

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 64: 27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Big Walk and Wheel:



Today marks the last day for the Big Walk and Wheel initiative, thank you to all our families who have supported with this. We know that our rural location and busy roads don't always make active travel easy, but it was lovely to see so many parents and children giving it a try. Your enthusiasm and willingness to get involved despite the challenges helped create a real sense of community and encouraged pupils to think about healthy, active journeys.



Once official data is released, we will compare it with our previous results.

New Online Safety Updates for families:

The DfE and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) have added new guidance to the *Kids Online Safety* website to help families understand and support children with online bullying and gaming. The updated sections include signs of online bullying, what to do if a child is being bullied, tips for safer online gaming, and information on age ratings and parental controls. A link to the site is available for families to explore: [Kids online safety](#)

We have also updated our **Online Safety Policy** which includes our **Acceptable Use Expectations**. These can be found on our school website under **Key Information** → **Policies**.





Congratulations to Parkend's Netball Team!

Parkend School is celebrating a fantastic achievement after securing 1st place in their recent netball round at The Dean Academy. With an impressive four wins and one draw, the team topped the table with 24 points, finishing ahead of strong competitors Soudley and Tutshill. The children have shown great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout. Many of them are now looking forward to the planned finals at Newent School on Monday 20th April, where the North A & B teams will face the South A & B teams. We are incredibly proud of their hard work. Well done Parkend!



Partnership with Families

Thank you to all our KS1 families who joined us on Monday 16th March to celebrate Mothering Sunday in our Share a Story with Someone Special activity.

We also had a great turnout for our parents' evening last week where parents had the opportunity to share their child's learning by meeting the class teacher and looking through their child's books.



We had a fantastic time celebrating **Red Nose Day** this year! Thank you to everyone who joined in with the fun and helped us raise money for Comic Relief, in total the amount raised was £80.



House Points:

Week ending 13th March = Green 84, Red 79 and Yellow 65

Week ending 20th March = Yellow 118, Red 110 and Green 73

Autumn & Spring combined:	Red	Yellow	Green
	1658	1574	1459

Class updates:



Year 1 and Year 2 children have been busy exploring different joining techniques to design and create their own puppets, inspired by characters from *Little Red Riding Hood*. Using a variety of materials, they carefully selected and combined methods such as gluing, stapling, and pinning, to bring their ideas to life. The classroom has been filled with creativity as wolves, Grandmas, woodcutters and Little Red herself have taken shape, helping to develop both their practical skills and their storytelling imagination.

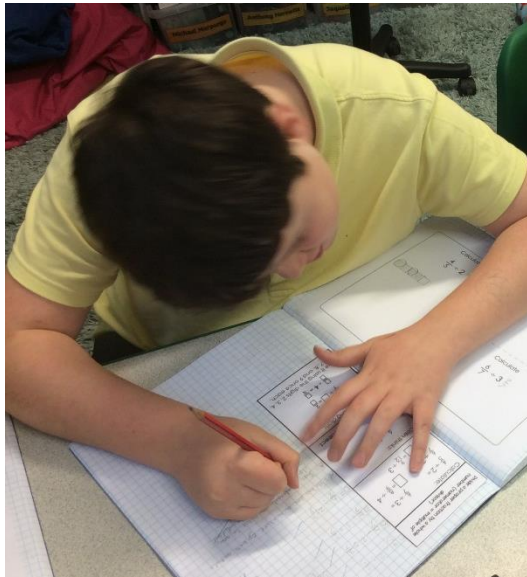
Design & Technology: Building Roman Forts - Foxes Class

This term, the children have thrown themselves into an exciting Design & Technology project all about structures, inspired by their History learning on the Romans. After exploring how Roman forts were designed for strength, defence, and organisation, the children investigated different ways to make their own structures stable—experimenting with bases, joins, and reinforcement techniques.

Using this new knowledge, they worked collaboratively to design and build their own model Roman forts, thinking carefully about features such as barracks, towers, gates, and defensive walls.

To bring their learning to life, we've got a fantastic trip booked to Caerleon Roman Fortress. The children will be able to walk through the remains of a real Roman amphitheatre, explore the barracks, and imagine what life would have been like for a Roman soldier.





Wild Boar Class have been continuing to work incredibly hard in Maths. Our Year 6 pupils have just completed their very long (and very impressive!) fractions unit after several weeks of determination and focus.

They should feel really proud of how much they've achieved.

Meanwhile, our Year 5s are excited to begin their new division unit. They've already noticed just how important their times tables are for tackling these calculations, and it's been a great opportunity for them to consolidate their learning.

They have also thoroughly enjoyed their PE unit this term, which has focused on teamwork and cooperation. This week, pupils were challenged to give clear directions using their knowledge of compass points to help their group navigate a course. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, listening skills and clear, concise instructions throughout the activity.



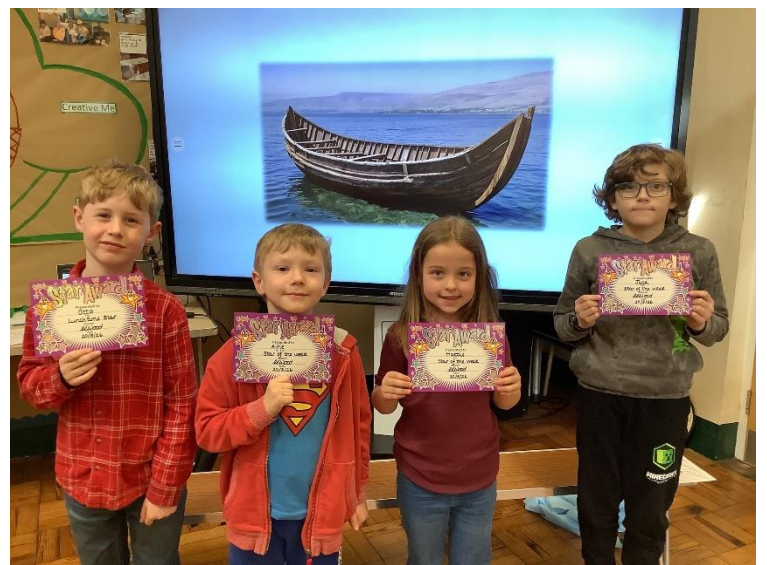
Star of the Week and Lunchtime Stars:

Week Ending 13th March

Week ending 20th March



Lunchtime Star = Otto B
Congratulations to Lilly-Violet, Hattie & Jasper



Lunchtime Star = Otto G
Congratulations to Alfie, Hattie & Jack

Give It a Go Day



Newent Community School hosted their annual 'Give it a Go Day'. Three of our children attended with their parents and had a fabulous day, really enjoying everything that was on offer.



Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = **93.94%**

Class name	Attendance week ending 13 th March:	Attendance week ending 20 th March:
Hedgehogs	93.04%	97.78%
Foxes	98.57%	97.86%
Wild Boar	95.45%	94.09%

Last term, I contacted all families whose children were either persistently absent or at risk of becoming persistently absent. I'm pleased to share that the majority of these pupils have shown improved attendance since then. For those whose attendance has not yet improved, most cases are linked to the recent increase in Chicken Pox. We fully appreciate that this is beyond your control, and we thank you for keeping us informed and following guidance.

The Federation Wellbeing Champions enjoyed a fantastic morning at Viney Hill, exploring the *Five Ways to Wellbeing* and taking part in an exciting tunnelling challenge. The activity put their perseverance, resilience, and teamwork skills to the test as they navigated the tunnels together. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to support one another, build confidence, and deepen their understanding of wellbeing in a fun and memorable way.



Outside of School Achievements:

Congratulations to Pippa who passed her Associated Board of the Royal School of Music Grade 1 Singing for Musical Theatre exam with a Merit.



As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, we would like to wish all our families a wonderful and restful Easter break. We hope you enjoy time together, whatever your plans may be.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 13th April**.

Happy Easter!

Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Community Links:

Beezee FAMILIES

Hello Easter Holidays!

Longer days, lighter mornings and a fresh little window to reset as a family. This Easter break, let's move more, eat well, and feel good together with no pressure, just progress. Here's a few tips to get you started;

Activity 1:
Get active as a family
Park trip, bike ride, or follow along movement video

Activity 2:
Try a mini "mission"
A nature walk, screen free hour, new fruit/veg, or learn some new dance moves

Activity 2:
Keep it simple with food
Why not bake something wholesome together like Easter carrot cupcakes or wholemeal hot cross buns

Our free Beezee Families programme is here to help you feel healthier and happier as a family. Hop into a healthier you this Easter holidays and see the difference all year round!

Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click the link

glo.maximusuk.co.uk

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

Children's POETRY WRITING COMPETITION

Bream Book Fair

Write a poem about **rain, sunshine, snow, storms, wind,** or any type of weather you like!

Who Can Enter:

- 5-7 years
- 8-11 years
- 12-16 years

Prizes:

£10 book voucher for the winner in each age category!

How To Enter:

Include your name and age, and hand your poem to a member of **Packed With Love** Monday 3rd August.

'Packed With Love' Poetry Competition.

Prizes to be presented at the Bream Book Fair on Sunday 16th August.

There are 3 age groups, and closing date is 3rd August, but we'd love to have entries before then, if possible. Entries and queries to: Jkhcrafts@aol.com. Thank you.

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

Autumn Term 1	
Fri 27 th March	End of Term 4
30 th Mar-Fri 10 th Apr	Easter Holidays
Mon 13 th April	Start of Term 5 - Children in
Tues 14 th April	Tennis Festival at Dene Magna School - *Letter sent to selected Yr3/4 children*
Tues 14 th April	Eco Club & Year 6 SATs Booster continues
Thurs 16 th April	September Reception Allocation Day
Fri 17 th April	Look Who's Talking Final - Guildhall in Gloucester
Mon 20 th April	Netball Final at Newent School
Thurs 23 rd April	Tenpin Bowling *Letter to follow for selected children*
Fri 24 th April	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Mon 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Tues 5 th May	Final Year 6 SATs Booster Club
Tues 5 th May	Archery at Viney Hill *Letter to follow for selected children*
Thurs 7 th May	5.30pm Parent Residential Evening - information for children and parents at Yorkley School Hall
Mon 11 th May - Thurs 14 th May	KS2 SATs week
Tues 19 th May	Final Eco Club After-school
Wed 20 th May	Foxes and Oberon's Federation trip to Caerleon. *Letter to follow*
Thurs 21 st May	Mountain Biking at Wyedean *Letter to follow for selected children*
Fri 22 nd May	End of Term 5
Mon 1 st June	Start of Term 6 - Children in
Mon 8 th June	Phonics Screening Check Week
Tues 9 th June	Parkend Sports Day 9am followed by family picnic (12-12.30)
Mon 15 th - Weds 17 th June	Year 5 & 6 London Residential
Mon 22 nd June	Father's Day (Hedgehog Class) Share a book with a special person 8.35-9am
Mon 22 nd June	Five Acres High Primary Maths Challenge Day *Letter to follow for selected Yr 5/6 children*
Wed 24 th June	Wyedean Transition Day - Year 6
Tues 30 th June	Year 5 Taster Day at The Dean Academy
Tues 30 th June	Five Acres Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 1)
Wed 1 st July	Five Acres Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 2)
Fri 3 rd July	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Mon 6 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 1)
Tues 7 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 2)
Tues 14 th July	Written Reports out to Parents
Fri 17 th July	End of Term 6 - School finishes 1.15