



**Learn together. Grow together. Succeed together.**

**Edition 16: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

### Dates for your Diary

Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Start of spring term 1
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Start of Clubs
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	EYFS vision screening
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Census Day (menu change)
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	NSPCC Number Day (families invited into school in a'noon) *
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents' evening 3.30-6.30pm *
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	End of term 3.15pm finish
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half term
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Start of spring term 2
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 residential to Minstead
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term 1.35pm finish
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holiday
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of term

*\*more info coming soon*

### Over the past two weeks at Parsons Down...

- ✓ **Happy New Year** and welcome to our first newsletter of 2026! We've had an action-packed fortnight with lots to share. We're going to trial sending newsletters fortnightly and would welcome your feedback on this. Email in via the office, catch me on the p'ground or on the gate.
- ✓ This week's **attendance** for EYFS and Key Stage 1 was 95.45% and for Key Stage 2 it was 95.2%. Attendance is monitored weekly as regularly attending school is vital.
- ✓ **Year group newsletters** are being emailed out today for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6. The letters give you more information about the busy term ahead. EYFS parents will continue to get their weekly update.
- ✓ We sent out a letter to families in the **Infant school** about a potential trip to Ufton Court. Please can we have responses by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The forms for the **Year 4 residential to Minstead have also been sent out**. Please can they be returned by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- ✓ Last week's assemblies focused on **safety** which is our new PSHE topic. Lots of the children have been excitedly telling us about the new tablets and phones many received for Christmas. We will be taking part in safer internet day later in the term. The safeguarding area of our website has lots of information about how to keep your child safe online [Safeguarding | Parsons Down Partnership](#) and if you'd like to know more about what we'll cover in PSHE that information is on the website too [Parsons Down Partnership of Schools | Curriculum Documents](#)
- ✓ The **Eco Council** will be continuing their hard work this term. In January our thoughts often turn to healthy eating and next week we will be looking at Veganuary in assemblies for Year 2 and above. Last week, we were delighted to welcome Jan, Pam and 'Rasher' from the Newbury & District Agricultural Society, to talk all about pigs. Pupils got to make and then eat delicious sausages. Yum!
- ✓ The **School Council** were also busy on a number of projects including OPAL. Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent OPAL survey. It's not too late to share your views <https://forms.office.com/e/QMbkjZvGBx> **We had our final OPAL audit this week and I am delighted to shared that we have been accredited with a gold standard!** We are the first school in West Berkshire to receive OPAL accreditation and I am delighted with the outcome. The journey continues and your input will help us plan the next steps.
- ✓ We have appointed our next group of **Year 6 House Captains and monitors** who have been eager to get started.
- ✓ **Clubs** for this term have now started. In response to feedback, club confirmations are now emailed out by the office.

Finally, be kind, be safe, be respectful, Mrs Bull



## The Past Fortnight in Pictures

A sample of photos from the Play Detectives, children making sausages and our No Outsiders photos.

