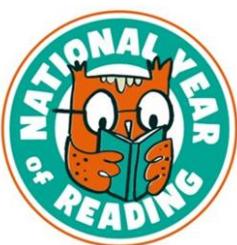


Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy New Year, and welcome back!

We hope you and your family enjoyed a joyful and restful holiday. As we begin this new year together, we are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to continuing our partnership in supporting your children's growth and success.



The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide initiative designed to inspire both children and adults to enjoy reading more. With the theme 'Go All In', families are encouraged to explore all kinds of reading – from books and comics to magazines, websites and audiobooks – linking directly to your child's hobbies or interest. Recent research from the National Literacy Trust shows that many young people are reading less for pleasure, making this focus more important than ever.

At our school, we are passionate about developing a love of reading. Through our READ initiative and daily learning, we promote reading as both an essential life skill and an enjoyable habit. Our children know that reading opens doors to learning, confidence and well-being, supporting them now and in the future.

READ - Initiative - Blue / Yellow / Green / Purple then Top Award = Gold Star.



Last term, many children engaged well with the **READ initiative**, although some found it more challenging than others. Towards the end of the term, staff contacted families of children who were falling behind to discuss how we could work together to provide extra support. We really appreciate the positive response and support from parents over the break.

Our first assembly of the year was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate pupils' achievements. Apologies that children came out a little later than planned – there were just so many certificates to give out, we didn't want to miss celebrating anyone!

Maths:

Congratulations to our new Top Ten winners in the winter wonderland SumDog maths contest.

James T- (Phoenix) scored the highest score with an amazing 982 answers correct. This was closely followed by Eve (Mercury) - 966 then Brooke (Skylab) - 955.

Our other Top Ten were: Indie - 923, Theo H - 796, Jesse H - 779,

Max - 622, Enfys - 418, Reilly - 416 and Evelyn - 379.



Look Who's Talking:



We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part in the class heats of the Look Who's Talking oracy competition. Speaking in front of others is an important skill, but it can also be very daunting for many children. To ensure everyone felt supported, adaptations were made so that children who were worried were able to present just to an adult, allowing every voice to be heard.

The next stage was the school heats, where seven children were absolutely amazing, confidently sharing brilliant topics that really mattered to them. Although only three children could progress to the next round, every participant should be extremely proud of themselves.

We now wish our three finalists, Lily, Dante and Theo the very best of luck as they represent our school in the next round against schools across the Forest of Dean. When preparing their talk they may want to consider what the judges in the final will be looking for in a speaker:

- DELIVERY
- CLARITY
- FLUENCY
- INTONATION/EXPRESSION
- PROJECTION
- CONFIDENCE



Young Leaders impress our Local MP



On Wednesday 7th January, five of our Young Leaders proudly showcased our school by leading a whole-school tour, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Matt Bishop (MP) was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and pride shown throughout the morning. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the pupils, answering their questions about his own schooling, why he chose to become an MP and the skills needed to pursue such a role. The pupils represented the school brilliantly and it was a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

Young Leaders Common Room:



Last term, a group of children wrote to me to ask whether they could have a space of their own to enjoy during some lunchtimes. To move this idea forward, they first had to write persuasive letters explaining why a common room would be beneficial, as well as submit designs and ideas for what the space should include. Following that, they spoke in a whole school assembly and got views from others. I was overwhelmed by the thoughtful feedback and creativity shown. Over the past term, I have been listening and working with our junior pupils to help make this vision a reality. In January, the common room is almost complete and the first groups of

children have begun using the space. Final designs and rules are now being created by the children themselves.

This project truly puts our children at the heart of our school and reflects our values of partnership and pride, as pupils take ownership of their environment and celebrate what they can achieve together.



'Valuing Learning, Learning to Value' Friday 16th January - Spring / Issue 241

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

House Points Autumn term:

Red	Blue	Green	Yellow
3092	2806	2682	2646

House Points

Week ending 9th January = **Yellow 366**, **Red 364**, **Blue 359** and **Green 272**

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

Week ending 12th December



Olivia, Maisie, Oliver, Declan, Gabi, Sia and Olivia

Week ending 9th January



Jonty, Dottie-Dee, Georgina, Caspar, Elijah, Jesse and Felicity

Attendance Matters:

Whole School Attendance: 96.02%

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in a pupils' success at school. This includes arriving on time as lessons are built on previous knowledge, so gaps formed are harder to back fill and friendships and confidence are affected when children are regularly off or late.

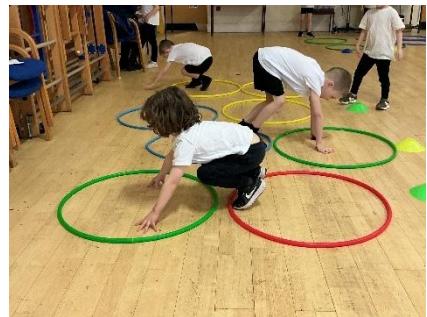
Class:	Week ending 9 th January
Calipso	94.17%
Apollo	96.15%
Phoenix	95.00%
Oberon	94.07%
Mercury	91.20%
Mariner	98.00%
Skylab	97.39%

Special focus on Calipso from Miss Screen



We are so grateful in Calipso to have a weekly session in our very own school library. It is so lovely to see the children enjoying the library and sharing their chosen book with their friends. A huge thank you to our librarian, Mrs Cocking.

In P.E. this term we are focussing on gymnastics, we have been exploring different shapes with our bodies. Miss Screen and Miss Smith have been extremely impressed with the children's gymnastic skills so far; we have enjoyed creating the shapes of rainforest and woodland animals.



Part of Calipso's home learning this term is a focus on letter formation and using the letter rhymes to support them. Please ensure you keep practising the letter rhymes with your children at home. Frank has been practising his letter formation in class, whilst creating his very own learning poster - well done Frank.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first Forest School session, we explored the natural environment, collected bugs and worked in partnership to create shelters - we can't wait for our next session.



Scientific Enquiry



of matter. They put their observation skills to the test by measuring how long an ice cube took to melt under different conditions: with no water, in cold water, and in warm water. The children carefully recorded their results and discovered that the higher the temperature, the faster water changes from a solid to a liquid.

Oberon Class had a wonderful time carrying out a rock investigation in Science. They examined a range of different rocks and identified them based on their properties before sorting them into igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic groups. The class will next move on to exploring the properties of soil and learning about fossils. Keep up the great work, Oberon!



Mercury Class enjoyed stepping into the role of scientists this week as they explored changes in states

Sporting updates:



Congratulations to four of our children who proudly represented Yorkley at the New Age Kurling event held at Newent School. A total of 18 teams took part across the competition, and we are delighted to share that in our group, Yorkley finished an impressive 2nd place, scoring a fantastic 17 points - well done team! (winning team scored 19)

Thank you to Newent School for hosting, and Mrs Bonner accompanying the group. Also thank you for parents supporting with lifts. Most importantly, it was a great opportunity for pupils to have fun, give it a try, and enjoy playing as many games as possible in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Celebrations out of school:



- Well done to Amelie and Mireya for achieving their Silver Brownies badge.
- Congratulations to Oliver for being player of the week in football for the Forest of Dean District team.
- Coady has received a rugby certificate and a medal for being part of a team and being man of the match
- Madison-Eve passed Stage 6 in her swimming and Dante passed level 2 - Well done both.
- Well done Emilia and Eve for gaining a proficiency certificate for gymnastics.

Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Community Links:

MP SEND Event



MP SEND Event

Parent carers, educators, and SEND professionals are invited to my third SEND Event, this time bringing parent carers together with educators, support services and professionals to drive meaningful, practical improvements that matter.

The evening will include professionals offering support for parent carers, alongside updates from me on government progress and a continued commitment to provide tangible support and improvements.

26th February

6pm-8pm

Central Forest of Dean location

Register your interest: matt.bishop.mp@parliament.uk

IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Monday 26 th January	Year 5 to The Dean Academy for a dance workshop
Friday 30 th January	Darts Event - Year 6 - NEW (2 teams entered)
Friday 6 th February	Future Me Day - Federation
Weds 11 th February	End of Term 3
Thursday 12 th & Friday 13 th February	INSET Days
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th	Half Term - 1 week
Friday 27 th February	Culture Day
Friday 6 th March	World Book Day for Yorkley
Friday 6 th March	Wellbeing Champions to Viney Hill
Friday 13 th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24 th March	Big Walk and Wheel week
Friday 27 th March	End of Term 4 - last day normal finish
Monday 30 th March - Friday 10 th April	Easter Holidays