

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 73: 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

This term, the School Council and Wellbeing Champions excitedly unpacked the new playground equipment that the children had chosen through a whole-school voting process last year. Pupils were able to consider a range of options, including table tennis equipment, an outdoor reading area and playground games, before voting for their preferred choices, helping them to develop an understanding of democracy and pupil voice.

Our School Council and Wellbeing Champions then helped to organise games and activities during lunchtime play.



All of the children were very keen to

use the new equipment and had great fun playing together, promoting active play, cooperation and positive wellbeing.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, which was held across the Federation. The event was a wonderful success, raising over £400 for a fantastic cause while bringing our school communities together. A special well done to our School Council representatives from both schools, who helped to organise and run the morning with support from Mrs James and Mrs Thorne. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, confidence and leadership skills, and were wonderful ambassadors for their schools.



School Council from Parkend and Yorkley
Schools



Community Support for Families

Thank you to **Young Minds Matter**, **CCP**, **Forest Pulse** and the **Food Bank** for joining us this morning. It was wonderful to have these organisations available to offer advice, guidance and support to our parents and families. We are grateful for the valuable services they provide within our community and for taking the time to share information about the help and opportunities available to local families. Their support plays an important role in promoting the wellbeing of our children and wider school community.

Picture News Live Assembly: How Can We Make Our School Allergy-Aware?

On Monday 28th September, the children took part in a special Picture News Live Assembly led by Clare Bristow from the Sadie Bristow Foundation. The assembly focused on helping pupils understand allergies and how we can all play a role in creating a safe, caring and inclusive school environment.

Clare explained what allergies are and introduced the children to the new allergy-safety requirements known as Benedict's Law.

Through thoughtful discussion and age-appropriate activities, the children explored how simple acts of kindness, understanding and responsibility can



help ensure that everyone feels safe, valued and included within our school community.

We are proud of the children's engagement and maturity during the assembly and look forward to continuing to develop their understanding of how they can support and care for others.

As part of the assembly, we also introduced the children to our KITT allergy response box and discussed how it can be used in the event of an allergic reaction. This helped pupils understand the practical steps that can be taken to support someone experiencing an allergy emergency and reinforced the importance of acting quickly and responsibly.



Whittling, Wildlife and Woodland Fun

During their first Forest School session of the year, the children were introduced to the skill of whittling using knives. Before they could begin, they learned how to carefully select a suitable stick and discussed the safety rules and techniques needed for successful whittling. This activity helped to develop a range of important skills, including risk assessment, concentration, hand-eye coordination, resilience and fine motor control. The children also enjoyed using their creativity, problem-solving and teamwork skills to design and build their own rope swings. They worked collaboratively, testing and adapting their ideas as they refined their designs.

Adding to the excitement of the session, they discovered an unusual-looking caterpillar. The children used their observation and enquiry skills to investigate and identify it as a Pale Tussock Moth Caterpillar, sparking lots of discussion about the natural world and local wildlife.



Star of the Week 18/09/2026

Congratulations to Olivia, Rosie and Ottilie
Lunchtime Star = Chester



Star of the Week 25/09/2026

Congratulations to Gianna, Eloise and Archie
Lunchtime Star = Sam. D



Sporting Success in Cross Country:

Well done to our Cross-Country Team, who represented the school brilliantly in their recent event. Laura, Maia, Hazel and Hattie proudly represented the girls' team, while Arthur, Otto, Leo and Will represented the boys. The children showed great determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout the competition and were excellent ambassadors for our school. We are very proud of their efforts and achievements.



Out of School Celebrations:



A huge well done to Luna on achieving her Level 4 Swimming Award, and to Raya for earning her Level 1 Swimming Award. Congratulations also to Jessie-Rae, who was named Coach's Player of the Match in recognition of her fantastic effort and commitment.

We are also delighted to celebrate Eloise's wonderful achievement. Eloise has been awarded a High Distinction, the highest grade possible in her Primary Ballet examination and proudly received a gold medal and certificate for her success. This is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the hard work, dedication and perseverance she has shown.

House Points:

Week Ending - 18th September - **Green 136, Yellow 123 & Red 120.**

Week Ending - 25th September - **Red 98, Yellow 90 & Green 88.**

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*

Every Day Counts!

Whole School Attendance = 95.39%

Class:	Week ending 18 th September	Week ending 25 th September	Points so far:
Hedgehogs	94.54%	98.96%	1
Foxes	92.86%	98.08%	1
Wild Boar	88.67%	97.33%	1

Music Mark Recognition

We are delighted to share that our school has been awarded the **Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication** by the **GSW Music Hub - Gloucestershire**. This award celebrates our commitment to providing high-quality music opportunities for our pupils and recognises the value we place on music as an important part of school life.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Autumn Term	
Tuesday 6 th October	School Photos.
Friday 9 th October	Hello Yellow Day £1 donation & non-uniform / wear yellow
Monday 19 th & Tuesday 20 th October	Scholastic Book Fair open to children at playtime
Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening *Letter to follow* - Scholastic Book Fair open on Wednesday
Monday 26 th - 30 th October	Half Term
Weds 11 th November	Open Afternoon 1.15-2.45pm for Reception September 2027
Thurs 19 th November	Open Morning 9.15-10.45am for Reception September 2027
Weds 2 nd December	Open Afternoon 1.15-2.45pm for Reception September 2027
W/C Mon 7 th December	Last week for after-school clubs
Monday 21 st December - Fri 1 st January	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4 th January	Start of Term 3
Tues 5 th January	Young Voices at BP Pulse Birmingham

Community News:

Get FREE meal plans

FREE! - ONLY IF YOU LIVE IN FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA- SIGN UP TODAY!

Every week you get:

- personalised meal plan
- smart shopping list
- chef hotline for help

Stop thinking about:

- what to cook
- what to buy
- how to eat healthier

Join 35,000+ others!

Scan the QR code to claim your offer

Or visit: [FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity](https://www.fivedinners.com/mycommunity)

"It's such a relief not having to think what to feed the family!"
- Carly, mum of one



FiveDinners

How does it work?

FREE FOR EVERYONE IN FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

Fed up with deciding what to cook every night?
Want to save money on food or eat more healthily?

How to claim your FREE membership:



- Visit [fivedinners.com/mycommunity](https://www.fivedinners.com/mycommunity) (or scan the QR code)
- Click on Forest of Dean District Council + Enter your postcode
- That's it! Receive a new mealplan every week, designed for you.

What you'll get:

- New personalised meal plan every week
- A complete shopping list for each week
- Easy, delicious recipes to take the stress out of mealtimes
- Access to a FREE chef hotline — message for help whenever you need it!

Meal plans can be tailored to suit your needs, including:
Veggie • Low-calorie • Menopause meals • Kids • Quick & easy • + lots more!

FREE access to FiveDinners meal planning platform for all residents of Forest of Dean District Council.

There's no catch, no trial period — just **completely FREE** membership, usually costing £86 per year - join over 35,000+ other members!

Sign up today and enjoy healthier meals, less stress and real savings.



Usually £86 per year - but 100% FREE
if you live in Forest of Dean District Council area!
Sign up today!

Knowing Me

Creative Me

Articulate Me

Future Me

Stronger Me

Pride in ourselves, Achieve the best we can, Curious thinkers, Everyone together
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TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

AMAZING LEGO DISPLAYS

NEW & RETIRED LEGO SETS

BUILD CHALLENGES

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

CHARITY TOMBOLA

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PLUS SO MUCH MORE!!

BRICKFESTIVALEVENTS.COM /GLOUCESTER

7TH NOVEMBER
GL1 LEISURE CENTRE

GLOUCESTER BRICK FESTIVAL

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF



Lydney Town Band

Celebration Concert 2026

Lydney Town Hall

Sunday 18th October

Featuring Lydney Training Band



World Premieres | Lydney Starter Group | Massed Band Finale

Doors 5:00pm Start 5:30pm

Adults £8 Concessions £5
Under 5s: Free

Pay on the door
(Cash or Card)

Raffle | Refreshments

For more information:

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