

# PARKEND NEWSLETTER

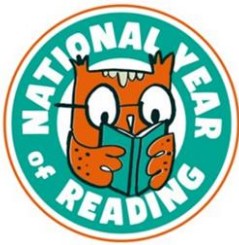


Issue 60: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year, and welcome back!

We hope you and your family enjoyed a joyful and restful holiday. As we begin this new year together, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to continuing our partnership in supporting your children's growth and success.



The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide initiative designed to inspire both children and adults to enjoy reading more. With the theme 'Go All In', families are encouraged to explore all kinds of reading — from books and comics to magazines, websites and audiobooks – linking directly to your child's hobbies or interest. Recent research from the National Literacy Trust shows that many young people are reading less for pleasure, making this focus more important than ever.

At our school, we are passionate about developing a love of reading. Through our READ initiative and daily learning, we promote reading as both an essential life skill and an enjoyable habit. Our children know that reading opens doors to learning, confidence and well-being, supporting them now and in the future.

Last term, many children engaged well with the **READ initiative**, although some found it more challenging than others. This term, staff will be contacting families of children who were falling behind to discuss how we could work together to provide extra support. We really appreciate the positive response and support from parents already over the Christmas break.



## Look Who's Talking

We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part in the class heats of the Look Who's Talking oracy competition. Speaking in front of others is an important skill, but it can also be very daunting for many children. To ensure everyone felt supported, adaptations were made so that children who were worried were able to present just to an adult, allowing every voice to be heard.







The next stage was the school heats, where 9 children were absolutely amazing, confidently sharing brilliant topics that really mattered to them. Although only three children could progress to the next round, every participant should be extremely proud of themselves.

We now wish our three finalists Alyssa, Pippa and Tilly the very best of luck as they represent our school in the next round against schools across The Forest of Dean. When preparing their talk they may want to consider what the judges in the final will be looking for in a speaker:

- DELIVERY
- CLARITY
- FLUENCY
- INTONATION/EXPRESSION
- PROJECTION
- CONFIDENCE



### Young Leaders Impress our Local MP

On Wednesday 7th January, a group of our Young Leaders proudly showcased our school by leading a whole-school tour, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Matt Bishop (MP) was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and pride shown throughout the morning. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the pupils, answering their questions about his own schooling, why he chose to become an MP, and the skills needed to pursue such a role.

The pupils represented the school brilliantly, and it was a fantastic experience for everyone one involved.

Examples of some of the questions asked by our children:

*"We have a set of drivers that shape our Curriculum. Do you have something that drives you?"*

*"I walk to school most days because I live in the village and our school takes part in the Walk and Wheel. Can you help us slow down cars and make it safer for us in the village?"*

*"Part of our Curriculum is about staying safe online, is there something you are doing, pushing for, that could help us with staying safer online?"*

*"We collect the views of our classroom and whole school through our Young Leaders such as School Council. How do you collect the views of the people of The Forest of Dean?"*



House Points:

Total Autumn term:

Red currently 1 <sup>st</sup>	Yellow currently 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Green currently 3 <sup>rd</sup>
1031	911	774

Week ending 9<sup>th</sup> January - Green 145, Yellow 143 and Red 113

Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = 94.36% (Below National Currently)

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in a pupils' success at school. This includes arriving on time as lessons are built on previous knowledge. Gaps formed are harder to back fill and friendships and confidence are affected when children are regularly off or late.

Class name	Attendance week ending: 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Attendance week ending: 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Hedgehogs	92.06%	94.32%
Foxes	78.57%	97.86%
Wild Boar	89.09%	95.45%

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

Week ending: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025



Edgar, Genie and Otto  
Lunchtime Star - Sam

Week ending: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026



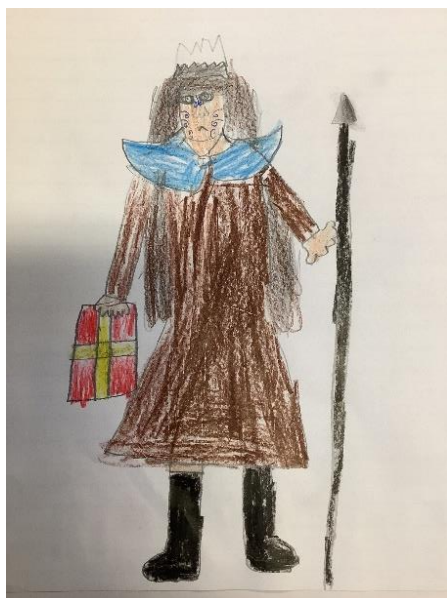
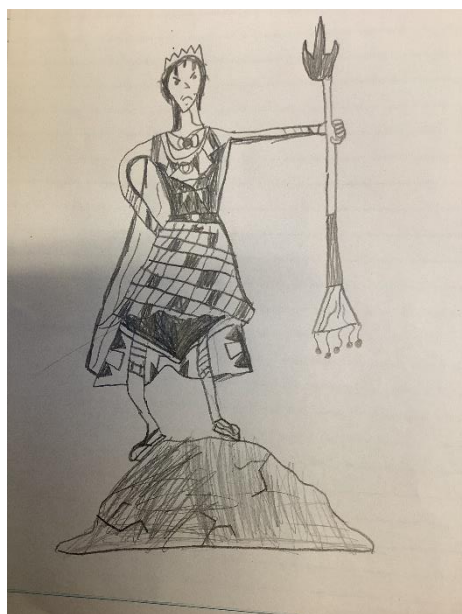
Hazel, Maxwell and Henry  
Lunchtime star - Osian



**Reception children** have been enjoying the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' during their English lessons. Inspired by the book, the children explored different environments just like the family in the story, including grass, a river (which resulted in some very wet socks!), and squelchy mud. They used their senses to describe how each surface felt on their hands and feet, noticing the textures, temperatures and even the sounds they made. The children also talked about how their feet and hands looked after each adventure, developing their descriptive language and vocabulary. It was a fun, hands-on experience that brought the story to life and encouraged lots of enthusiastic discussion and imaginative learning.



**Foxes Class** have been exploring how the Britons responded to the Roman invasion. The children learned about the impact Roman rule had on Celtic life and focused on Boudicca, the Icenic queen who led a famous rebellion. Using historical sources, they made inferences about her personality and then created their own visual interpretations of Boudicca. The pupils have shown great curiosity and creativity as they brought this part of history to life.



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*

Kind regards,

*K. Burke*

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

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

Autumn Term 1	
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5's Dance Workshop at The Dean Academy.
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Darts Event - Year 5/6 *Letters sent to selected children*
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Federation Future Me Day at Yorkley School
W/C Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Week for Current After-school Clubs (Coding Club finishes 5.2)
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> February	End of Term 3
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half term - 1 Week
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Culture Day
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Secondary School Allocation Day
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4's In the Net at Yorkley School *Details to follow*
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term 4
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar-Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Holidays





MP SEND Event

# MP SEND Event

Parent carers, educators, and SEND professionals are invited to my third SEND Event, this time bringing parent carers together with educators, support services and professionals to drive meaningful, practical improvements that matter.

The evening will include professionals offering support for parent carers, alongside updates from me on government progress and a continued commitment to provide tangible support and improvements.

26<sup>th</sup> February  
6pm-8pm  
Forest of Dean

**Matt**  
BISHOP MP  
Forest of Dean

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26th February  
6pm-8pm  
Central Forest of Dean location

Register your interest: [matt.bishop.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:matt.bishop.mp@parliament.uk)



# KIDS CLUB

## HALF TERM

FUN & CREATIVE  
SPORTS ACTIVITIES  
AND ARTS AND CRAFTS  
FOR EVERYONE!

★ BOOK EARLY & SAVE! ★

1	First 10 bookings per child / per day	£15
2	Next 10 bookings per child / per day	£20
3	Next 10 bookings per child / per day	£25

AGES 5-11

MON 16<sup>TH</sup> - FRI 20<sup>TH</sup>  
FEB  
8:30AM - 4:30PM

Prices from  
**£15**

VENUES:

- Primrose Hill, Lydney
- Berry Hill, Coleford
- Rosary, Stroud
- Lift Offas Mead, Chepstow

Book now: [prostars.ipalbookings.com](http://prostars.ipalbookings.com)

# ETLOE ESCAPES SWIMMING LESSONS

A B Learn to Swim



**Beginners (Stage 1)**

- ✓ Currently fully booked
- ✓ Small wait list in place

**Spaces Available – Stage 2 & Above**

We are currently welcoming children from Stage 2 upwards into our small-group swimming lessons at the beautiful Etloe Escapes pool.

Lessons are calm, structured and confidence-building, following the Swim England framework.

**Trial Lessons**

A one-off trial session can be arranged  
**£14.50 per child**  
(subject to availability)

<b>Monday Evenings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4:00pm – Stage 2</li><li>• 4:30pm – Stage 3</li><li>• 5:30pm – Stage 4/5</li></ul>	<b>Wednesday Evenings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4:00pm – Stage 2</li><li>• 4:30pm – Stage 2 Plus</li><li>• 5:30pm – Stage 4/5</li></ul>
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**Etloe Escapes Pool**  
Blakeney, Gloucestershire GL15 4AT  
To enquire or arrange a trial:  
**07583 024190**

**A B Learn to Swim**  
Professional • Supportive • Small Group Teaching





# Bream Youth FC U10's

Join Girls Football Team in the FOD

Looking for new players  
from Year 4 & 5

Goalkeeper Wanted!  
Footballers Wanted!

Take part in fun-filled activity where you  
can make friends, work as a team and  
grow your football skills!

Contact:

[breamyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:breamyouth@yahoo.com)

Adey 07817719334

Or

Jesse 07523033307



## Beezee FAMILIES

Changing habits keep  
you healthy...all year long!

Our free Beezee Families programme is here to  
help you feel healthier and happier as a family.

### Top Tips to brave those winter mornings

**Keep hydrated:** This is a sure-fire way to get  
our bodies fired up in the mornings. A fresh  
glass of water will give your body the boost  
it needs to start the day.

**Breakfast:** There is a reason it holds the  
title as the most important meal of the day!  
Make sure little (and grown up) tums don't  
leave the house empty, it's important to have  
a good healthy breakfast to give our bodies  
the energy they need.

**Sleep:** Its important no matter your age to  
get enough sleep and sticking to regular  
sleep patterns can help support this.

### Healthy lunch boxes

Keeping school lunch boxes interesting can  
be a challenge at the best of times so we  
appreciate how hard it is to make sure they  
are kept healthy too.

But healthy doesn't have to be a chore, it  
can actually make life much easier!

Fruit is a great way to give little ones a  
boost of energy and if bought in packs will  
generally last the whole week and keep  
costs down too. A satsuma, banana or  
small handful of grapes will add a tasty  
(and vibrant) addition to their lunch boxes.

### Fresh air fix

It's tough during the colder months to find  
ways to get our much-needed Vitamin D.

Fresh air is a great way to improve both  
our physical and mental well-being and  
even short bursts of outdoor time can  
make a big difference.

Try swapping the car or bus for a short  
walk from time to time or get the little  
ones wrapped up and outside  
for a quick play in the park.

Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

### Want more healthy lifestyle support?

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

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

Scan here  
or  
Click the link



[glo.maximusuk.co.uk](http://glo.maximusuk.co.uk)