

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 70: 17th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another Successful Year

As we reach the end of another amazing school year, we have so much to celebrate. It has been a year filled with success, achievement and memorable moments, and we are incredibly proud of everything our children have accomplished. Across the school, pupils have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm for learning, resilience when faced with challenges and kindness towards others, making our school a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Stars of the Stage: Cinderella and Rockerfella

Congratulations to all of our Junior pupils on their fantastic production of Cinderella and Rockerfella!

The performance was incredibly professional and showcased the remarkable talent, confidence and dedication of everyone involved. From the outstanding acting and creative, humorous lines to the fantastic props and wonderful costumes, every detail contributed to a truly memorable show. We are so proud of all the pupils, staff and parents who helped bring the production to life.

(A special apology to Dexter, following the performance, it seems he will forever be known as the third Jasper!)





"Mwah-ha-ha-ha-ha!"



Celebrating Our Achievements

Our EYFS children have thrived and are once again leaving Reception truly Year 1 ready, having made excellent progress across all areas of learning with 80% reaching a good level of development compared to the National at 72%.

Reading continues to be a key strength of our school, with our phonics outcomes once again matching national figures. (82% passed against 82% nationally) Children are now developing not only strong literacy skills but also firm foundations in reading, writing, maths and handwriting.

Statutory Assessments:

Congratulations to our Year 6 children for their attitudes towards their SATs. Results this year:

Combined 80% (RWM) (national 63%)

Reading: 80% (national 75%)

Writing: 90% (national 73%)

SPAG: 90% (national 74%)

Maths: 90% (national 75%)

Science 90% (national 82%)

These outcomes reflect the hard work and determination of our pupils, together with the support of families and staff throughout their time at our school. Our pupils leave us as confident, capable learners ready for their next stage in their education.

House Points:

Week ending 3rd July - Yellow 106, Red 92 and Green 84

Week ending 10th July - Yellow 54, Green 31 and Red 24

Overall winners for the year: RED

Winners - Combined Score	Sports Day Scores	House points this year
1 st = Red 2650	1 st = Yellow 141	1 st = Red 2549
2 nd = Yellow 2638	Joint 2 nd Green 101	2 nd = Yellow 2497
3 rd = Green 2517	Joint 2 nd Red 101	3 rd = Green 2416

Attendance Really Matters

Current Whole School Attendance = 92.9%

Class Name	Attendance over the year	Children with 100%
Hedgehogs	92.72%	Kenan
Foxes	91.76%	-
Wild Boar	93.91%	Laura

Huge congratulations to 2 of our pupils who have achieved 100% attendance this year - Amazing!

Star of the Week and Lunchtime Stars:

Week Ending 3rd July

Congratulations to Jasper M, Leo and Otilie
Lunchtime Star = Jasper G



Week Ending 10th July

Congratulations to Jasper G, Gia, Cosmos and Alfie
Lunchtime Star = George



Congratulations to all of our children who have achieved Star of the Week and Lunchtime Star awards throughout the year. These awards recognise pupils who consistently demonstrate our school values through their hard work, kindness, positive attitude and excellent behaviour.



History Success

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Sue Newton to one of our assemblies to present a certificate to one of our children for their winning entry in the Forest of Dean Local History Society Competition.

Congratulations to Otto for his 3D model entry earning himself a £25 prize and invitation to a VIP event with the History Society.

Wild Boar Class were also delighted to welcome Roger Deeks from the Forest of Dean Local History Society. Roger shared his extensive knowledge of Parkend's history, bringing the past to life for the children through fascinating stories and real historical accounts.

As part of their learning about the General Strike, the children explored different miners' perspectives and discussed why some chose to return to work while others remained on strike. They also thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a role-play activity, picketing the line and calling for strike action, which helped them develop a deeper understanding of this important period in local history.



A Final Chapter Begins: Open the Book presented Year 6 leavers with a book after their final assembly of the year and Reverend Joe joined us again for the story and presentation.



Vita String Quartet Visit

Yorkley and Parkend Schools were delighted to welcome the talented Vita String Quartet from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and demonstrated their musical knowledge by recalling key terminology, including rhythm and pitch. During the session, they were introduced to members of the string family, including the violin, viola, and cello. They learnt how the size of an instrument affects its sound, recognising that smaller string instruments produce a higher pitch, while larger instruments produce a lower pitch.

The quartet also shared fascinating information about how these instruments are made, including how horsehair is used to create the bow for a violin. The children were highly engaged throughout and asked thoughtful questions, showing great enthusiasm for music. This inspiring performance has undoubtedly encouraged and motivated the next generation of musicians.



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*

A final - Thank you

As we come to the end of another wonderful year, I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to providing the very best education and opportunities for our children. Their care, support and enthusiasm make our school a special place to learn and grow.

I would also like to congratulate our children once again on all they have achieved this year. They should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Finally, thank you to our Governors, Friends and all of the volunteers, helpers and parents who give their time and support to our school. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and help make so many opportunities possible for our children.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

DATE	EVENTS
Autumn Term	
Tue 1 st and Wed 2 nd September	INSET Days - School Closed
Thursday 3 rd September	Start of Autumn Term 1
Thursday 10 th September	Foxes & Wild Boar Swimming Starts *Letter to follow*
Friday 11 th September	Nasal Flu Immunisation
Mon 28 th , Tues 29 th & Weds 30 th Sept	Year 6 Bikeability
Tues 6 th October	School Photographer in
Monday 26 th - 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 21 st - Fri 1 st Jan	Christmas Holidays

Support and Links: Mental health and Wellbeing:

[Parent and carer support and advice line | Talk Well](#) - Talk Well offer a free, confidential parent advice line if you are worried about your child's behaviour or wellbeing. Open Mon/Weds/Thurs: 5pm - 9pm. Tues: 9:30am - 1pm

www.youngminds.org.uk - Contains a parents A-Z mental health guide for supporting yourselves and your children

LumiNova app - A free digital therapeutic game where children can play games to support with a range of worries and build resilience. You can set targets for them to work towards.
Financial support

<https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/> - If you are struggling financially throughout the holidays, do not hesitate to contact one of the agencies listed on their website to receive a referral for a food parcel. Anyone can access - this is not a means-tested service.

<https://forestbabybank.org/services.html> - You can self-refer to the Baby Bank. They stock essential baby items, school clothes aged 4-16, clothes aged 0-15, bedding, toiletries and dental hygiene products. Anyone can access - this is not a means-tested service.

Support for parents:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/> Family Lives parents support line: Call them free on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life.

Support is also available on the Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum - this is run by parents and carers and offers support groups. <https://glosparentcarerforum.org.uk/>

<https://candi.website/events/> CANDI (Cinderford) has a women's space every Wednesday morning 10-1 and other groups for children.

<https://dadmatters.org.uk/gloucestershire/> Dad Matters - a support group for dads.

<https://homestartnwglos.org.uk/group-support/> - Home Start offer parent support groups in the local area. You can sign up for free online. Locations include Cinderford, Lydney and Newent.

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

www.adhdfoundation.org.uk - Workshops available for families to access for free

www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk - A platform containing links and information about a wide range of family support and workshops available for you to access www.familylives.org.uk - Parenting advice for children's behaviour, health and wellbeing and development
Health

www.ghc.nhs.uk - Contains an A-Z list of health care services available in Gloucestershire

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Community Links:



with

Free Workshops for Young Gardeners

2026



Activities at West Dean Centre and Bream Community Library -

for primary children and above

Thursday 23 rd July	Kitchen Scrap Growing
2.00 – 4.00pm	Garden Crafts
Thursday 6 th August	Growing plants without soil
2.00 – 4.00pm	Painted Pebbles
Thursday 29 th October	Date booked, topic tbc
2.00 – 4.00pm	

Places are limited so..... Booking is essential

To join in - email breamgardeningociety@gmail.com Remember to tell us your name and age



Brownies
Primrose Hill, Lydney
Wednesdays

Girls have nonstop fun, learning and adventure
for ages 7 to 10

At Brownies, we welcome all girls to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.

Girlguiding
Registered charity number: 306016

Join a local Brownies group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Summer Library Challenge:

The Library

The Library Challenge

11 July – 12 September 2026
Suitable for children aged 3+

The challenge finishes in

1 month 4 weeks 2 days

Take on The Library Challenge 2026!

Looking for a fun summer activity? Children aged 3+ can sign up for the Gloucestershire Library Challenge 2026: Tales Through Time and journey through history while completing exciting reading and activity tasks.

Earn stamps, collect rewards, and work your way up to Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Children who reach Gold will receive a special medal and be entered into a prize draw!

The challenge runs until 12 September and is free to join through your local library.

For more information, visit your local Gloucestershire library or search for The Library Challenge 2026 online. Happy reading!

All children who take part will be awarded a Green Slip when they return to school.