



NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Parent/Carers,

Musical Highlights: Mariner and Oberon have thoroughly enjoyed learning to play the violin this term. They explored musical notation, learnt how to pluck the strings and use the bow to create clear notes, and even tried vibrato to add atmosphere to one of their pieces. The children gave an excellent performance to parents, showcasing a wonderful range of musical styles.



It has been a pleasure to welcome Robin Davies to Yorkley and Parkend Schools. The children have loved having him as their music teacher over the past ten weeks. He carefully broke the learning into manageable steps, enabling all pupils to successfully learn how to play the violin and confidently perform to a wider audience. It has been fantastic to see how much their musical confidence has grown throughout the sessions.

Visits and Enhancements: Phoenix represented the school brilliantly while out and about in the community. It was a multi-stop trip full of adventure, with plenty to see along the way. The children were especially amazed to spot the cathedral from the A48 and couldn't believe how large it was!



Their first stop was the Islamic Society of Gloucester, where they learnt more about the local Muslim community, linking to their recent unit "What is it like to be a Muslim in Britain?" The children discovered the purpose of a mosque, listened carefully as the speaker explained the Five Pillars, and asked thoughtful questions. Staff were impressed by how much they remembered from last term about minarets and the *wudu* washing ritual. A big thank-you to our hosts, who even wrote each child's name in Arabic.

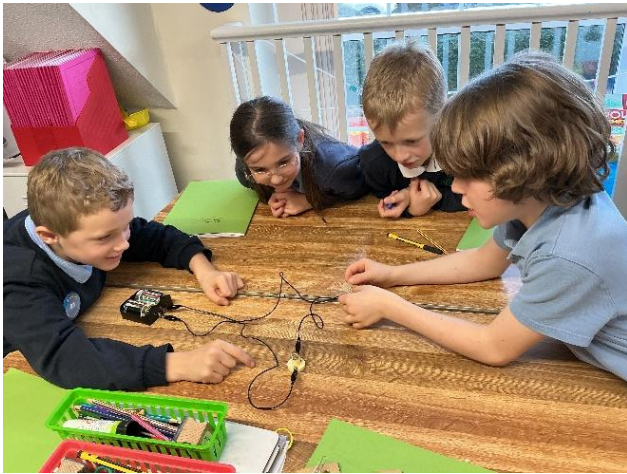
They then visited Gloucester Cathedral, where the children learnt that it is the 'mother church' of Gloucestershire because it houses Bishop Rachel's Cathedral chair. They marvelled at what was once the largest window in the world, about half the size of the Yorkley playground and measured one of the pillars at an impressive seven children wide!





Also as part of their trip, the children loved getting hands-on with their learning, creating their own stained-glass windows and pinch pots complete with candles.

Mercury Class has been exploring the fascinating world of electricity, with a particular focus on electric circuits. Working like real scientists, the children discovered that a circuit must be complete for electricity to flow and for a bulb to light. They then took their learning a step further by adding their own switches, allowing them to turn the bulb on and off.



Oberon have been thoroughly enjoying their yoga lessons this term. They have been challenging themselves to hold poses for five seconds while showing great flexibility, strength, and balance. Alongside the physical skills, yoga has also supported the children's wellbeing, helping them to develop calm breathing, improve focus, and build resilience. It has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence as they learn to relax their minds as well as strengthen their bodies.



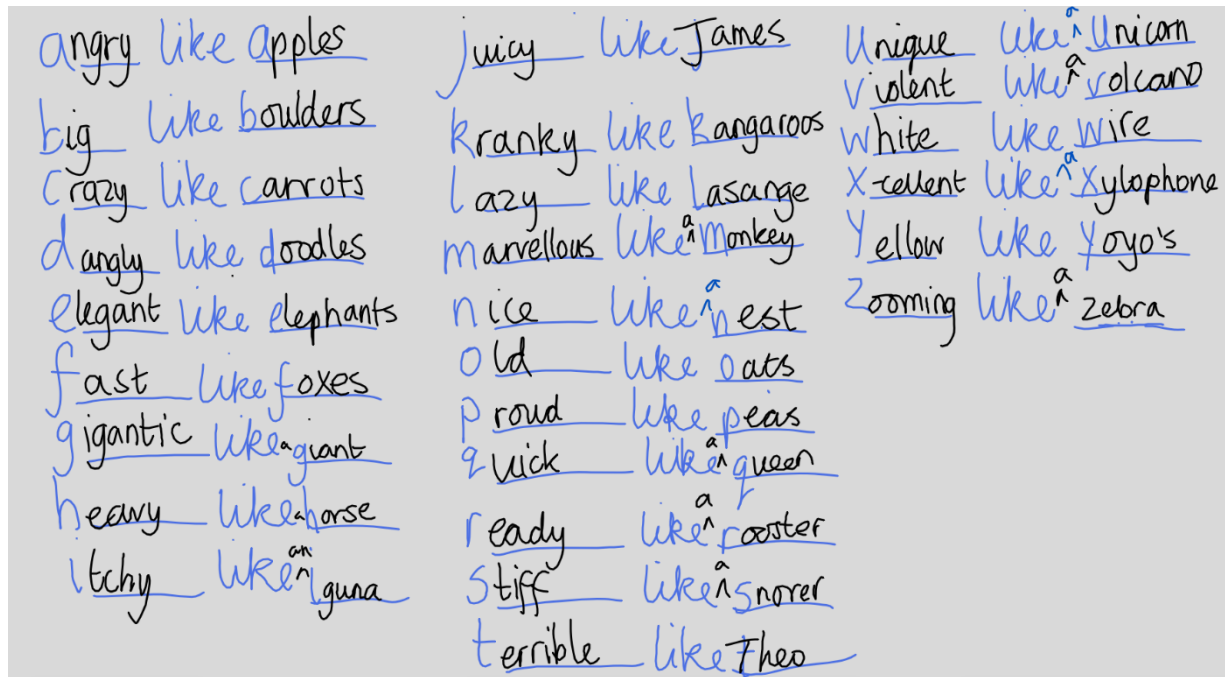
House Points

Week ending 14th November: Red 259, Blue 219, Yellow 217 and Green 215

Week ending 21st November: Blue 295, Red 244, Green 238 and Yellow 196

Michael Rosen Day:

Phoenix have been inspired to write a class poem for Michael Rosen Day. They loved listening to and watching performances of his poems, with their favourite being "Bananas in My Ears." Each child was given a letter and challenged to create their own line, which they then combined to form a fantastic class poem. It was wonderful to see their creativity and enthusiasm shine through!



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

Week ending 14th November



Kyra, Lily, Madison-Eve, Coady, Rosa Felix & Marcie.

Week ending 21st November



Henry, Rosie, Ronnie, Logan, Dora, Forrest & Freddie.

Attendance Matters:

Whole School Attendance: 96.32%

Class:	Attendance week ending 14 th November	Attendance week ending 21 st November
Calipso	96.96%	94.78%
Apollo	99.23%	95.77%
Phoenix	97.69%	89.23%
Oberon	95.56%	97.41%
Mercury	98.70%	94.35%
Mariner	97.60%	95.20%
Skylab	93.91%	94.35%



We would like to say a big thank you to all the children who took the time to write and send in their poems for Inter Faith Week. We were overwhelmed by the number of entries. There were so many that it kept us very busy reading them all!

Each poem was creative, thoughtful, and full of brilliant ideas. In fact, the standard was so high that choosing winners proved far too difficult for Mrs Adams. Therefore, we invited Trish from Parkend Church to take on the very important job of selecting the winning entries. A huge thank you to her as well.

Congratulations to our school winners: Freddie F for KS1 and Elian for KS2. Their poems will now be sent off to the national competition. Well done to everyone who took part!



UK Parliament Week 2025 at Yorkley

The whole school has taken part in UK Parliament Week 2025. We have explored how government works and learnt about the role and running of Parliament. Pupils engaged in discussions about laws, leadership, and the importance of having a voice in decision-making. To put our learning into practice, we celebrated the British



value of democracy by voting on how funding should be spent for an exciting new addition to our playground. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to see democracy in action and understand how choices shape our community. Thank you to Calipso parents coming in to support.



Fundraising and donations:

- Scholastic Book Fair: Thank you again for supporting with this, we have now received over £400 worth of new books.
- Food Donations: The Forest Foodbank have written and thanked us for Harvest donations - we provided 76.3kgs which provides up to 162 individual meals for those in need.
- Children in Need raised £146.17

Personal Development

We were delighted to welcome Young Minds Matter to Yorkley School for an inspiring assembly on 'Friendship and Big Emotions'. The sessions, tailored for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, explored what makes a healthy friendship and offered practical advice for handling challenges when friendships don't go as planned.

The assemblies encouraged children to develop problem-solving skills and resilience, while introducing calming strategies such as bubble breathing and colour hunting. These techniques help children manage their emotions and feel more confident in navigating social situations.

It was a fantastic opportunity to support our pupils' emotional wellbeing and equip them with tools they can use every day.

Girl's football:



A huge well-done to five of our girls who represented our school at the recent Newent Football Event. Despite most other schools bringing double the number of players and the advantage of regular rotations, our team showed incredible determination, playing every single match without a break. Their perseverance, teamwork, and positive spirit were outstanding from start to finish!

Celebrations out of school:



Reilly had a great weekend at Silverstone race track. Taking part in the Super 1 Championships, where he won second place and best novice driver. Congratulations Reilly.

Congratulation to Amelie for receiving her achievement award in Drama for performing in front of an audience and developing her confidence.

Congratulations to Poppy swimming 800 metres and being extremely proud of this achievement.



Kind regards,

K. Burke

Mrs K Burke

Executive Headteacher

Forest of Dean Community Schools Federation

Community Links



PROSTARS FOOTBALL CAMP



Freedom Leisure, Lydney
9:00am-3:00pm

Dates-
Mon- Dec 22nd
Tues- Dec 23rd
Mon- Dec 29th
Tues- Dec 30th

-Indoor/Outdoor facilities available
-Coaches are UEFA and FA qualified
-Fun for all

-Contact Mark
07444436637
mark@prostars.fse.com
-To book-
Prostars.ipalbookings.com

CHRISTMAS

IMPORTANT DATES: - New dates in Red

DATE	EVENTS
Weds 3 rd December	Open Morning for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Yorkley - 9.15-10.45am Open Afternoon for prospective parents Reception 2026 at Parkend -1.15-2.45pm
Wed 3 rd December	Federation trip (Yorkley Year 1 - Parkend Years 1 & 2) to Forest Community Church Cinderford.
Wed 3 rd December	Carol Concert at Parkend Church 5.30 p.m. - All welcome
Wed 10 th December	Christmas Performance KS1 2p.m.
Thu 11 th December	Christmas Performance KS1 9.30 a.m. *Filmed, ideally no toddlers
Sat 13 th December	Choir Performance at Taurus Crafts 11 a.m.
Tues 16 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumpers!
Fri 19 th December	Last day term 2 - School finishes 1.15p.m.
Mon 22nd - Fri 2nd January	Christmas Holidays
Mon 5th January	Start of term 3
Monday 26th January	Year 5 to The Dean Academy for a dance workshop
Monday 2nd February	Future Me Day - Federation
Thursday 12th & Friday 13th February	INSET Days
Monday 16th - Friday 29th	Half Term