



Learn together. Grow together. Succeed together.

Edition 1: Friday 12th September 2025

Dates for your Diary

Mon 15 th September	Clubs start
Weds 24 th -Thurs 25 th September	Free PSHE workshops for all classes *
Weds 24 th Sept	PDSA meeting (see below)
Thurs 25 th Sept	First Year 5 (& selected Y6 children) swimming lesson
Mon 29 th Sept to Fri 3 rd Oct	Harvest week*
Tues 30 th Sept	Individual school photos*
Mon 6 th Oct	EYFS First News Photo
Thurs 9 th Oct	Flu immunisation EYFS to Y6 pupils
Weds 15 th Oct	Year 4 parents Minstead meeting 3.30pm
Weds 22 nd and Thurs 23 rd Oct	Parents evening 3.30-6.30pm *
Fri 24 th Oct	INSET Day-school closed for all pupils
Fri 24 th Oct to Mon 3 rd Nov	Half Term Holiday
Tues 4 th Nov	Back to school

**more info coming soon*

This week at Parsons Down...

- ✓ **Welcome back** to familiar faces and a very warm welcome to our new families. All of the children have had a fabulous first week and I am so proud of how they have settled back into school life.
- ✓ This week's **attendance** for EYFS and Key Stage 1 was 99.5% and for Key Stage 2 it was 97.5%. **This is record breaking and a fantastic start to the school year!** I've also been really impressed with how punctual the children have been. Learning starts from the moment they enter the door so thank you for supporting us.
- ✓ It's shaping up to be a very busy term. I've given you some **diary** dates and hope to give you the full autumn term dates next week. Year group newsletters were emailed out on Friday. Each year group has an email address. You can normally expect a response within 48hrs. If a message is urgent please communicate via the school office in office hours (8.30am-3.30pm)
- ✓ We launched our new **PSHE topic 'Me and my relationships'** in school this week. There's an overview on the website <https://www.pdp.w-berks.sch.uk/curriculum-documents> Each class will also get a free workshop in a couple of weeks. More information coming shortly.
- ✓ The **weather** is very changeable at the moment. Please can you make sure children have a **coat** in school. **Wellies** are also needed to be able to access school grounds on a daily basis. EYFS and Year 1 store their wellies by class and other year groups have a shed on the p'ground. **P.E** kits also need to be in school each day.
- ✓ We hope you've enjoyed following the adventures of the Year 6 children who have been in **Rhos-y-gwaliau**, North Wales this week <https://www.pdp.w-berks.sch.uk/blog> They were absolute superstars and I'm very grateful to the staff who went with them. Well done everyone!
- ✓ **Rock Steady** started this week and the bands are shaping up nicely. **Club** confirmation slips went out on Friday and clubs start from Monday 15th September.
- ✓ **Swimming** lessons for ALL year 5 pupils and a small group of Year 6 children start on Thursday 25th September.
- ✓ We emailed out a link to book your child's **flu immunisation** this week.
- ✓ Our **Stay and Play** sessions for Parsons Down families with pre-school aged children start on Monday 15th September. We're not sending out confirmation emails so if you've booked a place, Mrs B is really looking forward to seeing you.
- ✓ Next week we will be electing our **School and Eco councillors** from Years 1 to 6 and will also be finalising the Year 6 House Captains and monitors.
- ✓ Finally, don't forget about the **West Berks Library Challenge**. We will arrange a special reading celebration assembly when the challenge ends and it's not too late to take part.

The Week in Pictures

Children have really enjoyed seeing their friends again and exploring the site, Year 6 residential, Rock Steady and School lunches.





School Lunches Update

We appreciate all of your support so far with setting up new accounts and getting used to the new system. We are trying our best to make this switch as smooth as possible and we are continuing to work closely with Caterlink to 'iron out' systems and processes.

All families should have received their activation letters. Caterlink will be making some small changes to the menu on Friday 12th September. This includes the addition of sandwiches to the junior menu. **Unfortunately, this means that, once again, all pre-orders will be cancelled, and you will need to re-order them.**

The switch of contract has had its challenges but we'd come to end of our contract with Dolce and they didn't enter the process to continue to work with us. Despite the significant logistical challenges, we've been impressed by the additional fruit and vegetables and Dawn (our cook) is getting daily feedback from the children about the new menu.



Please come and join us for our

PDSA Meeting

There is no commitment, you can just come along for a drink and a chat!

SPOTTED DOG, COLD ASH

WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

7:30PM

No need to let us know, just turn up. We will look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

A FUN AUTUMN ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

THATCHAM Scarecrow Trail

OUR SCARECROWS ARE DOTTED AROUND THE LOCAL AREA FOR YOU TO FIND



Saturday 25th October - Sunday 2nd November 2025



Maps available from Thatcham Discovery Centre (Cash only - no change given)

MAPS
£3

FUNDRAISING FOR:



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
& Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust



COME AND ENJOY SOME HALF TERM FUN FOLLOWING THE MAP TO FIND SCARECROWS!