

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 63: 13th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

World Book Day:

Last week, our school proudly celebrated World Book Day, a wonderful opportunity for pupils and staff to come together and share their love of reading. In this National Reading Year, we've continued building a culture where stories are valued, voices are heard, and every child can discover the joy of books.

This year, many children and staff enjoyed exploring stories from different cultures, celebrating the rich diversity of books from around the world.



We are looking forward to welcoming parents/carers in to Hedgehog Class on Monday for our Mothers' Day 'Share a Story' event. Again, moments like these remind us how powerful it is when school and home work together to nurture a lifelong love of reading. It's always inspiring to see our pupils so enthusiastic, and we look forward to keeping this momentum going throughout the year.



Parent Engagement sessions:

Reception children were delighted to welcome their family members into the Forest Classroom, proudly sharing the exciting activities they enjoy outdoors. They showed how they explore nature, build with natural materials, and develop their curiosity through hands-on learning in the woodland environment. It was wonderful to see their confidence as they guided visitors around, explaining what they do and why they love spending time in the Forest Classroom.



Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Early Maths Parent Workshop, as well as the Reception and Year 1 Phonics Meetings. The Early Maths workshop was particularly well attended, and it was great to see parents engaging so positively and asking thoughtful, relevant questions across all sessions. We really appreciate your support and interest in your children's learning.

Wild Boar Class have been combining science with drama as part of our *Living Things* topic. Pupils have been working on their articulation and performance skills by acting out scenes that explain how the scientist Carl Linnaeus helped bring the scientific community together. Through their drama work, the children showed how Linnaeus created the clear and consistent system for naming and classifying living things that we still use today.



After their performances, the class took on an exciting challenge: racing against other groups to see who could *best remember and rebuild* the classification of a tiger using Linnaeus' model. The activity sparked fantastic teamwork, scientific thinking, and plenty of enthusiasm!

Look Who's Talking Oracy Competition:

Across our Federation we take part in the Gloucestershire Look Who's Talking competition. In the second round, three of our finalists Tilly, Pippa and Alyssa competed against other pupils from across the Forest of Dean for a place in the Grand Final at the Guildhall in Gloucester.

We are delighted to share that Pippa won her age category - a fantastic



achievement, especially given the exceptionally high standard of speaking across all schools

involved. Across our Federation, we also had a winner in the infants from Yorkley. This means that for the Grand Final, we have two out of the three Forest of Dean representatives - an incredible result!

READ - Gold Achievers



Elowyn, Pippa & Cosmos are the first pupils to successfully achieve their Gold READ champion certificate and get their photo on the board - an amazing effort all!

House Points:

Week ending 6th February = Green 85, Red 67 and Yellow 64

Week ending 27th February = Red 36, Yellow 32 and Green 22

Week ending 6th March = Green 103, Red and Yellow jointly 94

Chinese New Year:

Our EYFS children have been learning all about the Chinese New Year Festival. They enjoyed making their own lanterns and colourful dancing dragons, and had great fun taking part in traditional celebrations. The children also tried a selection of foods, including egg fried rice, peppers, fortune cookies and prawn crackers, a lovely opportunity to explore new tastes and talk about different cultures and traditions.



Star of the Week and Lunchtime Stars:

Week ending 6.02.2026

Week ending 27.2.2026



Lunchtime star = Genie

Congratulations to Eddie, Olivia and Chester.



Lunchtime Star = Isabel

Congratulations to Emmie, Rosie and Dexter.

Week ending 6.3.2026



Lunchtime star = Lilly-Violet

Congratulations to Olivia, Osian and Maia.

Sporting Events:

Parkend pupils took part in a multi-sport Panathlon event at Hartpury College, competing alongside other local schools. We are fortunate to have opportunities like this, which allow the children to try new activities, work as a team, and grow in confidence in a supportive setting.

The pupils approached each event with enthusiasm and represented the school well throughout the day. They were pleased to finish in bronze position and proudly brought their medals back to Parkend. Well done to all who took part and thank you to the parents for transporting children.



Outside Achievements -

Congratulations to Abigail who took up darts at Berryhill Social Club after being introduced to it

through the recent school competition. She won the shoot out!

Theo listened carefully to his coach during training and used his skills during the match to play very well, scoring 4 goals.

Brilliant effort again to Abigail and also to Pippa at their dance show called 'A million dreams or dancing queens.' They both had two dances each and Pippa sang a solo of Honey Honey.

Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation



GGT Fest

Growing Great Together



Wednesday 8th April
11am - 3pm

River Children and Family Centre,
Lydney, GL15 5AU

FREE Activities, Food & Fun for everyone to enjoy!

- Facepainting & Henna
- Arts & Crafts
- Sports & Games
- Music & Shows
- Inflatables & Climbing Wall
- Exclusive Youth Zone

To book your tickets, scan here:



Gloucestershire Gateway Trust
www.glosfamilycentres.org.uk

Welcoming Families. Connecting Communities



Join us for some outdoor fun at Wild Explorers

£5 off when booking all three sessions

31/03 | 01/04 | 02/04 | 8:45am-3:00pm

taking place @ Bream CofE Primary School

for children aged 5-13 years

£25 per session

Bookings must be made by Friday 20th March

wildexplorersfs@gmail.com 07535737926

Wild Explorers - Forest School and Outdoor Activities



with Bream Community Library

FREE Workshops for Young Gardeners

2026

Activities at West Dean Centre and Bream Community Library - for primary children and above

Thursday 2 nd April	Wildflowers in the Forest of Dean
2.00 - 4.00pm	Find out about the plants and how to grow them.
* West Dean Centre, Bream GL15 6JW	Make seed balls and seed paper.

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

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

U7'S GIRLS FOOTBALL

PLAYERS WANTED FOR OUR UNDER 7'S LIONESSES TEAM



FIRST 4 WEEKS TRAINING - ABSOLUTELY FREE!

ELLWOOD YOUTH U7 GIRLS

- SCHOOL YEAR 1 & 2
- GREAT FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT
- TRAINING SUNDAYS 10:00 - 11:00
- FUN PLAYING ENVIRONMENT

For more info, please message: Lee - 07817 968146 or email: admin@ellwoodyouthfc.co.uk

Knowing Me	Creative Me	Articulate Me	Future Me	Stronger Me
------------	-------------	---------------	-----------	-------------

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

Community Links:

Mrs Adams attended the service for the licensing and installation of Revd Joe Knight as Transitional Minister at Parkend Church, representing the Federation at this important moment in the life of the church community. It was a warm and meaningful occasion and we are delighted to welcome Revd Knight into his new role. We look forward to working closely with him in the months ahead and strengthening the partnership between the school and the church as part of our curriculum.

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

Autumn Term 1	
16 th -27 th March	Big Walk and Wheel Fortnight
Mon 16 th March	Hedgehog Class - Share a story for Mothers' Day - 8.35-9am
Tues 17 th March	Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm *No clubs running*
Weds 18 th March	Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Thurs 19th March	Netball at The Dean Academy *Letter sent to selected children*
Fri 20th March	Red Nose Day - Non-uniform with cash donation to Comic Relief
Tues 24th March	Give it a Go Day at Newent Community School *Selected children*
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 14th April	Tennis Festival at Dene Magna School - *Letter to follow for selected children*
Thurs 16 th April	September Reception Allocation Day
Fri 17th April	Look Who's Talking Final - Guildhall in Gloucester
Thurs 23rd 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 5th May	Archery at Viney Hill *Letter to follow for selected children*
Mon 11 th May - Thurs 14 th May	KS2 SATs
Fri 22 nd May	End of Term 5
Mon 1 st June	Start of Term 6 - Children in
Mon 8th June	Phonics Screening Check Week
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
Tues 30 th June	Year 5 Taster Day at The Dean Academy
Fri 3 rd July	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Fri 17 th July	End of Term 6

