



Dear Parent/Carers,

Another Successful Year

As we reach the end of another amazing school year, we have so much to celebrate. It has been a year filled with success, achievement and memorable moments, and we are incredibly proud of everything our children have accomplished. Across the school, pupils have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm for learning, resilience when faced with challenges and kindness towards others, making our school a wonderful place to learn and grow.

A Magical Farewell for Year 6

Our Year 6 pupils have been exceptional role models throughout the year, demonstrating maturity, resilience and kindness, and are fully prepared for the next stage of their education. Their end of year production of 'Shrek' was simply magical, showcasing the confidence, talent and teamwork of every child involved.



From the acting and singing to the costumes and scenery, their performance was a delight, and all of the children truly shone on stage or behind the scenes supporting with music and effects.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate their time with us and create lasting memories before they begin their exciting secondary school journey.



'Valuing Learning, Learning to Value' Friday 17th July - Summer / Issue 251

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



Celebrating Our Achievements

Our EYFS children have thrived and are once again leaving Reception truly Year 1 ready, having made excellent progress across all areas of learning with 84% reaching a good level of development compared to the National at 72%.

Reading continues to be a key strength of our school, with our phonics outcomes once again exceeding national figures. (96% passed against 82% nationally) Children are now developing not only strong literacy skills but also firm foundations in reading, writing, maths and handwriting.



Our children now have a genuine enthusiasm for mathematics. Following two years of working closely with the Maths Hub, we have continued to strengthen our maths provision, helping children to develop confidence, resilience and a love of mathematical thinking. In the latest South West National contest, **Mercury Class won the whole contest out of 49 schools!**

7 of our children were in the top 10 out of 274 other children. Brooke was the overall contest winner!



We would also like to extend huge congratulations to Brooke, who has become only the second pupil in our school's history to pass the incredible Gold Club 99 award, following Luke, who was the first pupil to do so last year. This prestigious achievement was introduced after children began surpassing the original Club 99 challenge, leading to the addition of Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Brooke's determination, dedication and exceptional recall skills have earned her a very special place in our Club 99 history. Well done, Brooke!

Statutory Assessments:

Congratulations to our Year 6 children for their attitudes towards their SATs. Results this year:

Combined (RWM) 65% (national 63%)

Writing: 74% (national 73%)

Reading: 70% (national 75%)

SPAG: 70% (national 74%)

Maths: 78% (national 75%)

Science 87% (national 84%)

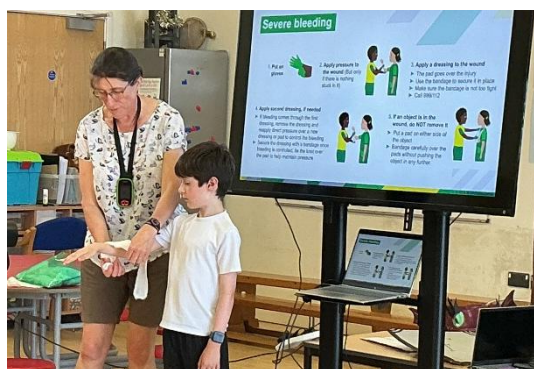
These outcomes reflect the hard work and determination of our pupils, together with the support of families and staff throughout their time at our school. Our pupils leave us as confident, capable learners ready for their next stage in life.

First Aid for all Juniors:

Last week, KS2 children enjoyed a fantastic First Aid Morning, building on their RHSE learning and developing important life-saving skills. They learned how to help someone having an asthma attack, respond to a head injury, place a casualty in the recovery position, and safely treat and bandage a deep cut.

Most importantly, pupils learned how to call the emergency services and keep themselves safe while helping others. The children were fully engaged throughout the morning and gained valuable skills that will help them respond confidently in an emergency.

"We got to learn first aid, so if we come across a problem, we know how to help." - Emilia, Year 4.



Attendance Really Matters:

Whole School Attendance = 94.62%

Class name	Attendance over the year	Children with 100%
Calipso	95.03%	-
Apollo	95.49%	Charlie, Skye
Phoenix	94.26%	-
Oberon	95.79%	-
Mercury	95.54%	Nicole, Eve
Mariner	92.18%	Lucy-Rose, William
Skylab	93.94%	Brooke

The following week, we received a heartfelt thank you from one of our families. They shared that Ted had used the first-aid life skills he had learned at school to place his dad in the recovery position following a serious accident.

Amazing bravery Ted!

Huge congratulations to 7 of our pupils who have achieved 100% attendance this year - Amazing!

House Points:

Week ending 3rd July - Green 194, Yellow 188, Blue 165 and Red 149

Week ending 10th July - Red 172, Yellow 170, Green 145 and Blue 142

Week ending 17th July - Red 264, Green and Yellow 175 and Blue 153

Overall winners for the year: **RED HOUSE**

Winners - Combined scores:	Sports Day Scores:	House points this year:
1 st Red = 7943	1 st = Green 971	1 st = Red 7007
2 nd Blue = 7655	2 nd = Blue 967	2 nd = Blue 6688
3 rd Green = 7335	3 rd = Red 936	3 rd = Yellow 6430
4 th Yellow 7311	4 th = Yellow 881	4 th Green = 6364

Star of the Week:

Week ending 3rd July

Congratulations to: Finley, Max, Indie, Jake, Olivander, Coady and Rebel.



Week ending 10th July

Jake, Emily, Paddy, David, Sophie, Lacey and Darci



History Success

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Sue Newton to one of our assemblies to present certificates to three of our children for their winning entries in the Forest of Dean History Society Competition.

Congratulations to Eadie for her 3D model and Alice for her Video, both received highly commended for their excellent entries. Theo was named the overall winner for his PowerPoint presentation on the History of Hayes Manor earning himself a £25 prize.



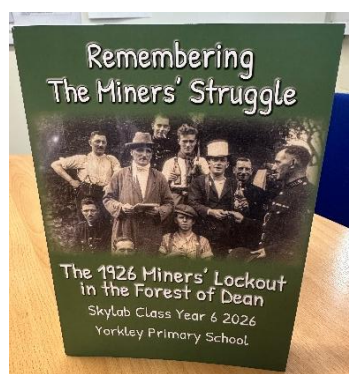
A special mention also goes to Oliver, whose entry received a Headteacher's Award for its originality and creativity. I particularly loved his stained-glass window design inspired by the famous window at Speech House. What a clever idea!



Cross Curricular Writing:

We also welcomed back Roger Deeks, Cheryl Mayo and Faith Eagles who have been working with Year 6 on a special writing project linked to 'Remembering The Miners' Struggle' and life in the Forest of Dean. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to develop their writing and

link it to their History knowledge. Their hard work culminated in the publication of a book containing all of their amazing stories, with every child receiving their own finished copy to take home. Congratulations to Maisie and Finley for being the runners up, Lexi was the winner so had her story shared with the whole school.



Final Yorkley's Talent Showcase:

We also celebrated more of our children's talents when Nicole and Emilia showcased their Urban Martial Arts skills. They demonstrated some of the techniques they have been learning and confidently explained the different pieces of equipment they use. It was wonderful to see their passion, confidence and dedication. Next year, we hope to provide even more opportunities for children to share their talents and interests with the wider school community, with some pupils also having the chance to showcase their skills at Parkend School as part of this continued celebration of children's achievement.



Picture Pioneers - National Winners!



We are incredibly proud of our Picture News Pioneers Group for winning the **National Picture News Impact Award!**

Through their commitment, teamwork and determination, these pupils developed their confidence, oracy skills and understanding of global issues, while inspiring others through their pupil-led assemblies.

Their journey has shown the power of giving young people a voice. From researching current affairs and leading discussions to confidently present to our partner school and parents, they have demonstrated outstanding leadership and maturity. This award is a well-deserved recognition of the hard work, enthusiasm and positive impact they have had on our school community and beyond.

Sports:



Forest of Dean Games offered 4 of our children a fun kayaking session. Lucy-Rose, Mireya, Clay and Max had a fantastic time kayaking at Mallards Pike. Everyone learnt new skills, challenged themselves and enthusiastically took part in all the activities and games while getting to know pupils from other local schools. By the end, they were all very wet, but that was all part of the fun!

These opportunities are designed to encourage children to further develop their skills and, hopefully, inspire them to take up the sport within their local community.

Vita String Quartet Visit



Yorkley and Parkend Schools were delighted to welcome the talented Vita String Quartet from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance and demonstrated their musical knowledge by recalling key terminology, including rhythm and pitch. During the session, they were introduced to members of the string family, including the violin, viola, and cello. They learnt how the size of an instrument affects its sound, recognising that smaller string instruments produce a higher pitch, while larger instruments produce a lower pitch.

The quartet also shared fascinating information about how these instruments are made, including how horsehair is used to create the bow for a violin. The children were highly engaged throughout and asked thoughtful questions, showing great enthusiasm for music. This inspiring performance has undoubtedly encouraged and motivated the next generation of musicians.

A Final Thank you

As we come to the end of another wonderful year, I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to providing the very best education and opportunities for our children. Their care, support and enthusiasm make our school a special place to learn and grow.

I would also like to congratulate our children once again on all they have achieved this year. They should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Finally, thank you to our Governors, PTA and all of the volunteers, helpers and parents who give their time and support to our school. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and help make so many opportunities possible for our children.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe and relaxing summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of School Celebrations – Skills and Talents:



Well done to Rosa and Ariadne for earning badges at Rainbows and Brownies, and to our talented performers Amelie, Eadie, Lorelai and Tallulah for achieving their drama awards.

Congratulations also to Faye and Ottilie for performing at the Cotswold Playhouse, and to Tabitha, whose dance team was awarded a trophy following their recent show.

A special well done to Izzy for passing Water Safety Level 1, Caspar for completing Dynamos Cricket Coaching, and Felix for completing All Stars Cricket Coaching.

We would also like to congratulate Madison-Eve, who won a trophy for being her football team's Player of the Week, Eve, who achieved her prestigious Brownie Gold Award, and Emilia, who won a medal for gymnastics.

IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Autumn Term	
Tue 1 st and Wed 2 nd September	INSET Days - School Closed
Thursday 3 rd September	Start of Autumn - Term 1
Monday 28 th September	Individual and siblings photos
Monday 12 th October	Whole School Flu Immunisation
Mon 19 th - Wed 21 st October	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 26 th - 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 21 st - Fri 1 st Jan	Christmas Holidays

Support and Links: Mental health and Wellbeing:

[Parent and carer support and advice line | Talk Well](#) - Talk Well offer a free, confidential parent advice line if you are worried about your child's behaviour or wellbeing. Open Mon/Weds/Thurs: 5pm - 9pm.
Tues: 9:30am - 1pm

www.youngminds.org.uk - Contains a parents A-Z mental health guide for supporting yourselves and your children

LumiNova app - A free digital therapeutic game where children can play games to support with a range of worries and build resilience. You can set targets for them to work towards.
Financial support

<https://theforest.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/> - If you are struggling financially throughout the holidays, do not hesitate to contact one of the agencies listed on their website to receive a referral for a food parcel. Anyone can access - this is not a means-tested service.

<https://forestbabybank.org/services.html> - You can self-refer to the Baby Bank. They stock essential baby items, school clothes aged 4-16, clothes aged 0-15, bedding, toiletries and dental hygiene products. Anyone can access - this is not a means-tested service.

Support for parents:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/> Family Lives parents support line: Call them free on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life.

Support is also available on the Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum - this is run by parents and carers and offers support groups. <https://glosparentcarerforum.org.uk/>

<https://candi.website/events/> CANDI (Cinderford) has a women's space every Wednesday morning 10-1 and other groups for children.

<https://dadmatters.org.uk/gloucestershire/> Dad Matters - a support group for dads.

<https://homestartnwglos.org.uk/group-support/> - Home Start offer parent support groups in the local area. You can sign up for free online. Locations include Cinderford, Lydney and Newent.

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

www.adhdfoundation.org.uk - Workshops available for families to access for free

www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk - A platform containing links and information about a wide range of family support and workshops available for you to access www.familylives.org.uk - Parenting advice for children's behaviour, health and wellbeing and development
Health

www.ghc.nhs.uk - Contains an A-Z list of health care services available in Gloucestershire

Community Links:



with

Free Workshops for Young Gardeners

2026

Activities at West Dean Centre and Bream Community Library -
for primary children and above

Thursday 23 rd July	Kitchen Scrap Growing
2.00 – 4.00pm	Garden Crafts
Thursday 6 th August	Growing plants without soil
2.00 – 4.00pm	Painted Pebbles
Thursday 29 th October	Date booked, topic tbc
2.00 – 4.00pm	

Places are limited so..... Booking is essential

To join in - email breamgardeningociety@gmail.com Remember to tell us your name and age



'I had never climbed before. I was scared of heights. But I climbed and rang the bell all by myself and felt really proud of myself'

Poonam

Brownies
Primrose Hill, Lydney
Wednesdays

**Girls have nonstop fun,
learning and adventure**
for ages 7 to 10

At Brownies, we welcome all girls to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.


Girlguiding
Registered charity number: 306016

Join a local Brownies group girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Summer Library Challenge:



Take on The Library Challenge 2026!

Looking for a fun summer activity? Children aged 3+ can sign up for the Gloucestershire Library Challenge 2026: Tales Through Time and journey through history while completing exciting reading and activity tasks.

Earn stamps, collect rewards, and work your way up to Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Children who reach Gold will receive a special medal and be entered into a prize draw!

The challenge runs until 12 September and is free to join through your local library.

For more information, visit your local Gloucestershire library or search for The Library Challenge 2026 online. Happy reading!

All children who take part will be awarded a Green Slip when they return to school.