

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 69: 3rd July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

My last newsletters took a slightly different format, with three special editions keeping families updated on our wonderful London residential. Since then, it has been a busy few weeks, packed with transition activities and celebrations in Sports and History.

Last week was particularly unusual. Whilst many schools closed or partially closed during the heatwave, we remained open throughout. The adaptations needed to keep everyone safe brought back memories of the flexibility and creativity we all became accustomed to during the Covid years. Thankfully, our children took it all in their stride, as they always do. Now, with just two weeks left of the academic year, this penultimate newsletter is an opportunity to celebrate some of the many events and achievements that seem to have flown by at remarkable speed.

History Quiz:



Congratulations to our three Year 5 pupils, from Wild Boar Class, who represented Parkend in the Local Forest of Dean History Quiz. Competing against teams from other local schools, they showed incredible knowledge of the Forest of Dean and demonstrated excellent teamwork, combining their knowledge and supporting each other throughout the competition. The team won their heat and progressed to the final the very next day where they achieved an excellent second place overall.

The History Society commented on how impressed they were with our team's performance as they were the only team competing with just three members.



Secondary Links and Transition Days

As part of preparing for the next stage of their education, our Year 6 pupils have been enjoying transition days at their feeder secondary schools. Visits to Five Acres, Monmouth, Wydean and Dean Academy have provided valuable opportunities to explore their new surroundings, meet staff and fellow students, and experience a taste of secondary school life. These visits have helped build confidence and excitement as they look forward to starting their new schools in September.

Year 5 Taster Day at Dean Academy

On Tuesday 30th June, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed an exciting taster day at Dean Academy. Throughout the day, they took part in a range of engaging lessons, including a Maths activity where they designed and tested paper helicopters to see how long they could stay in the air. In Food Technology, the children baked delicious blueberry muffins, while Science provided plenty of excitement with some spectacular explosions that certainly grabbed everyone's attention!

The children were a credit to Parkend School, demonstrating excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the visit.



"My favourite part of the day was meeting the school dog, Pan." Gia

"My favourite part was cooking the muffins." Jack

Orienteering Event

Before the heat wave, six children from Wild Boar Class took part in an exciting Orienteering Event with other local primary schools.

Despite the rain, the children showed fabulous teamwork and map reading skills to find hidden markers amongst the trees.



House Points:

Week ending 12th June = Green = 76, Red = 71 and Yellow = 67
Week ending 19th June = Red = 90, Green = 78 and Yellow = 54

Attendance Really Matters

Current Whole School Attendance = 92.82%

Class name	Attendance week ending 12 th June	Attendance week ending 19 th June	Attendance week ending 26 th June *Heat wave when school remained open
Hedgehogs	95.28%	91.77%	62.66%
Foxes	93.57%	85%	50.71%
Wild Boar	97.14%	90%	61.43%

Star of the Week and Lunchtime Stars:

Week Ending 12th June



Congratulations to Lyra, Luna and Leonardo
Lunchtime Star = Sam

Week Ending 19th June



Congratulations to Pippa, Narah and Poppy
Lunchtime Star = Henry

Wild Boar Class have been catching up on their DT topic of pop-up books and have thoroughly enjoyed exploring a range of paper engineering techniques. They learned how to create parallel folds and pivots, as well as how to use layers and spacers to make their illustrations come to life.

The children designed their books around a nursery rhyme, carefully considering the target audience, form and function, and were very proud of the creative and imaginative final products they produced.



During **Forest Classroom**, Ian set Hedgehog Class the challenge of building a shelter in small groups. The children worked together to plan, design, and construct their dens using materials given. They communicated their ideas clearly, listened to one another, and negotiated roles and responsibilities within their teams. Throughout the activity, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills as they overcame challenges, adapted their designs, and supported each other in completing the task. Well done, Hedgehogs!

Our **Reception children** worked in their outside area as a team to build a den. They communicated well, shared ideas, and took on different roles to support their project. Some children became builders and roofers while others acted as carpenters, creating and strengthening parts of the den. Several children took on the role of interior designers, arranging and decorating the inside space. One child became a plumber, using their imagination to add features to the den, while others helped as cleaners, ensuring the area remained tidy and safe. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, problem-solving skills, creativity, and cooperation throughout the activity



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*

More Forest Classroom:

Wild Boar and Foxes have been thrilled to get stuck back into Forest Classroom with Ian this half term. In the first week, the children took part in a range of exciting team-building challenges, including transporting water without touching the bucket, which really got them thinking and working together. In the second week, they showed fantastic collaboration by building a bridge across the stream, which they were incredibly proud of! Their third week, the focus was on developing listening skills and the children had great fun creating a mud slide, which was definitely a highlight for many. It has been wonderful to see their teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm out in the forest!



Our Fathers' Day Share a Book with a Special Person Event was a wonderful celebration of reading and family time. We were delighted to welcome so many parents, carers and special family members into school to share stories with the children. It was fantastic to see so many children enjoying books alongside the important people in their lives and sharing their enthusiasm for reading. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation



Out of School Celebrations - some amazing achievements!

- Alana was named Player of the Week for Whitecroft Wildcats, she played with several other Parkend girls including Lyra and Sylvie.
- Lily proudly earned her first gymnastics medal.
- Sylvie chose to spend her after-school time litter picking, filling a whole bag with rubbish and helping the local community.
- Eloise attended an audition at the Royal Ballet School and has been invited to join the Junior Online Associate Programme after auditioning alongside over 1160 dancers - an amazing achievement!
- Bluey was awarded Coaches' Player of the Season for rugby.
- Theo and his football team finished the season as overall winners.
- Sophie achieved her Brown Belt in martial arts.
- Jessie-Rae and her football team came second in a recent tournament.
- Henry was named Player of the Match for his football team.



Knowing Me	Creative Me	Articulate Me	Future Me	Stronger Me
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Reminder - Young Writers Summer Term Competition

We are excited to invite children to take part in the Young Writers "Big Poetry Party" and "Story Lab" competitions! These fantastic writing opportunities encourage creativity and imagination, and entries can be submitted in school until **Monday 13th July**. In the **Big Poetry Party** competition (ages 4-11), Young Writers will pick their favourite **five poets** who will each win a **£50 gift voucher of their choice**. In the **Story Lab** competition (ages 7-11), Young Writers will pick their favourite **five writers** who will each receive **£100 and a trophy!**

We would love as many children as possible to enter and share their wonderful ideas and writing talents. If you are interested, please speak to your teacher over the next few weeks for more information on how to enter. Good luck!



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

Summer Term:	
Mon 6 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 1)
Mon 6 th July	Moving up Morning 9am-1pm inc September Reception Intake
Tues 7 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day - Year 6 (Day 2)
Tues 7 th July	Moving up Morning 9am-1pm inc September Reception Intake
Wed 8 th July	September Reception Intake Parent Information Evening 5pm
Wed 8 th , Thurs 9 th & Tues 14 th July	Foxes & Wild Boar at Whitemead for Performance Rehearsals *Letter sent*
Mon 13 th July	Reception - Year 5 Reports out to Parents
Tues 14 th July	Foxes & Wild Boar Performance at Whitemead 5pm *Letter sent*
Thurs 16 th July	Year 6's Shirt Signing
Fri 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly to Year 6 Parents/Carers 8.45am
Fri 17 th July	Wild Boar Class Water Fight & Class Party
Fri 17 th July	End of Term 6 - School finishes 1.15
Tue 1 st and Wed 2 nd September	INSET Days - School Closed
Thurs 3 rd September	Start of Autumn - Term 1

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2026/27



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER						OCTOBER						NOVEMBER					
Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues	3	10	17	24	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thur	3	10	17	24		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur	5	12	19	26	
Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat		5	12	19	26												
Sun		6	13	20	27												
DECEMBER						JANUARY						FEBRUARY					
Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		5	12	19	26	Tues	2	9	16	23	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thur	3	10	17		31	Thur		7	14	21	28	Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat		5	12	19	26												
Sun		6	13	20	27												
MARCH						APRIL						MAY					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tues	2	9	16	23	30	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues	4	11	18	25	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thur	4	11	18	25		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur	6	13	20	27	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat		6	13	20	27												
Sun		7	14	21	28												
JUNE						JULY						AUGUST					
Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tues	1	8	15	22	29	Tues		6	13	20	27	Tues	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thur	3	10	17	24		Thur	1	8	15	22	29	Thur	5	12	19	26	
Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat		5	12	19	26	Sat		3	10	17	24	Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun		6	13	20	27	Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29

Term Time	Holidays
Bank Holiday	INSET

Term 1: Tue 1 st Sept – Fri 23 rd Oct 2026	39 days
Term 2: Mon 2 nd Nov – Fri 18 th Dec 2026	35 days
Term 3: Mon 4 th Jan - Fri 12 th Feb 2027	30 days
Term 4: Mon 22 nd Feb – Thur 25 th Mar 2027	24 days
Term 5: Mon 12 th April – Fri 28 th May 2027	34 days
Term 6: Mon 7 th June – Wed 21 st July 2027	33 days
Total	195 days*

Christmas Bank Holidays	25 th December 2026
	26 th December 2026
New Year Bank Holiday	1 st January 2026
Good Friday	26 th March 2027
Easter Monday	29 th March 2027
Early May Bank Holiday	3 rd May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	31 st May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	30 th August 2027

*195 days are defined as "School days". In the school year 2026/27 pupils must attend for 190 days. Schools may decide individually or collectively which 5 days in the year are INSET or non-contact days (days pupils do not need to attend). Academies and free schools are not legally bound by school day and school year regulations; however, the DfE has stated they should be working towards a minimum of 32.5 hours per school week by September 2024 at the latest.

Please Note: As per the Governance handbook, academies and free schools can choose to set their own term dates. Schools considering alternative dates or considering changes to their school opening times may wish to contact our Transport Team to discuss transport implications and contact local childcare providers to discuss what impact this could have.



Forest of Dean Local
History Society

Schools History Competition and History Quiz Open Afternoon

Sunday 5th July 2026 14:00 - 16:00

**at The Main Place, Old Station Road, Coleford
GL16 8RH**

**Free Entry, drop in to see all the pupils'
work, including the winning entries**



Find us in YOUR
local community
this summer!

Join us at partner picnics, play sessions,
family events and community activities for
FREE family fun throughout the summer

JULY

Quedgeley

Saturday 4th July
Family Fiesta
9:30am-4pm
Fishers Meadow

Monday 27th July
Play Rangers
Community Play
10am-4pm
Manor Farm Park
Kingsway

Coney Hill

Tuesday 28th July
HAF Pop Up
Activity Day
10am-2pm
The Vibe

Matson

Saturday 11th July
First Blast Fun Fest
11am-3pm
Three Oaks Park

Thursday 23rd July
Hillside Community
Picnic
11am-3pm
Hillside School Field

Linden

Thursday 30th July
HAF Pop Up
Activity Day
10am-2pm
The Lannett

Forest of Dean

Tuesday 28th July
10am-12pm
Sedbury

Saturday 25th July
Lydney
Community Event
2pm - 7pm
Bathurst Park

Thursday 30th July
10am-12pm
St Briavels

FOR FULL DETAILS
glosfamilycentres.org.uk

FREE ACTIVITIES

FRIENDLY FACES

EVERYONE WELCOME

PROSTARS KIDS CLUB

SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

FUN, ACTIVE & CREATIVE HOLIDAY CLUB FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-11!

VENUES FOR THIS SUMMER:

- PRIMROSE HILL - LYDNEY
- BERRY HILL - COLEFORD
- WYEDEAN - CHEPSTOW
- ABBEYMEAD - GLOUCESTER
- NAUNTON PARK - CHELTENHAM
- WALFORD - ROW

MAKE MEMORIES, MAKE FRIENDS, HAVE FUN!

BOOK NOW! prostars.ipalbookings.com

OR SCAN THE QR CODE

SPORTS GAMES CREATIVE ACTIVITIES & LOTS MORE!

KEEP ACTIVE **MAKE NEW FRIENDS** **TRY NEW THINGS** **SAFE, FUN & SUPPORTIVE** **OUTDOOR & INDOOR FUN!**



AUGUST

Kingsway

Monday 3rd August
Play Rangers
Community Play
Sessions
10am-4pm
Manor Farm Park

Tuesday 4th August
HAF Pop Up Activity
Day
10am-2pm
Kingsway Field,
behind Sports
Pavilion

Monday 10th August
Play Rangers
Community Play
Sessions
10am-4pm
Manor Farm Park

Monday 17th August
Play Rangers
Community Play
Sessions
10am-4pm
Manor Farm Park

Abbeyle

Thursday 6th August
HAF Pop Up Activity Day
10am-2pm
Gleaven Way Park, next
to Community Centre

Longlevens

Friday 7th August
HAF Pop Up Activity Day
10am-2pm
Armscroft Park

White City

Wednesday 12th August
HAF Pop Up Activity Day
10am-2pm
The Venture
Community Hub

Tredworth

Thursday 13th August
HAF Pop Up Activity Day
10am-2pm
Parry Field

Kingsholm

Friday 14th August
HAF Pop Up
Activity Day
10am-2pm
Serbert Street Park

Tuffley

Tuesday 18th August
HAF Pop Up Activity Day
10am-2pm
Holmleigh Park

Forest of Dean

Thursday 13th August
10am-12pm
Joys Green

Saturday 15th August
Bells Field Family Fun Day
2pm-5pm
Bells Field, Coleford

Friday 28th August
10am-12pm
Mitcheldean

Westgate

Thursday 20th August
HAF Festival
10am-2pm
The King's School

FOR FULL DETAILS



FREE ACTIVITIES

FRIENDLY FACES

EVERYONE WELCOME

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



HAPPY CIRCUS

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST
LYDBROOK RECREATION GROUND

GATES OPEN 12:00 PM **BIG TOP OPENS 1:30 PM** **SHOW STARTS 2:00 PM**

BAR & BBQ

TICKETS £10 (ADULTS & CHILDREN) **FAMILY TICKET £35**

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
www.ticketsource.com/lydbrook-memorial-hall

COME ALONG FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CIRCUS FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



Orchard Trust

Summer Fair 2026

BBQ
Bar
Ice Creams
Cakes

Live Music
Stalls & Games
Animal Petting
Henna

Sunday 5th July 2026
1pm - 4pm

Upper Stowfield, Lower Lydbrook GL17 9PD.
www.orchard-trust.org.uk 01594 861137 Charity No. 801122

Adults £1.50 Under 12's free

Tel: 01594 861137

admin@orchard-trust.org.uk



@orchardtrust

www.orchard-trust.org.uk

Charity No. 801122



FOREST NEW LIFE CHURCH
PARKEND
MON 27TH - FRI 31ST JULY

A Tale of Two Kings

A FREE HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB
10AM - 2PM

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICE
2ND AUGUST

EMAIL [JONATHAN@FORESTNEWLIFE.ORG.UK](mailto:jonathan@forestnewlife.org.uk)

SCAN TO REGISTER

FOR ALL CURRENT RECEPTION TO SCHOOL YR 6 AGED CHILDREN



GYMNASTICS HOLIDAY CAMPS

A range of high-quality gymnastics sessions designed and delivered by qualified coaches to support every child. Whether they want a fun day, focused skill development, or personalised coaching, we have got something for them!

HOW TO FIND US

Dene Magna School, Abenhall Road, Mitcheldean, GL17 0DU

BOOK NOW
VIA THE
MICROSOFT
FORM AND
SECURE
YOUR
PLACE!



GYMNASTICS FUN CAMP

05/08
12/08
19/08
9:00 - 15:00

£35

An inclusive, confidence-boosting day packed with games, challenges, crafts and gymnastics for all abilities! The fun camp is all about teamwork and enjoyment, giving all children a positive experience with gymnastics.

Ages 4 - 11

A focused morning designed to help gymnasts develop specific skills, refine technique, and build strength and flexibility. Sessions are structured around progressions for skills like handstands, cartwheels, walkovers, and more!

Ages 5+

£25



GYMNASTICS SKILLS CAMP

07/08
14/08
21/08
9:00 - 12:00

Ages 5+

PRIVATE SESSIONS

07/08
14/08
21/08
13:00 - 15:00

Structured individual or pair private sessions with qualified coaches, tailored entirely to the gymnasts' goals. Whether they want to learn a specific skill and build confidence, or preparing for an upcoming competition, private sessions offer focused attention and rapid improvement.

1:1 £25

2:1 £40

SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO BOOK!



EXCITING NEWS
FOR FOREST OF DEAN GIRLS!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR GIRLS WHO ARE:

- ✓ CURRENTLY IN YEAR 5 GOING INTO YEAR 6
- ✓ CURRENTLY IN YEAR 4 GOING INTO YEAR 5
- ✓ INTERESTED IN FOOTBALL, MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND BEING PART OF AN EXCITING NEW TEAM!



YORKLEY A.F.C.
IS LAUNCHING A
BRAND-NEW
GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM!

Whether you've played football before or are completely new to the game, we'd love to hear from you. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop your skills, build confidence, stay active and be part of a growing girls' football community in the Forest of Dean.

Be part of the start of

SOMETHING SPECIAL.



FA-QUALIFIED COACHING



FUN AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT



OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAIN, DEVELOP AND PLAY MATCHES



SUPPORTING OUR GIRLS TO GROW AND SUCCEED



OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES - EVERYONE WELCOME!



YORKLEY A.F.C. - NEW FOREST OF DEAN GIRLS TEAM
CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TRAINING DETAILS

#GirlsFootball #ForestOfDean #YorkleyAFC #GirlsInSport #FootballForAll
#FutureLionesses #GrassrootsFootball #GirlsFootballDevelopment #WatchThisSpace