

Dear Parents/Carers,

Macmillan Coffee Morning:



School Council members from both our schools:

Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning today, which was held across the federation. The event was a wonderful success, raising money for a fantastic cause while bringing our school communities together. A special well done to our School Council representatives from both schools, who helped to organise and run the morning with support from Mrs James and Mrs Thorne. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, confidence and leadership skills, and were wonderful ambassadors for their schools.



Community Support for Families:



Thank you to **Young Minds Matter**, **CCP**, **Forest Pulse** and the **Food Bank** for joining us this morning. It was wonderful to have these organisations available to offer advice, guidance and support to our parents and families. We are grateful for the valuable services they provide within our community and for taking the time to share information about the help and opportunities available to local families.

Calipso updates:

What a busy and exciting first four full weeks of school we have had in Reception! We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled and of the fantastic progress they have already made in such a short space of time.

We have been busy establishing our Strong Foundations for Writing, focusing on the important building blocks that will support children as they develop as confident writers, this has included posture, pencil grip, paper position and pencil pressure, alongside lots of opportunities to strengthen our fine and gross motor skills through our everyday classroom provision.

The children have also enjoyed being introduced to our library sessions. Each week, they have the opportunity to choose a book that interests them, spend time sharing books with their friends and begin developing that all-important love of reading for pleasure.

Our home corner has been another busy area of learning, with the children enthusiastically taking on different roles through their play. Alongside developing their imagination, communication and social skills, we have been learning how to use a kitchen area safely, treat equipment with care and look after the babies appropriately in our role-play area.

There has been plenty of hands-on learning outdoors too! We have been busy planting flowers, developing our understanding of the natural world while learning to care for our environment. We were also very lucky to receive a visit from The Big Brush, who helped introduce our youngest children to the importance of dental care and looking after their teeth. The children have even had their first session of Bike Ability.



Thank you to all the families who joined us for our first Family Friday and to our wonderful Year 5 buddies for helping the Reception children settle so confidently into school life. We are excited to see what the next few weeks will bring!



Phoenix Class Update

As part of our PSHE Jigsaw topic, Being Me in My World, Phoenix Class have been exploring their feelings, recognising their strengths and sharing the things they are looking forward to this year. Through discussions and activities, the children have been learning to appreciate and celebrate the similarities and differences that make each of us unique.

The children have also been developing their understanding of kindness, respect and teamwork. Using the Zones of Regulation, they have been learning to identify and talk about their emotions, understand that all feelings are normal, and explore strategies to help them manage their emotions appropriately. This has helped the children to develop greater self-awareness and to consider how their

actions and choices can affect others. Together, we have been discussing how we can create a happy, safe and welcoming classroom where everyone feels valued, respected and supported. It has been wonderful to see the children working so thoughtfully together as they develop these important life skills.



Oberon updates:

This week, Oberon Class learnt how to safely prepare fruit and vegetables. After discussing good hygiene and handwashing, the children used a range of kitchen tools, including knives, graters, peelers and scissors, to prepare seasonal produce. They showed great care, responsibility and maturity throughout the activity. They have been celebrating their Times Tables Achievement Certificate winners. These certificates are awarded to children who can confidently recall multiplication and division facts.

Please continue to support your child with regular times tables practice at home, and look out for certificates coming home so you can celebrate their success!



The children have also been learning about light and dark tones and how artists use these to create shape, depth and proportion. They have also been developing their drawing skills by experimenting with charcoal and working without first using a pencil. To begin, the children created textured backgrounds using charcoal dust before carefully studying a composition and identifying interesting shapes and forms to recreate. They then refined their artwork by adding texture, detail and tonal contrast with charcoal.

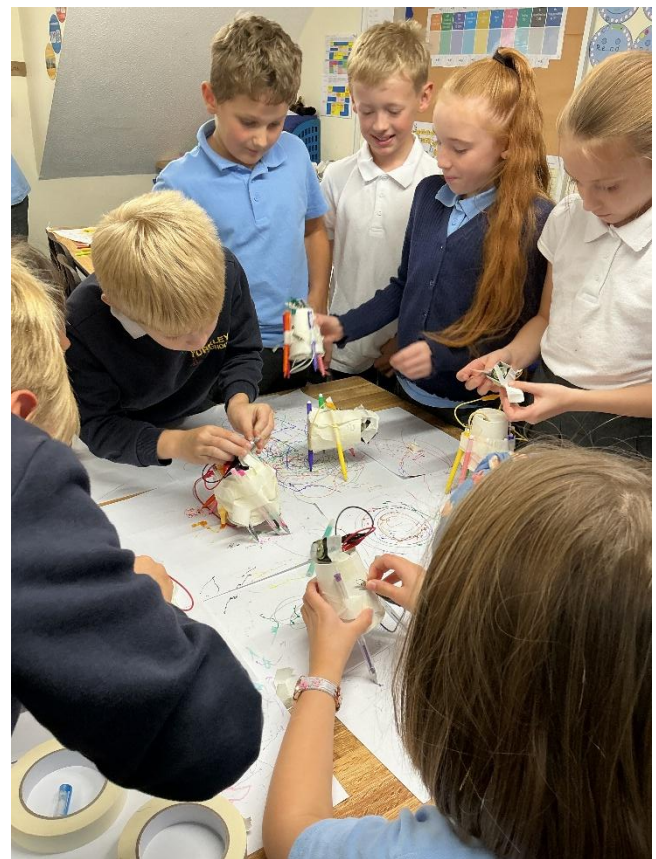
The finished pieces are truly impressive, and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm, creativity and artistic confidence the children have shown throughout the project.





Mariner Class have been analysing products in DT and learning how to build their own drawing toys. As Jaxon explained, *"It was great investigating which pens worked best and how to position the motor."*

The children have combined their knowledge of electrical circuits from science with their DT investigation skills to design, test and improve their creations. Throughout the project, they have developed their problem-solving skills and gained a greater understanding of how products are designed, made and refined. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and perseverance in action.



House Points:

Week Ending 18th September = Red 201, Green 195, Yellow 192, Blue 179.

Week ending 25th September = Blue 194, Green 178, Yellow 174, Red 167

Whole School attendance = 96.22%

Weekly Attendance:

Class:	Week ending 18 th September	Week ending 25 th September	Points so far: 'Reach 6 for a class treat'
Calipso	97.78%	96.30%	2
Apollo	97.39%	93.48%	1
Phoenix	90.23%	93.46%	0
Oberon	96.00%	98.40%	2
Mercury	91.11%	99.26%	2
Mariner	92.40%	93.20%	1
Skylab	98.40%	94.00%	1

Eco Committee Supports Fairtrade Fortnight

Our Eco Committee met this week to discuss Fairtrade Fortnight, an annual campaign that raises awareness of the importance of fair trade and supporting producers around the world. This year, the campaign runs from 21st September to 4th October and carries the message: "Do It Fair - for People, for Planet and for Fair Pay."

As a school, we believe it is important for our children to understand their role as both local and global citizens. Supporting Fairtrade is one way we can help to make a positive difference to communities across the world.

Over the coming weeks, members of the Eco Committee will be sharing information with their classes about what Fairtrade means, why it is important, and the simple actions we can all take to support a fairer and more sustainable future. We look forward to learning more about this important campaign together.



Meet our Eco Committee 2026-2027

Star of the Week



Congratulations to:

Darcie, Dominic, Teddy, Lucas, Arlo, Fergie & Sully / Ada, Tabitha, Enfys, Phoebe, Adelaide, Elijah & Arali

Music Mark Recognition

We are delighted to share that our school has been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication by the GSW Music Hub - Gloucestershire. This award celebrates our commitment to providing high-quality music opportunities for our pupils and recognises the value we place on music as an important part of school life.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke
Executive Headteacher
Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Out of school Celebrations:

Well done to our swimmers, Eve and Alice, on their recent achievements. Eve has passed her Level 7 Swimming Award, successfully completing 100 metres using front crawl, while Alice has achieved her Stage 5 Swimming Award. Fantastic effort from both children!

Emilia and Nicole had a successful weekend at the Urban Martial Arts Open in Gloucester. Competing in both sparring and continuous sparring events, Emilia earned 2nd place and Nicole achieved 3rd place. Congratulations to you both.

Grace proudly represented Drybrook Rugby Club in her first rugby match this weekend. She has also been enjoying the fruits of her labour, harvesting potatoes she had grown in her garden and enjoying them with her roast dinner!

Congratulations to Roe, who achieved a Distinction in her recent ballet examination, and to Jaxon, who took part in an archery competition called *The Boar*, earning a participation medal for his efforts.

We love celebrating the children's achievements outside of school. Please keep sharing them with us!





IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Autumn Term	
Thursday 8 th October	Calipso and Apollo Parent Phonics session <i>*Crèche available in another class if required.</i>
Friday 9th October	Hello Yellow Day - Non Uniform 'wear yellow' £1 donation
Monday 12 th October	Whole School Flu Immunisation
Wednesday 14 th October	Book fair being delivered through to 21 st October
Thursday 15th October	Parents Evening
Tuesday 20th October	Parents Evening
Monday 26th - 30th October	Half Term
Wednesday 11th November	Reception 2027 Open morning - 9.15 - 10.45
Thursday 19th November	Reception 2027 Open afternoon - 1.15 - 2.45
Wednesday 2nd December	Reception 2027 Open morning - 9.15 - 10.45
Monday 21st December - Fri 1st January	Christmas Holidays

Community News

Get **FREE** meal plans

FREE! - ONLY IF YOU LIVE IN FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA- SIGN UP TODAY!

Every week you get:

- personalised meal plan
- smart shopping list
- chef hotline for help

Stop thinking about:

- what to cook
- what to buy
- how to eat healthier

Join 35,000+ others!

Scan the QR code to claim your offer

Or visit: [FiveDinners.com/MyCommunity](https://www.fivedinners.com/mycommunity)

"It's such a relief not having to think what to feed the family!"
- Carly, mum of one

FiveDinners



Usually £86 per year - but 100% FREE
if you live in Forest of Dean District Council area!
Sign up today!

How does it work?

FREE FOR EVERYONE IN FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

Fed up with deciding what to cook every night?
Want to save money on food or eat more healthily?

How to claim your **FREE** membership:



- Visit [fivedinners.com/mycommunity](https://www.fivedinners.com/mycommunity) (or scan the QR code)
- Click on Forest of Dean District Council + Enter your postcode
- That's it! Receive a new mealplan every week, designed for you.

What you'll get:

- New personalised meal plan every week
- A complete shopping list for each week
- Easy, delicious recipes to take the stress out of mealtimes
- Access to a **FREE** chef hotline — message for help whenever you need it!

Meal plans can be tailored to suit your needs, including:
Veggie • Low-calorie • Menopause meals • Kids • Quick & easy • + lots more!

FREE access to FiveDinners meal planning platform for all residents of Forest of Dean District Council.

There's no catch, no trial period — just **completely FREE** membership, usually costing £86 per year - join over 35,000+ other members!

Sign up today and enjoy healthier meals, less stress and real savings.

:

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

AMAZING LEGO DISPLAYS

NEW & RETIRED LEGO SETS

BUILD CHALLENGES

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

CHARITY TOMBOLA

MILLIONS OF LOOSE BRICKS

PLUS SO MUCH MORE!!

BRICKFESTIVALEVENTS.COM / GLOUCESTER

7TH NOVEMBER
GL1 LEISURE CENTRE

GLOUCESTER BRICK FESTIVAL

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF





Lydney Town Band

Celebration Concert 2026

Lydney Town Hall

Sunday 18th October

Featuring Lydney Training Band



World Premieres | Lydney Starter Group | Massed Band Finale

Doors 5:00pm Start 5:30pm

For more information:

Adults £8 Concessions £5
Under 5s: Free

Pay on the door
(Cash or Card)

Raffle | Refreshments

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www.lydneyband.co.uk

@lydneyband

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