



Dear Parent/Carers,

As we begin the Summer term, I would like to warmly welcome everyone back and hope you had an enjoyable and refreshing Easter break. The children have come back full of energy, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and positive approach to learning throughout the school. This term is set to be a lively and rewarding one, offering many opportunities for learning, celebration, collaboration and creativity as we move forward together as a school community.

County Success in the Look Who's Talking Competition



Congratulations to Dante, who achieved an outstanding result in the *Look Who's Talking* competition, winning overall across

Gloucestershire. Dante delivered his speech about Mexico to an exceptionally high standard and impressed both judges and audience alike.

Despite being the first speaker out of 21 children, Dante did not allow nerves to get the better of him. He spoke with confidence, clarity and maturity well beyond his years, setting a very high benchmark for the rest of the competition. His preparation, composure and presentation were all clearly evident. This is a remarkable achievement, and we are incredibly proud of Dante for his hard work, determination and success. He has represented the school superbly and should be extremely proud of himself.

Reception Places - September 2026

Reception allocation day for September 2026 has now taken place. **If your child has been offered a place at our school, please ensure you accept the offer as soon as possible.**

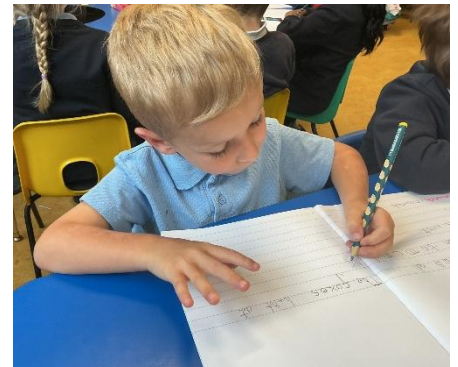
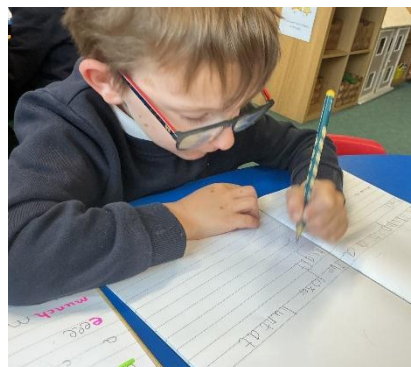
Both of our schools are oversubscribed this year, with several families currently on the waiting list. We want to make sure that no child loses their place unnecessarily, particularly as appeals have been submitted to the local authority due to high demand.



Class Updates: KS1 focus



This term, **Calipso Class** have taken part in Bikeability sessions, showing impressive enthusiasm, growing confidence and developing cycling skills. There also continues to be a strong focus on building foundations for writing, with children developing correct posture, pencil grip and pressure, and taking real pride in their work.



Children in **Apollo Class** have been learning about the many ways we can stay safe and healthy in their daily lives. Their learning has covered a wide range of important areas, including online safety, physical and mental wellbeing, sun safety and road safety. To make this learning meaningful and practical, the children worked together to design and build their own road on the playground, carefully considering traffic direction and layout. They then practised when and how to cross safely using the Stop, Look, Listen, Think approach, showing excellent awareness, responsibility and teamwork throughout the activity.



Inspired by Agnes Arber, **Phoenix Class** have been learning to think like botanists, closely observing the parts of a daffodil with magnifying glasses.



A Wonderful Celebration of Music

Many thanks to Mrs Trimble and Ms Solana for sharing the wonderful progress being made in piano and choir sessions. Emyr, Rosie, Emily and Elwood confidently performed pieces they have been learning in their piano lessons, and it was a pleasure to see them showcase their hard work.

It was also lovely to see the a Cappella choir share what they have been working on, including interactive songs using body percussion. The children performed superbly and showed real commitment, confidence and pride in their achievements.



'Valuing Learning, Learning to Value' Friday 24th April - Summer / Issue 246

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

Attendance Matters: Whole School Attendance = 95.61%

Class:	Week ending 27 th March	Week ending 17 th April
Calipso	90.00%	98.40%
Apollo	94.62%	97.69%
Phoenix	95.00%	92.31%
Oberon	96.67%	97.04%
Mercury	95.60%	99.17%
Mariner	94.80%	93.60%
Skylab	96.52%	97.39%

House Points:

Week ending 27th March = Green 324, Yellow 249, Red 213, Blue 182.

Week ending 17th April = Yellow 160, Red 156, Green 145 and Blue 138

Star of the Week:

Week ending 27th March



Week ending 17th April



Congratulations to: Feyi, Taylor, Mia, Jashvi, Forrest, Maddie & Amelie.

Jake, Jocelyn, Dominic, Charlie, Sia, Ivy and Alfie.



Mariner Class were transported back in time last week when they learned all about the Spanish Armada. Mr Fessey from Dean Academy led an engaging history session, during which the children explored the key events of the conflict and acted out the famous maritime battle. Darcie did a great job in the role of Queen Elizabeth II, while Leo took on King Philip of Spain. As part of their secondary transition work, the children also used their oracy skills to deliver victory speeches. Mr Fessey was very impressed by both their historical knowledge and enthusiasm for learning.

Mercury Class have begun exploring sculpture this term. They had the opportunity to create their own soap sculptures inspired by the theme of 'water'. The children showed great patience as they carefully shaped and textured the soap, resulting in some truly beautiful pieces.



Art Club

We have had a brilliant start to Art Club. In the first week, pupils created and decorated their own sketchbooks, ready to record their artistic ideas.

This week, they explored squiggle art, developing coordination and control. We are very much looking forward to the weeks ahead.



Sporting Events:

Six children from Mercury and Mariner proudly represented Yorkley in a ten-pin bowling competition in Gloucester, enjoying a great day of sport.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of School Celebrations:

We are proud to celebrate a wide range of fantastic out-of-school achievements:

- **Evelyn** has gained her proficiency award in gymnastics.
- **Emyr** showed great effort in earning a medal for rugby.
- **Amelie** achieved an excellent result, coming first in a gymnastics competition.
- **Emilia and Eve** were both awarded certificates for gymnastics.
- **Freddie** was named *Star of the Class* at his new martial arts club, Urban Martial Arts, in just his fourth session.
- **Freddie** received a kickboxing medal for achieving 10 slips.
- **Ronnie** came second in a cycling competition.
- **Paddy** finished an impressive 12th in a motocross race against professional riders.
- **Mia** achieved her 5-metre swimming award.
- **Ellis** finished second in the Under 13s at the Welsh IRCC Tumbling Championships and has qualified for the British Championships in July.



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Community Links:

SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL

Sunday 24th May 2026

The Speech House Hotel Grounds
Forest of Dean Gloucestershire
GL16 7EL



Making Dips,
chopping veggie
sticks & making
either nettle veggie
burgers or
vietnamese spring
rolls

KIDS COOKERY SESSIONS

Learn some simple cookery skills which can be replicated at home. You will be taught how to make the dishes by Harts Barn Cookery School & take home your food at the end of the workshop.

More info..

www.forestshowcase.org



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cookery school

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MAY HALF TERM FOOTBALL CAMP

VENUES Wyedean School / Freedom Leisure Lydney
TIMINGS 9:00am – 3:00pm
AGES 5 – 12 years
PRICE £20 per day (10% discount for District & Wildcats players)
DATES Tuesday 26th May · Wednesday 27th May · Thursday 28th May

WEDNESDAY THEME – STREET SOCCER

A fast-paced day of skills, flair & creativity

What to expect:

- Skills & Tricks
- 1v1 Battles
- Panna & Nutmegs
- Street Tournament

Prizes:

- Street King / Queen
- Best Skills
- Best Goal
- Best Celebration

Whether your child loves **SKILLS, SCORING GOALS**, or just playing with friends – this is a day not to miss!

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Swim school parent membership!

Do you have children enrolled on our swimming lessons in the Forest of Dean?

You qualify for our special Swim Parent Membership rate, available for use at ALL of the Forest of Dean centres.

- Workout in 4 fully equipped gyms
- Swim and relax in our 3 pools
- Choose from over 60 fitness classes per week
- Get fit and socialise with racket sports



SCAN ME

IT'S PARTY TIME!

We have a great range of parties available

- Bouncy castle parties
- Pool parties



SCAN ME

Contact us:
Freedom Leisure Lydney
01594 842383
www.freedom-leisure.co.uk



'Valuing Learning, Learning to Value' Friday 24th April - Summer / Issue 246

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IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Mon 27 th April	Mercury Trip to Slimbridge Wetlands
Weds 29 th April	PTA Disco 6 - 7.30 *Change of time to last newsletter
Mon 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Tues 5 th May	Archery competition (letter to follow)
Thurs 7 th May	5.30 Parent Residential Evening - information for children and parents at Yorkley School Hall
Mon 11 th - Thurs 14 th May	KS2 SATs week
Wed 20 th May	Oberon and Foxes Federation trip to Caerleon (letter to follow)
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)
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	Five Acres Transition Day Year 6 (Day 2)
Wed 1 st July	PTA Disco 5.30 - 7.00
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)
Tues 7 th July	The Dean Academy Transition Day Year 6 (Day 2)
Tues 14 th July	Written Reports out to Parents
Fri 17 th July	End of Term 6