

PARKEND NEWSLETTER



Issue 59: 18th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whoops-A-Daisy Angel.

The infant children from Hedgehog class were a delight to watch in the play Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. They showed great confidence and enthusiasm in both performances for parents, as well as during the dress rehearsal for the whole school and Nursery. The children sang beautifully, remembered their parts, and filled the hall with smiles, making it a truly special experience for everyone who watched. A huge thank you also goes to all the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the children and make the show such a success.





Federation Trip

Years 1 and 2 from Parkend and Apollo Class at Yorkley enjoyed a wonderful visit to Cinderford Community Church for their Christmas Experience. On arrival, the children took part in a variety of organised games, activities and crafts, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

They then explored the interactive trail, which included six themed stations: *The Christmas Story Begins*, *Mary's House*, *Joseph's Workshop*, *The Shepherds*, *The Wise Men*, and *The True Meaning of Christmas*. Each station brought the story to life in a magical and engaging way.

The children behaved impeccably throughout and were a true credit to Parkend. It was a memorable experience that captured the excitement and wonder of the Christmas season.



House Points:

Week ending 28th November: Red 84, Yellow 58 and Green 44.
Week ending 5th December: Red 56, Yellow 52 and Green 45.

Total this term:

Red currently 1 st	Yellow currently 2 nd	Green currently 3 rd
1031	911	774

Attendance Matters:

Current Whole School Attendance = 94.63%

Class name	Attendance week ending: 28 th November	Attendance week ending: 5 th December	Attendance week ending: 12 th December
Hedgehogs	96.83%	91.75%	87.38%
Foxes	94.29%	98.57%	87.14%
Wild Boar	95.91%	93.18%	95.45%

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

Week ending: 28th November



Otto, Rosie and Leah
Lunchtime star - Skyla

Week ending: 5th December



Dexter, Leo and Raya
Lunchtime star - Leah

Cinema Trip:

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Friends of Parkend for generously funding the recent cinema tickets to Coleford. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching Zootropolis 2 and had a fantastic time sharing the experience with their classmates. The Friends continued support helps create memorable opportunities like this, and it is very much appreciated by both pupils and staff.



Drinks and Popcorn also added to the experience.

Brass Concert:



We were delighted to welcome Roger Deeks and "Santa's Band from the North Pole" to our school for a very special musical treat. The Brass Band performed to the whole school, filling the hall with festive cheer as they played traditional carols such as Away in a Manger and Good King Wenceslas, alongside favourite Christmas songs including Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bells and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree. The children thoroughly enjoyed singing along and celebrating the Christmas spirit together.

Santa Dash:



Following Christmas dinner (once the food had gone down!), the children had great fun taking part in the Santa Dash. It was a lively and festive way to burn off some energy, with lots of smiles, laughter, and Christmas cheer enjoyed by everyone.

Christmas Dinner:

A huge thank you to all of the kitchen staff at Yorkley for preparing our delicious traditional Christmas dinner. An incredible 385 meals were cooked, making it a truly impressive team effort. Staff and Governors thoroughly



enjoyed serving and sharing this special meal alongside the children, creating a warm and festive atmosphere that was enjoyed

Special Visitor:



Children at Parkend were excited to have Santa Visit!

Parkend Carol Service:

Thank you to everyone who attended our Church Service yesterday evening. As always, the children spoke with confidence and sang beautifully, making the service truly special. We are very proud of them and grateful to our families and staff for their continued support.

Festive Forest Schools:



A big thank you to Ian from 'Follow My Lead' for delivering a fantastic fire safety session with our children. They learned important lessons about staying safe around fire while also enjoying the fun of toasting marshmallows and taking part in hands-on activities. Sessions like this highlight the many benefits of Forest School, helping children build confidence, develop practical life skills, work together, and connect with nature through meaningful, memorable experiences.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of School Celebrations:



Congratulations to Sophie for achieving a brown belt in Martial Arts.

George also achieved an orange and white striped belt in Martial Arts.

Jessie-Rae was player of the week at football.



Congratulations to Arthur and Bluey playing for Berry Hill Rugby Club, in their defeat against both Ross and Cinderford.

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

Autumn Term 1	
Fri 19th December	Last day Term 2 - School finishes at 1.15pm
Mon 22nd-Fri 2nd Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5th January	Start of Term 3
Mon 5 th January	Look Who's Talking Class Heats taking place this week
Mon 5 th January	After-school Clubs start this week
Weds 7 th January	Visit from MP Matt Bishop
Thurs 15 th January	Reception September 2026 Application Deadline
Thurs 15 th January	Look Who's Talking Whole School Heats
Mon 26 th January	Year 5's Dance Workshop at The Dean Academy. *Details to follow*
Fri 6 th February	Federation Future Me Day at Yorkley School
W/C Mon 9 th February	Last Week for Current After-school Clubs (Coding Club finishes 5.2)
Weds 11 th February	End of Term 3
Thurs 12 th February	INSET Day
Fri 13 th February	INSET Day