Knowing Me Creative Me Articulate Me Future Me Stronger Me

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The small school with BIG ideas

# PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 58: 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Musical Highlights:

This term, our junior pupils have embraced the joy of learning the violin. From reading musical notation to plucking strings and mastering the bow, they have developed a wide range of skills. Some even experimented with vibrato, adding depth and atmosphere to their playing.

The term culminated in a wonderful performance for parents, where the children showcased pieces in a variety of musical styles. Their enthusiasm and progress were clear to see, and parents were treated to a truly memorable concert.





We have been delighted to welcome Robin Davies to Parkend and Yorkley School as our Music Teacher over the past ten weeks. His thoughtful, step-by-step approach has enabled every child to succeed in learning the violin and to perform with confidence. Watching their musical ability and self-assurance grow has been a fantastic highlight of the term.

During Monday's curriculum assembly, our pupils took part in UK Parliament Week, learning how Parliament works and why it is important to share their views both in school and in the wider community. The children explored the role of debate, representation, and decision-making, gaining a real sense of how their voices can make a difference.

To mark the occasion, every child cast their vote on a whole-school enhancement project, with the School Council leading the initiative.

This exciting opportunity allows pupils to experience democracy in action and see how collective choices can shape their school environment. Votes are being counted today!























We would like to say a big thank you to all the children who took the time to write and send in their wonderful poems for Inter Faith Week. We were absolutely overwhelmed with entries. There were so many, that it kept us very busy reading them all!

Each poem was creative, thoughtful, and full of brilliant ideas. In fact, the standard was so high that choosing winners proved far too difficult for Mrs Adams. Therefore, we invited Trish from Parkend Church to take on the very important job of selecting the winning entries.

The school winner for KS1 was Tabitha and the winner for KS2 was Laura. These will now be sent off to the national competition. Well done to everyone who took part.



## House Points:

Week ending 14<sup>th</sup> November: Yellow 92, Red 84 and Green 63 Week ending 21<sup>st</sup> November: Yellow 111, Red 89 and Green 61.

#### Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = 95.26%

Class name	Attendance week ending: 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Attendance week ending: 21 <sup>st</sup> November
Hedgehogs	96.19%	97.14%
Foxes	92.86%	95.71%
Wild Boar	92.73%	95%

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

Week ending: 14<sup>th</sup> November Week ending: 21<sup>st</sup> November



Elowyn, Skyla and Jasper Lunchtime star: Alana



Evee, William and Luna Lunchtime star: Isabel

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Forest of Dean Local History Society. http://forestofdeanhistory.org.uk



Young historians celebrated their achievement on 15<sup>th</sup> November at the Forest of Dean Local History Society Meeting. Sophie attended as she was last years winner from the digital category. Jasper M was also invited as he was the winner of the 3D model but unfortunately wasn't able to attend.

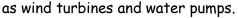
## Personal Development

We were delighted to welcome Young Minds Matter to Parkend & Yorkley Primary School for an inspiring assembly on 'Friendship and Big Emotions'. The sessions, tailored for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, explored what makes a healthy friendship and offered practical advice for handling challenges when friendships don't go as planned.

The assemblies encouraged children to develop problem-solving skills and resilience, while introducing calming strategies such as bubble breathing and colour hunting. These techniques help children manage their emotions and feel more confident in navigating social situations. It was a fantastic opportunity to support our pupils' emotional wellbeing and equip them with the tools they can use every day.



Year 1 and 2 have been creating stable structures in Design and Technology. They investigated and built their own windmills, then tested and decorated them. They have also looked at the different uses for windmills such































During their PE lesson this week, Reception children enjoyed a calm and engaging mindfulness yoga session, focusing on gentle movement, breathing, and relaxation. The children explored simple poses and learned how to pause, stretch, and become more aware of their bodies and feelings. This activity supported their emotional wellbeing, helped improve concentration, and gave them useful strategies for managing their energy throughout the day.

#### Fundraising and donations:

- Scholastic Book Fair: Thank you again for supporting with this, we have now received an amazing amount of £400 worth of new books.
- Food Donations: The Forest Foodbank have written and thanked us for Harvest donations we provided 40.7kgs, which provides up to 97 individual meals for those in need.
- Children in Need: Raised £64.50.

Kind regards, K.Burke

Mrs K Burke
Executive Headteacher
Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

#### Out of School Celebrations:



Congratulations to Pippa performing at the Christmas Stagecoach play at The Newbridge Theatre on Saturday afternoon.



Congratulations also to Otto as he has received a certificate this week for his drama performance.

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

Autumn Term 1		
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Deadline for ordering Christmas Lunch & cinema trip packed lunch	
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Year 1 & Year 2 Trip to Forest Community Church Christmas	
	Experience.	
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	Hedgehog Class Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Whole School.	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Current afterschool clubs finish this week	
Tues 9th December	Reception & Year 6 Height, Weight & Vision Screening *Details sent*	
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Hedgehog Class Nativity 9.30am	
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Hedgehog Class Nativity 2pm	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Cinema Trip. No school dinners on this day.	
Tues 16th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumpers!	
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service at Parkend Church 5.30pm *Letter to follow*	
Fri 19th December	Last day Term 2 - School finishes at 1.15pm	
Mon 22nd-Fri 2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays	
Mon 5th January	Start of Term 3	

# Community Links























