

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 57: 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Inter Faith Week and Remembrance:

This week, our school marked Inter Faith Week, themed 'Together We Serve', alongside Remembrance, reflecting on peace, respect and understanding between people of all backgrounds. The children learned how people of different faiths can work together to build harmony and how remembrance helps us value the sacrifices made for our freedom.

In our assembly, we linked these themes to our school value of Everyone Together, thinking about how standing side by side, supporting one another, and working for peace honours those who gave their lives so that we can live freely today. A special thank you to Mrs Bandy for playing 'The Last Post' on her bugle. Some of our children at the Bream Parade and Remembrance Service.



Thank you to Lily & her family for laying a poppy wreath at Lydney's parade on behalf of the school.



To celebrate Inter Faith Week, Wild Boar embraced the theme 'Community' through a series of activities. In class they discussed the communities they belong to and how they are built on kindness, respect and support.



They also looked at what the word 'community' actually means and how to say it in a variety of different languages.

House Points:

Week ending 23rd October Red 53, Yellow 42 and Green 40

Week ending 7th November: Yellow 107, Red 105 and Green 60

Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = 95.14%

Class name	Attendance week ending: 23 rd October	Attendance week ending: 7 th November
Hedgehogs	96.83%	98.10%
Foxes	92.86%	91.43%
Wild Boar	96.02%	93.64%

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

Week ending: 23rd October



Congratulations to Lily, William and Laura
Lunchtime Star = Emilio

Week ending: 7th November



Congratulations to Lyra, Sylvie and Henry
Lunchtime Star = Maia



Gloucestershire Music Hub have awarded us a new and more precious award this year, focussing on recognising our ambition and commitment towards music.

This recognition, which replaced the previous Music Mark Schools Programme in September 2025, is granted by Music Mark, the UK Association for Music Education, on behalf of a local music service.



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*

Forest Friday - Hedgehogs, Foxes & Wild Boar Class:



Children love taking part in our forest school sessions, where learning happens outdoors. They enjoy exploring the natural world, building dens from sticks and leaves, and working together to create their own little shelters. As they wander through the woods, they look closely for wildlife and tiny bugs hiding under logs or leaves, discovering new things about nature with excitement and curiosity. These hands on experiences help children build confidence, teamwork, and a deep appreciation for the environment around them.



Out of School Contributions: Bream Show.



Huge congratulations to Mrs Wright and a group of our children who **jointly WON** the Gerald Dowle Schools' Challenge shield with Ellwood School. All the produce entered was from our school garden.



Mrs Wright, Tabitha, Sylvie, Cosmos, Sam & Jack all attended school on Saturday 1st November to get their show case ready - that's dedication!

Christmas Songs:

Hedgehog Class have begun practising singing for their Nativity play, "Whoops-A-Daisy Angel". They are looking forward to performing it to their families nearer Christmas time.

School Website:

We have now launched our updated website and over the next term would love to know how easy you are finding it to navigate. We will also be launching soon the app that goes with it - once live please download it as this will allow you to get instant updates from us, helping you stay up to date.

School Friends:

Thank you to the Friends for purchasing each class a visualizer. Teachers can place books, worksheets, drawings, or even 3D objects (like leaves, coins, or science models) under the camera. The image is projected on a screen, so everyone can see it clearly.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of School Celebrations:

Last week we had a lot of out of school achievements to congratulate our children for:

- Congratulations to Leo as he was awarded a medal for focus at football training.
- Hazel came 3rd in a mountain bike race and her brother Sam also competed (year 1) showing true commitment and bravery at his age.
- Gia and Laura raised £130 for The FOD Dog Rescue charity with Penny for a Guy which they made.
- Gia also became a Sixer in Scouts so she will get to lead a pack.
- Alana has now achieved her marathon 21 runs at Parkrun - Wow!



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

Autumn Term 1	
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
Fri 21 st November	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill. Packed lunch needed. *Details sent*
Weds 26 th November	Foxes & Wild Boar Violin Concert to Parents 9.30am *Letter sent*
Fri 28 th November	Deadline for ordering Christmas Lunch
Weds 3 rd December	Year 1 & Year 2 Trip to Forest Community Church Christmas Experience. *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	Hedgehog Class Nativity Dress Rehearsal to Whole School
Mon 8 th December	Current afterschool clubs finish this week
Tues 9 th December	Reception & Year 6 Height, Weight & Vision Screening *Details sent*
Weds 10 th December	Hedgehog Class Nativity 9.30am *Letter to follow*
Thurs 11 th December	Hedgehog Class Nativity 2pm *Letter to follow*
Mon 15 th December	Whole School Cinema Trip *Letter to follow*
Tues 16 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumpers!
Weds 17 th December	Carol Service at Parkend Church 5.30pm *Letter to follow*
Fri 19 th December	Last day Term 2 - School finishes at 1.15pm
Mon 22 nd - Fri 2 nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5 th January	Start of Term 3

Community Links

See below



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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
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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

Free Winter Activities for Children, Young People & Families



The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) returns this winter with lots of fun activities and delicious food available for children and families from **20 December to 4 January**.

HAF activities are available for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. This winter we are also able to extend this offer to any child who may benefit from attending the programme, through our grant funded Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

Bookings open from midday on 1 December. Make sure you're ready to book by checking your account now
familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Use our handy checklist below to make sure that:

- All your children have an individual profile added to your account.
- Emergency contact details are filled in for each child profile
- Any additional needs or disability information is included for each child profile
- Your details reflect any recent changes (e.g. new address, phone contact details)

Setting up an account is easy:

Scan this QR Code with a phone camera for quick access



If you need any HAF related help then please contact us:

T: 07340 709 871

E: gloshafconnector@gmail.com




Read Together

after-school

at River Children and Family Centre
Lydney, GL15 5AU

3:15pm - 4:30pm

All sessions FREE
No need to book!

Every Monday
10th Nov through to 8th Dec

In partnership with
Gloucestershire Gateway Trust
Gloucestershire Gateway Partnership

- Group storytime
- Themed craft activity
- Snack break
- Books to take home
- Wind down time

www.readwithme.org.uk

ReadWithMe2020

ReadWithMeOrg

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Read Together
after-school
at Hilltop Children and Family Centre
Cinderford, GL14 2QA
3:15pm - 4:30pm

Read with me
Registered Charity no. 1213580

All sessions **FREE**
No need to book!

Every Wednesday
12th Nov though to 10th Dec

In partnership with
Gloucestershire Gateway Trust
Gloucestershire Gateway Partnership

- Group storytime
- Themed craft activity
- Snack break
- Books to take home
- Wind down time

www.readwithme.org.uk ReadWithMe2020 ReadWithMeOrg



BREAKOUT
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

For primary aged children

Songs
Games
Bible stories
Craft

Forest New Life Church
Opposite the cricket pitch in Parkend

Breakout after school club is a free event run by Forest New Life Church.
More information from Jonathan Kear
jonathan@forestnewlife.org.uk

Every Friday in term time
3:30pm - 5:15pm

FOREST NewLife CHURCH
Life in the forest through life in Christ



Clay & Leaf

A Seasonal Circle of Clay, Imagination, and Woodland Magic
with Fleen Doran - professional potter with 13 years teaching experience

Step into the golden stillness of autumn and let your child's imagination come alive in this enchanting seasonal session. In this creative workshop for children aged 4-10 (and their adult), we'll blend clay play, forest adventure, storytelling, and nature crafts to celebrate the wonder of the turning year.

Forest Folk & Woodland Creatures

With clay and autumn treasures — acorns, pinecones & fallen leaves, children will shape their own magical forest beings: fairies, gnomes, mythical creatures, and forest folk. Together, we'll take these creations on a gentle woodland walk, building tiny autumnal dens and nesty-nooks for them beneath the trees.

Forest Dwellings & Woodland Homes

As part of our story-led journey, each child's clay creature will be placed in its cosy woodland setting. A photo will be taken of their creation in its natural 'home' before we return to the hall, leaving the tiny dens behind for other fairies and forest animals to discover.

Clay Leaf Garlands

Back in the warmth of the hall, children will create five leaf-shaped clay pieces, using found autumn leaves to imprint beautiful natural textures. These garland pieces will be kiln-fired and glazed by Fleen after the workshop, ready for collection a few weeks later.

Storytelling, Tea & Cake

The session weaves in gentle, seasonal storytelling and poetry — encouraging mindful connection with nature and imagination. We'll close the morning with shared tea and homemade cake, nestled in the warm glow of our autumn creativity.

What to Expect on the Day: Nature-based clay modeling & storytelling • Forest walk with nest-making

• Creation of autumn leaf garland pieces • Clay creatures to take home • Organic home-baked cake & seasonal tea • Gentle, mindful guidance, small-group size (max 10 children)

Following on: Clay pieces dry, are bisque-fired, slip-decorated, glazed, and strung into a garland
• Families collect the garland plus a photo of each child's clay creature (≈3 weeks)

Spaces are limited to ensure a calm, creative space—booking essential

Date: Sunday 16th November.

Time: 10:00am – 12:20pm.

Location: Parkend Memorial Hall, Forest of Dean, GL15 4JF

Ages: 4 – 10 years, all children must be accompanied by an adult for the full session.

Cost: £40 per child (includes all materials, firing of leaf garlands, and organic refreshments)

Email: fleeny@gmail.com

Tel: 07890 706518

website: www.fleendoran.com

Instagram: @fleendoran

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