



NEWSLETTER

E-mail admin @yorkley-gloucs.sch.uk /
Website www.yorkleyschool.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carers,

Mercury's trip to Slimbridge

Mercury enjoyed a fantastic trip to Slimbridge, with sunny weather making it an especially memorable day. The children were excited to see a wide range of birds and wildlife, exploring different habitats and even having the chance to walk through an aviary alongside wading birds.

The children also took part in a fun and engaging educational session that linked closely to their Science and Geography learning, including the water cycle, changes of state and rivers.

Pond dipping and time spent in one of the hides spotting birds in their natural environment were real highlights of the day. The children behaved wonderfully throughout and thoroughly enjoyed this exciting, hands-on visit.



Pupil Survey

Recently, our School Council carried out a lunchtime survey to gather pupils' views on playtimes. They spoke to children across the school about how they feel and what they enjoy during lunch.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the vast majority of children saying they feel safe and happy. Three children said they did not always feel safe—two mentioned wasps at this time of year, and one noted occasional bumps with others. Pupils shared that they enjoy a wide range of activities, including the play pod, playground equipment, field games, spending time with friends, imaginative play, and quieter areas to relax.

A key message from the survey was that many children would prefer separate playtimes for infants and juniors, particularly as pupil numbers have grown. They felt this would create a calmer environment and allow play to better suit different age groups.

In response, we have already trialled separate infant and junior playtimes this week. We will monitor this closely and continue to listen to pupil feedback to ensure lunchtimes remain happy, safe, and enjoyable for all. Well done and thank you to the School Council for representing pupils' views so thoughtfully.



Feedback Kyra: "I already like that we have more space to play, however waiting an extra 15 minutes I don't like as infants go first"

Parent Information Events:

School Ready?

The Federation Inclusion Team, alongside Parkend Early Learners and Yorkley Playgroup, hosted an information evening for parents of children starting school in September. Lucy Newsum-West (Specialist Community Public Health Nurse) shared helpful advice on sleep, screen time and potty training. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to the PTA and Foodbank for their support.

Year 1 Phonics Check

Thank you to those who attended the Year 1 phonics session led by Mrs Palmer-Smith. The screening check is a short, one-to-one assessment where children read a mix of real and 'alien' words in a calm, familiar setting.

Residential Parent Session

Thank you to families who attended the meeting about the upcoming London residential. Final risk assessments are underway, and we are looking forward to a safe and exciting trip. Please still get in touch with any questions, as there is not long to go.

'Valuing Learning, Learning to Value' Friday 8th May - Summer / Issue 247

Curriculum Drivers = Creativity / Building Me / Belonging / Communication / Active Adventure.



Attendance Really Matters:

Whole School Attendance = 95.63%

Class:	Week ending 24 th April	1 st May
Calipso	97.60%	99.60%
Apollo	97.31%	98.08%
Phoenix	96.54%	95.00%
Oberon	96.30%	95.19%
Mercury	93.33%	97.92%
Mariner	96.40%	94.00%
Skylab	95.22%	94.78%

House Points:

Week ending 24th April = Yellow 204, Red/Blue 186 and Green 155

Week ending 1st May = Blue 278, Red 168, Yellow 148 and Green 93

Star of the Week:

Week ending 24th April



Week ending 1st May



Congratulations to:

Ronnie, Feyi, Rosie, Ralphie, Abel, Maddie & Tyler.

Mireya, Minnie, Amelie, Lilly-May, Coby, Dylan & Authur.

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In DT, Apollo enjoyed tasting and exploring different fruits. Children thought about food hygiene and carefully washed their hands and set up clean food stations before tasting a mix of fruit - some that we have tried before and some unfamiliar fruits too. They thought about the taste and texture of each fruit, sharing what we liked and didn't, and discovered some new favourites along the way.



Now Press Play:

Apollo children also enjoyed an immersive 'Now Press Play' experience linked to their Science topic, *Animals, including Humans*. They began by revisiting prior learning before taking part in the session. The experience focused on key vocabulary such as mammal, amphibian, bird, reptile and fish, as well as sorting animals into groups. The children thoroughly enjoyed the virtual experience and fully engaged, acting out the story through their headphones.



Year 6 SATs

All of the children in Skylab have worked extremely hard this term, and their individual learning efforts have been incredible. Mock SATs have taken place, and we are very proud of how each child approached them with positivity and perseverance. These experiences help prepare our children for real assessments in the future and equip them with strategies to build confidence and independence.

We would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the very best of luck for their SATs next week, they are well prepared, have worked incredibly hard, and we know they will shine.

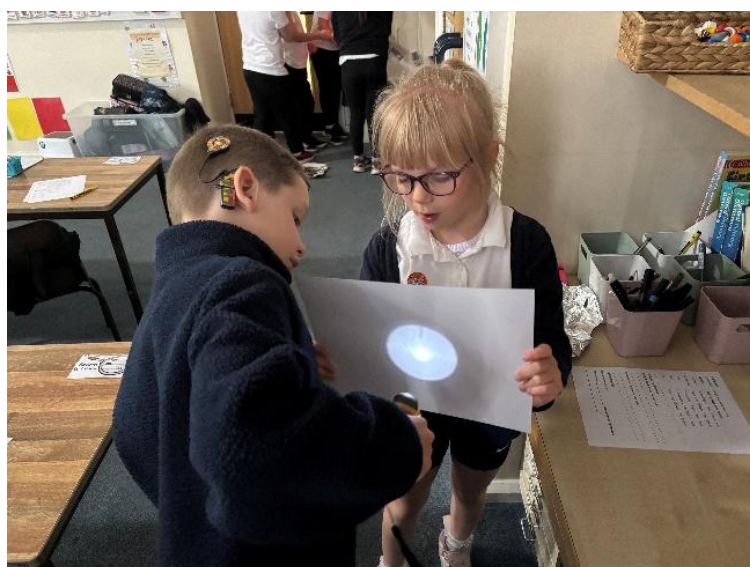
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During Science lessons this week, **Oberon** explored how light travels. They experimented by shining torches through different materials and observing how much light passed through each one. They learned that some materials let light through, while others block it.

This links to their Scientist of the Week, Marie Curie, whose work focused on invisible forms of energy and how they can pass through different materials, helping us better understand how the world works.



Sporting Events:

We are delighted to share the results from the recent Archery events held on 28th April and 5th May. Yorkley performed brilliantly, coming joint 3rd overall out of 24 schools with an excellent team score of 70 (second place scored 71, and the winning team was only a further 4 points ahead). This was a sport many of our children had never tried before, making their achievement even more impressive.

A special well done goes to Jaxon, who achieved the highest individual score for Yorkley with 25 points and was awarded a Bonus Balloon Medal.

Fantastic effort from everyone involved—well done to all children who took part and represented Yorkley so positively!



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

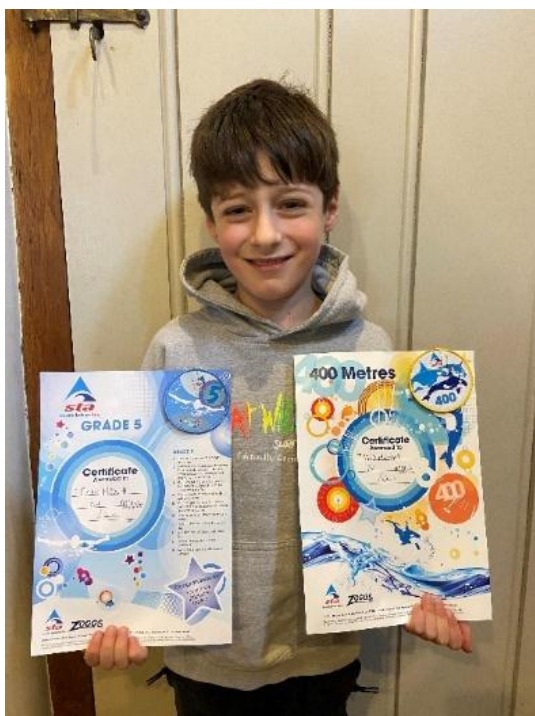
Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of School Celebrations:

We would like to congratulate Logan, who has achieved Player of the Match in football and a Star of the Class award in kickboxing. Well done, Logan!



We also celebrate Theo and Freddie, who have each earned two swimming certificates. Fantastic achievements all round!



Community Links:

Rotary Club of the Royal Forest of Dean

FOREST

YOUNG

PHOTOGRAPHER



2026 COMPETITION

£200 first Prize
 Entries open May 1st to August 31st 2026
 Age Groups 4-11 And 11-18

Original photograph on the subject
 "Life in the Forest of Dean"

Entry free. Limit of two photographs per entrant
 Digital entry only

Full details and Entry:
www.rotary-rfod.org.uk/photocomp
 or QR 



Rotary Club of the Royal Forest of Dean Trust Fund Reg. Charity No.266032

Forest New Life Church - Parkend Presents...



A Tale

Two of Kings

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB
 MONDAY 27TH - FRIDAY
 31ST JULY

A FREE EVENT  10AM - 2PM

More info and registration coming out soon.
 Email: jonathan@forestnewlife.org.uk



MAY HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

WE'RE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE WE ARE ADDING AN EXTRA DAY IN MAY AT BOTH LYDNEY / WYDEAN!

FOOTBALL FRIDAY FIESTA!


BRAZIL
FLAIR & SKILLS


ARGENTINA
CLOSE CONTROL


COLOMBIA
SHOOTING & FINISHING


URUGUAY
COMPETITIVE GAMES

CHILDREN WILL TAKE PART IN CHALLENGES BASED AROUND BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA AND URUGUAY. SHOWING FLAIR, SKILL, SHOOTING AND MUCH MORE!


VENUES
Wydean School / Freedom Leisure Lydney


TIME
9:00am - 3:00pm


DATE
Friday 29th May


PRICE
£20 per day (District & Widgets Players discount available)


Skills & Tricks


Competitions & Prizes


Fiesta Champion


Best Goal


Country Challenges


Music & Festival Vibes!


Best Skills


Top Teammate

BOOK NOW

Prostars.ipalbookings.com

07444 436637 | mark@prostars-fse.com



HOLIDAY CLUB!

MAY HALF TERM

WE ARE RUNNING AT:

-  Primrose Hill Primary School- Lydney
-  Berry Hill Primary School- Coleford

RUNNING DATES:
26TH MAY - 29TH MAY

 SPORTS

 THEMED GAMES

 CRAFTS

AGES 5-11

VISIT prostars.ipalbookings.com TO BOOK!

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IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Mon 11 th - Thurs 14 th May	KS2 SATs week - Free Breakfast club for Year 6
Wed 20 th May	Oberon and Foxes Federation trip to Caerleon
Thurs 21 st May	Pupil Census
Fri 22 nd May	End of Term 5
Mon 25 th - 29 th May	Half Term
Mon 1 st June	Start of Term 6 - Children in
Thurs 4 th June	Scholastic Book Fair arriving
Mon 8 th June	Phonics Screening Check Week
Wednesday 10 th June	Yorkley's Sports Day followed by family picnic (9.00-12.30)
Mon 15 th - Weds 17 th June	Year 5 & 6 London Residential - Federation
Fri 19 th June	Father's Day - (Infants) share a book with a special person
Mon 22 nd June	Maths Challenge at Five Acres (letter to follow)
Tue 23 rd June	Calipso and Mariner's Trip to Ogmore
Wed 24 th June	Transition Day at Wyedean School (Year 6)
Tues 30 th June	Five Acres Transition Day Year 6 (Day 1)
Wed 1 st July	Reception 2026 Parent Information Evening 5.30 pm
Wed 1 st July	Five Acres Transition Day Year 6 (Day 2)
Thurs 2 nd July	Year 5 Taster Day at The Dean Academy
Fri 3 rd July	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Mon 6 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day Year 6 (Day 1)
Mon 6 th July	Moving up morning - whole school *and new reception.
Tues 7 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day Year 6 (Day 2)
Tue 7 th July	Moving up morning - whole school *and new reception.
Tues 14 th July	Written Reports out to Parents
Wed 15 th July	PTA Disco & Leavers party (change of date for Disco)
Fri 17 th July	End of Term 6 - Finish at 1.15