

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

Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = 95.26%

Class name	Attendance week ending: 14 th November	Attendance week ending: 21 st 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: 14th November



Elowyn, Skyla and Jasper
 Lunchtime star: Alana

Week ending: 21st November



Evee, William and Luna
 Lunchtime star: Isabel

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*

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



Young historians celebrated their achievement on 15th 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 as wind turbines and water pumps.





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.

Knowing Me	Creative Me	Articulate Me	Future Me	Stronger Me
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IMPORTANT DATES: We will add new dates each Newsletter in red

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

Community Links



PROSTARS FOOTBALL CAMP

Freedom Leisure, Lydney
8:00am-3:00pm

Dates-
Mon- Dec 22nd
Tues- Dec 23rd
Mon- Dec 29th
Tues- Dec 30th

-Indoor/Outdoor facilities available
-Coaches are UEFA and FA qualified
-Fun for all

-Contact Mark
07444436637
mark@prostars.fse.com
-To book- Prostars.ipalbookings.com

CHRISTMAS





Clay & Lantern Light

Sunday 7th December

A Seasonal Circle of Clay, Imagination, and Lantern
Light for Children & Their Grown-Ups

with professional potter - Fleen Doran

As the season settles around us and the days grow shorter, we gather to honour the quiet magic of this time of year — shaping clay, light, and imagination into handmade treasures. Children aged 4–10 (with an accompanying adult) will create glowing clay keepsakes to welcome the return of the light after solstice.

Evergreen Lantern Spiral. As families arrive, children are invited to help build an evergreen advent spiral in the centre of the room. Sprigs of fir and pine form a winding winter path.

Lighting the Spiral. When our cushion circle is full, children return to walk the spiral to place their lantern light along the path. One by one, the spiral begins to glow, a shared celebration of warmth in darkness and the returning sun.

Story by Lantern Light. With the spiral shimmering softly, we gather for mulled apple juice and a gentle seasonal story, a moment to breathe, arrive and welcome stillness before hands move to clay.

Clay Imprints of Light & Journey. After the story, children explore pattern and texture using Fleen's personal collection of handmade Indian block-printing stamps, gathered through travels in Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu and Goa. Soft clay becomes winter decorations to hang at home as a celebration of the festive season and reminder of light returning.

Lantern Houses for Cosy Evenings. Each child will sculpt a miniature clay light house, carving tiny windows and star-shapes so a tealight can glow from within, a lantern to guide families through long winter evenings and towards the lengthening days.

Storytelling, Tea & Cake. The session weaves in gentle, seasonal storytelling and poetry, encouraging mindful connection with nature and imagination. We'll close the morning with shared tea and homemade festive cake.

After the workshop. Clay pieces are dried, bisque-fired, glazed and finished with ribbon. The glazed lantern houses and decorations will be ready to collect just in time for the festive season.

Spaces are limited to ensure a calm, creative space—booking essential.

Date: Sunday 7th December

Time: 10:00am – 12:20pm

Location: Parkend Memorial Hall, Forest of Dean (GL15 4JF)

Ages: 4–10 years — each child accompanied by an adult

Cost: £40 per child (includes all materials, kiln firing & refreshments)

To Book

Email: fleeny@gmail.com

Tel: 07890 706518

Instagram: @fleendoran

Website: www.fleendoran.com

