



PROSPECT VALE GAZETTE

We care, we strive, together we thrive

2025/26 EDITION 17 > Friday 09.01.26

Headteacher's Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you all had a healthy, happy, and restful holiday period with your families. We are absolutely delighted to see the children back in their classrooms, refreshed and ready to learn.

Attendance and Wellbeing

As many of you know, we faced a significant amount of sickness during the last half-term. As we start 2026, we are aiming for a much stronger term regarding attendance. Every day in school truly counts toward your child's progress. While we understand that illnesses happen, we kindly ask that you support us by getting your child back into school as soon as they are feeling well enough to return. Let's work together to make this our best-attended term yet!

There is already so much happening across the school:

Wraparound Care: Our new provider has hit the ground running! You can find a detailed update on their recent activities below. If you would like your

child to join the fun, please follow the booking instructions provided.

Forest School: Year 4 and Year 5 have officially begun their Forest School sessions. It has been wonderful to see them exploring the outdoors and building new skills. Be sure to check out the photos below to see the highlights!

Winter Weather & Communication

Finally, a note on the winter season. While it is impossible to predict the weather, our priority is **always** to keep the school open. We know how vital every school day is for the children, and we understand the childcare challenges that school closures create for working parents.

Please assume that school is open unless you hear otherwise from us. In the event of an emergency closure, we will communicate this via School Spider. Please ensure you have the app ready and check it regularly for any urgent updates.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the new year
Mr Redfearn
Headteacher



Dates for your diary

Monday 12th January

- 3.30pm-4.30pm Cheerleading Year 2 and 3 on Monday.

Tuesday 13th January

- Stockport Songbook Practice

Wednesday 14th January

- Forest School Year 5
- Forest School Year 4
- KS1 Choir
- Nasheed Choir

Thursday 15th January

- 3.30pm-4.30pm Cheerleading Year 4, 5 and 6

Friday 16th January

- Year 5 Swimming – please see important info below!
- Year 4 Recorder
- Year 5 Brass



Spotlight on School of Play!

Our after-school club provider, School of Play, has truly pulled out all the stops to kick off the new year with a bang! It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and excited by the variety of activities on offer.

A Wild Start to the Week At the beginning of the week, we were visited by Zoolab. The children (and staff!) had the chance to get up close and personal with some incredible visitors, including tarantulas, lizards, rodents, and a whole host of other fascinating creatures. It was a brilliant, hands-on way to learn about the natural world.

Aiming High (Or Not!) The fun didn't stop there. We've also had a giant inflatable dartboard on-site this week. I decided to try my luck and see if I could set a high score for the pupils to beat—unfortunately, I walked away with a grand total of 1 point! I'm sure the children will have much better luck than I did. If you want your child to get involved and try a free session, see how you can do that below.

To manage bookings, we'll use iPal, School of Play's secure online booking system. It's quick to set up and gives you full control over bookings, payments, and session info:

- Step 1
Head to our iPal page: schoolofplay.ipalbookings.com/register
- Step 2
Register your details and accept the terms and conditions
- Step 3
Complete your profile and add your child/ren's profiles (important)

[Watch how to do it here ✓](#)

If you have any questions, please email info@schoolofplay.org.uk.













Forest School for Year 4 and Year 5!

Forest School has officially returned for the new term, and this time it is the turn of Year 4 and Year 5.

I feel especially delighted that these year groups are finally getting their turn. Since the Forest School area is located right outside their classroom windows, they have spent many months watching other classes enjoy fantastic learning experiences. Now, the wait is over, and they get to step into the woods themselves!

It has been a joy to watch them dive straight into the action. From problem-solving and creative building to mastering the art of teamwork, this is outdoor learning at its very best. These sessions are about so much more than just being outside; they are a vital way for our pupils to develop resilience and collaboration skills that they will use throughout the year.

A huge "well done" to both Year 4 and Year 5 for such a brilliant, enthusiastic start. Take a look at the photos below to see them in action!







School Council

This week, our School Council met for the first time in Term 2, and it was a proud moment for our elected representatives. You can see some of our councillors below being awarded their official badges—they are already wearing them with great pride!

Our discussion focused on a very important question: "What little thing could make a big difference?" We challenged the council to think about one thing that would make our school a better place without being too expensive.

We also explored how the rest of the school community can communicate with the council. It is vital that every child knows how to share their ideas for change. This work is a perfect example of **Democracy** in action—one of our key British Values. By ensuring everyone has a voice, we are putting our school motto, "Together We Thrive," at the heart of everything we do.





Piano lessons starting after half-term

We are delighted to welcome a piano tutor, Claire Miles, to the Prospect Vale team! Starting this next half-term on Monday 23rd February, individual piano lessons will be available for Key Stage 2 pupils on Monday afternoons.

Our new tutor brings 18 years of experience, specialising in fun, engaging lessons that ignite a love for music. Don't worry if you don't have a piano at home yet—all your child needs is enthusiasm and a desire to learn!

- When: Monday Afternoons (Starting Monday 23rd February)
- Format: 20-minute individual sessions
- Cost: £11 per lesson (payable half-termly)

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. To register your child or join the waiting list, please contact Claire Miles directly at clairemiles52@gmail.com or 07791098613.



Important: Year 5 Swimming Reminders

Our Year 5 swimming sessions are a vital—and fun—part of the curriculum. However, to ensure these sessions run smoothly and every child gets their full time in the water, we need your support with a few essential requirements.

As a reminder, all pupils must be fully prepared each week. Please ensure your child follows these guidelines:

- **Swimming Kits:** Please double-check that your child has their full swimming kit with them every **Friday**.
- **Earrings & Jewellery:** For health and safety reasons, earrings must be removed before swimming. If your child cannot remove them themselves, please ensure they are taken out before they come to school on swimming days.
- **Advanced Notice:** If there is a medical reason why your child cannot swim, please provide a written note in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

When children arrive without kits or with earrings that cannot be removed, it can create significant disruption and requires us to make last-minute alternative arrangements. We want every child to benefit from these lessons, so thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep the focus on the swimming!



Certificate Winners

Well done to our certificate winners this week. You went above and beyond in exemplifying our school ethos!

Reception	Saylor
Year 1	Alexia
Year 2	Zayaan
Year 3	Olivia
Year 4	Sara
Year 5	hussain
Year 6	Zaynab

Well done everyone!

Dojo Certificates

Every day, children are awarded with dojo points that count towards a weekly total and an ongoing total. The weekly total winners for each class are displayed here. There are also opportunities to receive badges for children collecting dojos over time. This allows us to celebrate our school ethos at every opportunity.

Reception	Adam
Year 1	Ollie
Year 2	Harjas
Year 3	Noah
Year 4	Haniya-Noor
Year 5	Ayaan
Year 6	Narin

Attendance

Well done to **Year 4** for achieving the highest attendance this week! Keep up the great work! Our weekly attendance was **89.8%**

This is far below our **96%** target. We need to make a big improvement next week. Let's try our hardest next week everyone!

Reception	92.1
Year 1	90.5
Year 2	96
Year 3	94.8
Year 4	94.8
Year 5	96.8
Year 6	93.3
TOTAL	94.2%

