear and confident readings.



Our Reception children have enjoyed exploring the school garden this term. The plants, which were kindly donated by the Friends of Parkend School in the summer, have been growing well.



On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, our Eco-Committee also welcomed representatives from the Bream Gardening Society to show them our new accessible garden design.

We will be entering the Bream Gardening Society's School Challenge for their 160<sup>th</sup> annual Autumn show this year. Parkend School's display will be on show at The West Dean Centre, High Street, Bream on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November.



## Parent Partnership – Phonics:

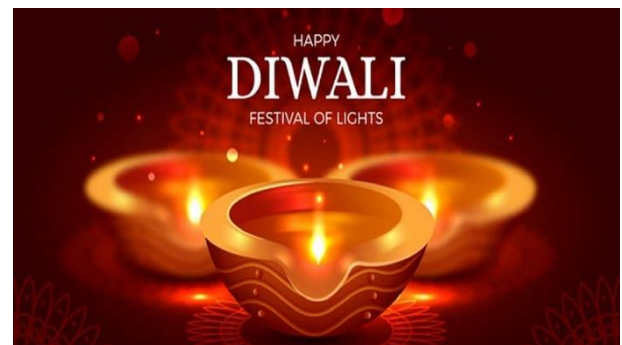
Thank you to everyone who came along to our Reception and Year 1 Phonics session. We really appreciate your time and questions. Working together makes such a difference and your continued support helps children take those important first steps in becoming confident, happy readers.

## Diwali – 20<sup>th</sup> October:

Reception children in Hedgehog Class have been learning about how people show they belong together in Religious Education. They discovered how Hindu siblings in England show they love each other at Raksha Bandhan and made a Rakhi bracelet to share with a loved one.



During English in Foxes Class children have based their writing around the story 'Binny's Diwali'. They learnt all about the Hindu Festival and linked it to their independent writes. They also had the opportunity to make Diva Pots and Diwali sparklers.



## House Points:

Week ending 10<sup>th</sup> October Yellow 57, Green 54 and Red 48

Week ending 17<sup>th</sup> October Red 110, Yellow 92 and Green 80



**Enhancements to our Curriculum:**

Some of our youngest children in Hedgehogs have shown enthusiasm and perseverance this term during their bike sessions with Ian and Charlotte from 'Follow my Lead'. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence and develop their excellent balance, pedalling and braking skills each week.



**Cycling Proficiency.**

Well done to all the children from Wild Boar who successfully completed their Cycle Proficiency training last week. They learned how to stay safe on the roads, ride with confidence, and look after their bikes responsibly.

**Attendance Matters:**

Current Whole School Attendance = **95.14%**

Class name	Attendance week ending: 10/10/25	Attendance week ending: 17/10/25
Hedgehogs	93.65%	96.84%
Foxes	82.14%	97.86%
Wild Boar	99.09%	93.18%

This term 8 of our children are classed as persistently absent. The local Authority now automatically log into our data and ask us to explain reasons for this. While we can explain some (medical), the rest will continue to be monitored as these statistics need to improve.



## Star of the Week: Congratulations to all our children named below:

Week ending: 10<sup>th</sup> October



Arthur, Sam & Eloise

Lunchtime Star = Poppy

Week ending: 17<sup>th</sup> October



Eddie, Alyssa and Poppy

Lunchtime Star = Henry

## Artists in the making:

Children from Foxes Class have continued to thoroughly enjoy their art unit on gestural drawing this term. They have been exploring how movement and expression can be shown through quick, energetic marks and bold lines. Working on a larger scale to music has been amazing to watch, as they brought their ideas to life with freedom and creativity. The sessions have really encouraged the children to be expressive, confident, and to see art as a way to capture energy and emotion.







### Love of reading:

Children enjoyed having the book fair come and visit. Thank you for your support with this as due to the number of books you purchased, the school will receive free books worth the equivalent to over **£300!**



### Competitions:

A mixed Year 5/6 team donned their football boots to take part in the Prostars Football Tournament. As the tournament progressed, they really started to gel as a team. Some very energetic goal saves and super tackling skills on display. Playing against Yorkley (and winning) was a highlight, as was getting to sit in the dugout for a Federation photo.

### Parents Evening(s):

It was lovely to see most parents attend our Autumn parents evening. Feedback has been very positive and children left with smiles on their faces.

### Parkend Friends:

Thank you to the Friends for running their first disco of the year. This event always helps raise funds for the school. Currently School Council are putting ideas to each class on how existing funds can be spent.

Have a fantastic half term, everyone! Thank you for all your hard work this term, enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing everyone back, refreshed and ready for more learning adventures.

Kind regards,

*K. Burke*

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation



**For sale after half term - Remembrance**

From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November children can bring cash in for:



Items = £1



Items = 50p



Items = 20p

**Out of School Celebrations:**



Congratulations to Rosie as she wanted to share her passion for her horses and goes from strength to strength each year riding them. She is putting a lot of work in, training week nights and weekends to get ready for her first show jumping competition in December. We wish her luck.



Well done Luna achieving her level 2 in swimming.

and to Jasper for getting Player of the match in rugby!



Well done Lilly-Violet for gaining her swimming certificate "I can float on my back."



Congratulations also to Jessie-Rae and Theo for getting 'player of the match' in their individual football teams.

Well done Willow for earning your communication badge in Scouts.





Knowing Me	Creative Me	Articulate Me	Future Me	Stronger Me
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*Pride in ourselves, Achieve the best we can, Curious thinkers, Everyone together  
The small school with BIG ideas*

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

Autumn Term 1	
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET - School closed to pupils
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half term week
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Secondary School Application Deadline
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Start of Term 2
Weds 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Yorkley - 9.15-10.45am Open Afternoon for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Parkend - 1.15-2.45pm
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need *Non-uniform & £1 donation*
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Parkend - 9.15-10.45am Open Afternoon for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Yorkley - 1.15-2.45pm
Weds 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Foxes & Wild Boar Violin Concert to Parents 9.30am *Letter sent*
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Open Morning for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Yorkley - 9.15-10.45am Open Afternoon for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Parkend - 1.15-2.45pm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Current afterschool clubs finish this week
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception & Year 6 Height, Weight & Vision Screening *Details to follow*
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumpers!
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day Term 2
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Term 3

## Community Links



**FOREST EXCHANGE**

LYDNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE  
SAT 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER  
1-3 PM

Forest Community Project

Face to face freecycle event

Books CLOTHES HOUSEHOLD

FORESTOFDEANEXCHANGE@GMAIL.COM



SPFA PRESENTS:

**SPOOKY WALK 2025**

SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER  
5-7PM

STALLS · GAMES · RAFFLE  
SLING PLAYING FIELDS  
£1 ENTRY



# Take the 'scare' out of school holidays!

Beezee Families is our FREE healthy lifestyle programme, designed to help you learn more about healthy eating and finding habits that work for you. Check out these fun spooktacular activities to keep your little monsters entertained this half term.

**Activity 1:**

## Munchable Mummies

Give making these booootiful munchable mummies a go!

**Activity 2:**

## Get crafty with your recycling

Use toilet roll tubes to make your own devilish decorations, create a haunted house out of an old cereal box or print off this fun bat cutout to make your own ghoulish garlands!

**Activity 3:**

## Walk this way

Get the family all wrapped up and explore the great outdoors this autumn.

**Activity 4:**

## Learn a brand-new dance routine

Get you and the kids dancefloor-ready for the Halloween party season!

**Want more healthy lifestyle support?**

Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.\*

Scan here or Click the link

glo.maximusuk.co.uk

\*Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5 and up

Knowing-Me

Creative-Me

Articulate-Me

Future-Me

Stronger-Me

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# PARKEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OPEN DAYS

FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026

12<sup>th</sup> November 1.15pm - 2.45pm (Wednesday)  
18<sup>th</sup> November 9.15am - 10.45am (Tuesday)  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 1.15pm - 2.45pm (Wednesday)

"Pupils at Parkend Primary thoroughly enjoy their 'small school with big ideas'. There is a tangible sense of community and of working together in partnership. Pupils are incredibly proud to be part of the school, and this shines through in all they do."

Good overall effectiveness – February 2024  
Outstanding in Behaviour and Attitudes and Leadership & Management

Parkend Primary School / Forest Of Dean Community Schools Partnership / Yorkley School

Creativity

Building Me

Belonging

Communication

Active Adventure

Valuing Learning, Learning to Value

# YORKLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"Pupils are very proud of their school. It is easy to see why. It is a caring, cohesive community where everyone has pupils' best interests at heart. Everyone strives to make every day the best it can be for each pupil."

Outstanding in Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Leadership & Management. Good for overall effectiveness

Yorkley Primary School / Forest Of Dean Community Schools Partnership / Parkend Primary School