

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 54: 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Fundraising Events:

Thank you to all our parents, carers and members from the community who attended our Macmillan Coffee Morning today up at Yorkley School and to those who donated cakes to sell. Both our School Council children did an amazing job overseeing the event (with support from Miss Sime).



Parent support was also available from Forest Pulse, Lumi Nova, Young Minds Matter, The Foodbank and the Baby Bank.

Key Messages:

Every week within an assembly to support our children's learning and thinking about current affairs and the world around them we are re-launching Picture News assemblies. This amazing resource sets a big question and a related image based on the news story, to encourage debate and discussion. Each article also links to British Values and Protected Characteristics. Back in class, children can discuss the content further through PSHE lessons. Later on this year we aim to introduce a group of children 'Picture News Pioneers' to be leaders themselves for the assembly. This has been trialled already at Yorkley with huge success. By the end of the year our intention is for children from across both schools to work together leading assemblies or debates.

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

Week ending: 12th September



Sam L, Toby and Jessie-Rae.

Lunchtime Star:

Congratulations to Nathaniel

Week ending: 19th September



Noah, Pippa, and Leah

Lunchtime Star:

Congratulations to Gia

Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = **95.9%**

Class name	Attendance week ending: 12/9/25	Attendance week ending: 19/9/25
Hedgehogs	97.81%	98.10%
Foxes	95.71%	95.71%
Wild Boar	95%	96.36%

House Points:

Week ending 12th September - **Yellow 71, Red 65 and Green 61**

Week ending 19th September - **Red 89, Yellow 83 and Green 74**

National Fitness Day:

Wednesday 24th of September was National Fitness Day. Both schools across our Federation were set mini activities each lasting 3 minutes with distances of 10m

1. Speed bounce (over cone/hurdle)
2. Egg and spoon relay
3. Rugby run up
4. Tennis ball dribble
5. Hurdles (x5)

Scores are currently being counted and divided by the number of participants to ensure fairness over the two schools. The winning school will be announced in our next newsletter.



This term, children in **Foxes** Class have been exploring a unique and expressive drawing pathway using charcoal. Rather than focusing on traditional, observational drawing, they've been encouraged to use the medium in bold, dynamic ways to capture a sense of drama and performance. By working on a larger scale and using their whole bodies to draw, children are discovering that drawing can be a physical and immersive experience. Children will be developing their own narratives and characters, using expressive marks to bring their stories to life.



Wild Boar Class have been enjoying their science topic learning about the properties of different materials and their uses. This week we investigated if different materials were thermal conductors or insulators to find out which would be best to use in a hot food container.



Hoglets (Reception) have enjoyed starting their mornings by sharing a story together. Children have consolidated their maths learning, during hands-on maths activities after their learning input.



PlayPod:

This term children are back enjoying our PlayPod. A recent survey and pupil voice stated it increases creative play, facilitates an inclusive play environment, improves partnership, sharing, communication, self confidence and helps children's risk management and problem solving.



**Scrapstore
PlayPod®**



Computer Club

Year 1 and Year 2 are thoroughly enjoying computer club this term! They have been introduced to the basics of coding in a fun and engaging way, learning how to create and program their very own simple games. Each session has sparked their creativity and curiosity, while helping them develop valuable problem-solving and digital skills. It's been great to see their confidence with technology grow!



Girls Football:

Girls from Year 3-6 gave it their all this week when attending a football tournament at Dene Magna. For many of them they tried something new and showed fantastic team spirit. We're so proud of their effort, enthusiasm and support for each other. Well done, girls!

"I was glad I went and tried something new" Hazel

"I didn't know the rules to football, so it was great to learn them today" Gia



National Teaching Assistants' Day

Today we have celebrated 'National Teaching Assistants' Day.' To mark the occasion, our Teaching Assistants enjoyed a well-deserved break together and received a certificate as a small token of thanks, while teachers covered playground duties. We are all grateful for the incredible support, patience and care they bring to our school environment every day - their hard work truly makes a difference in the lives of our children and within our school community.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

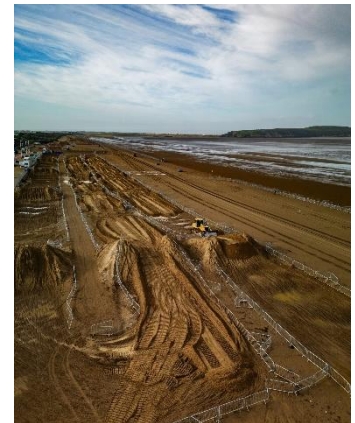
Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of School Celebrations:

Congratulations to Leo and Jessie-Rae for being recognised at football and getting player of the week.



On the first weekend of October, Jasper will be taking part in the famous Weston Beach Race.

This will be his first attempt at probably the most famous race within the racing calendar with riders from around the world travelling to take part. For Jasper the race is very different to his normal 15-20min race, lasting 1 hour and 15mins plus his last lap.

The race takes place on the Weston beach where a track is built in the weeks beforehand, racing a long straight along the shore before working back down along the beach over steep dunes, deep corners and jumps until reaching the straight again.

It is a brilliant day out for the family with even the smallest of interest in motorsport and bikes.

More information on tickets is on the website rhactivities.com

Jasper will be riding with the no 2 on his bike, in the kit in the pictures and a purple Mohawk on his helmet.

Good luck Jasper from all at Parkend School!

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	
Mon 29 th September	School Photographer in
Tues 30 th Sept, Thurs 2 nd Oct & Fri 3 rd Oct	Year 6 Bikeability (additional to our own Bike lessons)
Weds 1 st October	Year 5 Art Lesson at The Dean Academy *More info to follow*
Thurs 9 th October	Cyber Crime Parent Talk on Teams 7-8pm *Teams link to follow*
Fri 10 th October	Hello Yellow Day (Wear Yellow & Cash Donation for World Mental Health Day)
Fri 10 th October	Year 5 & 6 Prostars Football Tournament *Letters sent for selected children*
Mon 13 th October	Harvest Service at Parkend Church 2.30pm. Parents/Carers invited.
Thurs 16 th October	Friends Disco at Whitemead 5.30-7.30pm
Tues 21 st October	Nasal Flu Immunisation - Whole School.
Weds 22 nd & Thurs 23 rd October	Parents' Evening *Letter to follow* & Scholastic Book Fair
Thurs 23 rd October	Last day Term 1
Fri 24 th October	INSET - School closed to pupils
Mon 27 th - Fri 31 st October	Half term week
Fri 31 st October	Secondary School Application Deadline
Mon 3 rd November	Start of Term 2
Weds 12 th 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
Tues 18 th 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 th November	Foxes & Wild Boar Violin Concert to Parents 9.30am *Letter to follow*
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	Current afterschool clubs finish this week
Fri 19 th December	Last day Term 2
Mon 22 nd - Fri 2 nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5 th January	Start of Term 3



Community Links

We are excited to share that two parents from our school community, Rob Rawlings and Owen Greenhalgh, will be taking part in the Forest of Dean Half Marathon on Sunday, 29th September. They're running to raise funds for the Friends of Parkend School - our parent and carers volunteer group, which as many of you know, regularly runs events to enhance the school experience for Parkend pupils.

Funds raised will go towards projects such as playground updates, learning materials, and school events. If you're able to contribute, donations of any size are appreciated and will support ongoing efforts to enhance the school experience. You can donate online via:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/robert-rawlings-3?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/owen-g-parkend?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=WA

Thank you for your support.



£18 Discount for district!
PER DAY

OCTOBER HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

Venue
Freedom Lesuire Lydney
9:00-15:00

Session will be tailored to your child's ability and delivered in a fun, safe and social environment

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

To book visit: prostars.ipalbookings.com
For more information contact Mark-
07444436637/mark@prostars-fse.com



October KIDS CLUB



OCTOBER 27TH - 31ST FOR AGES 5-11



Get ready for **SPOOKTACULAR** seasonal themed sports, games and crafts!

- Pumpkin Bowling
- Autumn Themed Crafts
- Space Invaders
- Capture The Ghost
- Halloween Masks
- Den Dodgeball

Spaces fill fast - Sign up today for an October they won't forget!

locations

- PRIMROSE HILL ACADEMY - LYDNEY
- BERRY HILL PRIMARY - COLEFORD
- NAUNTON PARK - CHELTENHAM
- ASHFIELD PARK - ROW
- ROSARY CATHOLIC - STROUD

BOOK NOW
Prostars.ipalbookings.com



Mexican Coffee Morning



and Rebound Open Day

Come and Join us 10am to 12 noon
On Friday 19th September
Everyone is welcome

Come and find out about Rebound Therapy and have a go on our trampoline.

Enjoy Mexican themed refreshments available to purchase at our lovely rural site in Upper Stowfield, Lower Lydbrook, GL17 9PD.

Tel: 01594 883337 admin@orchard-trust.org.uk

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HALLOWEEN AT THE MUSEUM



Tessy Tumblepot's Potion Trail

14 Oct - 2 Nov | Daily
£2 per trail - Special prize included!

Brick or Treat - Halloween LEGO Sessions

28 Oct | 10am, 11am, 12pm & 1pm
£3 per child - parents go free!

Potions & Cauldrons: The Legend of Ceridwen the Witch

30 Oct | 10am, 11am, 12pm & 1pm
£6 per child - parents go free!

Ghosts & Giggles: Family Ghost Tour

Oct 31 | 5pm - 7pm
Adult: £15 & Child: £10 (12+)

Ghosts & Giggles: Family Tour of Haunted Gloucester

21 Dec & 13 Feb | 5pm - 7pm
Adult: £15 & Child £10 (12+)

BOOK NOW!



MUSEUM OF GLOUCESTER

Pride in ourselves, Achieve the best we can, Curious thinkers, Everyone together
 The small school with BIG ideas

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

12th November 1.15pm - 2.45pm (Wednesday)

18th November 9.15am - 10.45am (Tuesday)

3rd 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

OPEN DAYS

FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026

12th November 9.15am - 10.45am (Wednesday)

18th November 1.15pm - 2.45pm (Tuesday)

3rd December 9.15am - 10.45am (Wednesday)

"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