



Learn together. Grow together. Succeed together.

**Edition 15: Friday 10th January
2025**

Dates for your Diary

Mon 6 th Jan	Start of Spring term.
Mon 6 th Jan	Sports Clubs restart
Thurs 9 th Jan	Year 5/6 swimming lessons start
Mon 27 th to Fri 1 st Feb	Year 6 Mock SATs
Weds 12 th and Thurs 13 th Feb	Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Fri 14 th Feb	3.15pm End of term
Mon 17 th to Fri 21 st Feb	Half Term holiday
Mon 3 rd to Weds 5 th March	Hedgehog class residential to Minstead
Weds 5 th March to Fri 7 th March	Badger class residential to Minstead
Fri 4 th April	1.35pm End of term
Mon 7 th April to Tues 22 nd April	Easter holidays

In the past week at Parsons Down

- ✓ We'd like to wish you a very **Happy New Year!** It's been lovely to welcome the children back to school. We've had a great first week back. The children are refreshed and ready to learn and play. We're just finalising timetables and year groups newsletters should be emailed out today
- ✓ This week's **attendance** for EYFS and Key Stage 1 was 93.8% and for Key Stage 2 it was 93%.
- ✓ We welcomed **Miss Mills** to Parsons Down this week as our new Deputy headteacher. She's been busy meeting the children and getting into the classrooms and is looking forward to meeting the whole community. Mrs Marsh (PPA teacher) is now on maternity leave and we've welcomed Miss King to Parsons Down. She will be covering PPA in Years 1,2 and 6.
- ✓ We've been continuing to enjoy Outdoor Play and Learning through the **OPAL** programme. We're just reviewing the autumn term but initial observations indicate that the children love the new play opportunities and the number of incidents at lunchtime have dramatically fallen. Thank you for your support and understanding regarding muddy uniform. We've just ordered some welly boot storage and when it arrives we will be requesting welly boots be left in school.
- ✓ **Swimming** was due to start for Year 5 and 6 pupils yesterday but had to be cancelled due to the icy conditions. It was really disappointing and we will continue to risk assess each week on the day. We are all ready to go next week. If your child is swimming please can they arrive at school at 8.30am on Thursday as we need to leave at 8.40am.
- ✓ **Clubs** are back! We've started with sports clubs but will look to expand the offer after half term and in the summer term.
- ✓ We've welcomed a **sports coach** from USports today. He will be working with us every Friday for the spring term. He will be leading a dance session every Friday for Year 2,3 and 4 pupils and will run two lunchtime clubs. One for EYFS and Year 1 and one for Years 5 and 6.. There's no cost, it's part of our sports offer.
- ✓ The **Nature Discovery Centre** and the Park and Stride car park is currently closed. Sadly, ash trees at the Nature Discovery Centre have been affected by ash dieback. They need to carry out essential tree felling work this winter. **This means the Nature Discovery Centre, including the car park, paths and playground, will be closed from Monday 6 January to Friday 17 January.** For further information about the work, please contact the Nature Discovery Centre on ndc@bbowt.org.uk or 01635 874381.
- ✓ If you have a child due to start school in EYFS or Year 3 in Sept 2025 don't forget that the deadline for applying via school admissions is 15th January

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



The Week in Pictures

Children enjoying the ice, snow and school grounds as part of OPAL, No Outsiders, Year 5/6 Just Danceathon, introducing Miss Mills and PE and Clubs update.



NO OUTSIDERS
 'All different, All welcome'



Sports and Clubs Update

Once again, all children can come into school in their P.E. kits on PE days. This is something I am reviewing as it appears to be the cause of a lot of communication challenges! It would be helpful if children could bring trainers every day.

- EYFS – Wednesday (WW) and Thursday
- Yr 1 – Monday
- Yr 2 – Thursday and Friday
- Yr 3 – Wednesday and Friday
- Yr 4 – Thursday and Friday
- Yr 5 - Wednesday and Thursday
- Yr 6 – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

EYFS and Year 1 will continue to have Welly Wednesday each week and need to wear their P.E. kit on these days.

Clubs

Club	Yr Group	Adults	Day/Time	Location
Football	Y3-6	Miss Cooper Mrs Bercot	Tues 3.15-4pm	Studio then field/MUGA
Benchball	Yr 4-6	Mrs Atkinson Mrs Goddard	Weds 3.15-4pm	Studio then hall
Running	Yr1-6	Mrs Butler Mrs Hoskins	Thurs 3.15-4pm	Studio then Field
Multi Skills	EYFS-Y1	USports	Fri Lunch	P'ground
Netball	Y4-6	USports	Fri Lunch	P'ground