

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another very busy half term ends, I always take pleasure and pride in sharing our Newsletter with you, which celebrates many of the children's achievements. As well as the newsletter, can I draw your attention the 'News' section on the school website which is regularly updated. I hope you enjoy reading about the array of curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities they have embraced.

Can I remind you that Monday 3rd June is a teacher training day and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Tuesday 4th June.

Wishing you an enjoyable bank holiday weekend and half term break.

Kind Regards

Mrs Mancini



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PRIDE OF PARKSIDE

Congratulations to the pupils who have earned a Pride of Parkside certificate this half term. These pupils are:



Eleanor A	Holly H	Lizzie J	Anthony D	Dillon M	Dylan D	Ella H	Faith A
Eleanor H	Alistair Y	Tommy A	Esmail B-D	Blake M	Maisey T	Keyton P	Lemis BK
Amelia T	Aivah B	Holly W	Skyla-Jai P	Mia F	Rubee R	Cara S-W	Madelaine S
William D	Shahraan Q						

YEAR 6 TESTING

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils for their maturity, positive attitude and resilience during the recent SATs week. As always, we just asked the pupils to try their very best and walk out of the tests proud of what they had achieved. Well done Year 6, you were a credit to the school and yourselves!

The breakfast club was well attended and proved to be a positive start to the day for many of the pupils ... with lots of toast being eaten. We would also like to say how impressed we were with Years 5, 7 and 8 who supported the Year 6 pupils throughout the week showing empathy and consideration when moving around the building and reinforcing our Parkside Values.

YEAR 8 MATHS LEADERS

A massive thank you and well done to our amazing Year 8 Maths Leaders, who worked with some of the Year 6 pupils during the Spring Term. You showed maturity, commitment, patience, empathy and brilliant teaching skills! The Year 6 pupils were very grateful for your help, support and encouragement. We hope you all gained from the experience too!

NATIONAL NUMERACY WEEK

As part of National Numeracy Day, the whole school took part in a variety of activities. During registration, pupils were able to consider how different people use maths in their everyday lives and in their different careers; showing that number skills are needed throughout the day! As part of maths lessons, Year 5 looked at financial maths and budgeting, Year 7 looked at how maths skills are used by a filmmaker and Year 8 looked at buying a car with finance, understanding the interest rates and depreciation. KS3 pupils also looked at the importance of achieving a Grade 4 in Maths at GCSE for their future careers, whatever these may be! Some brilliant discussions were held across the school.

Nilia—*"Me and Esmail felt we sometimes struggle, but we worked as a team, and felt proud of what we did"*.

Freya-Rose—*"It was tricky because I don't like money, but I tried hard anyway"*.

Ruby—*"I found working out the total easiest"*.



READING

Our pupils continue to impress us with their reading and we have seen a large uptake in the loaning of books from KS3 since the reorganisation of our library. The KS3 section has recently been reorganised to be focused on genre, to make it a little easier for our pupils to know which book to take out next.



The following pupils have been rewarded with a vending machine token this half term:

Scarlett C	Amelia T	Keyl C	Grace B	Dylan F	Aaron W	Susanna N
Cameron D	Harry O	Bella E	Charlie O	Poppy A	Georgia H	Francesca H
Theo P	Phoebe G	Demi R	Seren C	Tommy A	Mollie B-L	Jessie K-G
Brooklyn M	Freya-Rose C					

So far, Parkside has read a phenomenal 77,588,663 words! It would be fantastic to see us hit 80,000,000 by the end of the summer term! Our top readers so far this year are:

Holly H - **5,376,173 words**

Ella P - **2,453,688 words**

Madelaine S - **2,095,618 words**

Alfred C - **1,583,656 words**

Lucy C - **1,086,450 words**

Luca A-W - **1,044,252 words**

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council have worked hard this year to ensure that a range of clubs and activities have been set up for everyone to enjoy. This half term, we took delivery of our new benches for on the MUGA and field - they are currently being assembled and painted, ready to use. The House Captains and Council worked together to raise money through the cake sales over the last term to pay for these - thank you to all parents for your support! During the last half term, the council are going to be moving to help to organise a disco for our Year 8 pupils on 27th June. We are hopeful that further discos can then be arranged for other year groups next academic year. We will also be working hard to make sure that our school is more eco-friendly by establishing an Eco-Team. Some of our school council members will also be helping Mrs Ford in developing our outdoor learning areas.

KEMP HOSPICE

Gardening Club had visitors from KEMP Hospice in to school this week to see how they were going to utilise the wildflower butterflies that we have applied for. Over the coming months, we will aim to raise money to donate to this charity.



CELEBRATING CELLS

We are thrilled to share some images of our Year 7 pupils' homework on plant and animal cells. They've put in a lot of hard work and effort into illustrating and explaining the key components of both cell types.

Great job, Year 7! Your work really shows your understanding and dedication.





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MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES

On the 18th April, the Music Department hosted their first 'Music from the Movies' Concert and it was an enormous success.

The afternoon was off to a lively start when the KS3 singers performed a version of 'Mamma Mia'. This was followed by self-led guitar, keyboard and drum ensembles playing a medley of famous film themes. There were several memorable vocal performances, including 'Skyfall', 'Remember me' with Ukulele accompaniment and 'Cups' which then led into a beautifully tranquil violin performance of 'The Legend of Ashitaka'.

The ukulele group performed a lovely arrangement of 'Lava' before the audience were treated to an energetic self-choreographed dance, by two of our choir members, along to the track of 'Footloose'.

The penultimate toe-tapping classic 'Eye of the Tiger' was stylishly performed by two Year 8 musicians on electric guitar and drums, along with Mrs Williams on piano before rounding off the concert with all singers coming together to perform a medley from 'The Greatest Showman'.

The overall standard of performances was fantastic, and Mrs Williams and Miss Gilyead could not have been prouder. We look forward to welcoming you back for our end of year 'Summer Spectacular' Concert!



THE DEN

The Den took a nice walk into town where they went to ASDA to buy seeds for planting. The children really enjoyed gardening in the allotment and they are planning on using the vegetables and herbs they grow in our weekly Cooking Club!



EARTH DAY

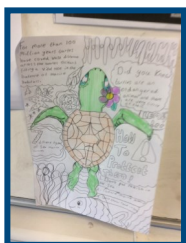
On the 26th April, Parkside took part in Earth Day a collaborative arts day with eight other middle and first schools in Bromsgrove and the surrounding area.

Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This Year's theme was "Planet vs. Plastics".

Our pupils all took part in a variety of Art activities such as clay making, printing, drawing and illustration, together with sculpting with natural objects. The results were fantastic, and we all had the most wonderful day learning new skills and raising awareness for such an important world issue!



All the pupils received a certificate for taking part and a huge collection of their own Artwork to take home





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INSPIRATION DAY—SAME BUT DIFFERENT

On Tuesday 23rd April, Parkside hosted an inspiration day called “Same but Different”. The aim of the day was to broaden our pupils’ understanding of neurodiversity and to look at this diversity positively. We looked at the definition of being neurodiverse and some of the different ways of learning and thinking that pupils may have. Whilst we learned about the science behind dyslexia, ADHD, autism, dyspraxia, Tourette’s syndrome and dyscalculia, we also carefully considered the challenges that these may pose to learning. We looked at how neurodiversity positively impacts our school – we looked at how famous people have used their diversity as a strength and how the different ways of viewing the world can ensure that pupils who are neurodiverse can be successful in a range of different subjects and ways. We celebrated our different minds and ways of thinking within our school. We ended the day by thinking carefully about the roles we play in supporting each other – how we can help and use empathy to support everyone within our Parkside family positively. Our pupils explained this in a variety of ways and spent some time creating art work and ‘class pledges’ which will be displayed in classrooms and around the school. Our pupils have said the following about the day:

“We have gained a better understanding about the challenges our peers might face.”

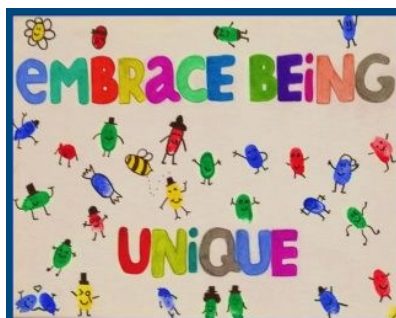
“We learned that we should celebrate individual people’s talents”

“It was a very informative day. We learned a lot!”

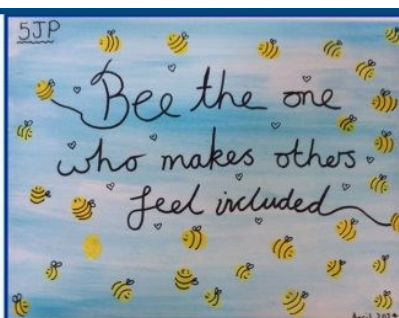
YEAR 6 INSPIRATION DAY

Following on from their hard work for their SATS and to ensure that they were able to spend some time fully immersed in some of their other subjects, Year 6 have had an inspiration week this week. They have competed in sports and team fitness challenges, learned about the Summer Olympics during their Olympic afternoon and spent some time creating some optical illusion art during their Art Day. In addition to this, they were able to learn off-site through their Geography field trip into Bromsgrove, where they were collecting data and using this to inform where they would place a new coffee shop of their design. They finished the week representing the school in a fantastic manner at Bromsgrove Fire Station for their Young Citizens' Challenge: the pupils learned all about road safety, water safety, fire safety and were introduced to some local youth workers too. Pupils also learned about how to perform life-saving CPR and the recovery position for First Aid.

8LF



5JP



5HP





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PE FIXTURES

U13 GIRLS FOOTBALL

A huge well done to our U13 girls football team for their outstanding achievement in reaching the final round of the Worcestershire County Cup, amidst fierce competition from 12 formidable teams. In the final match against local rivals, St. John's Middle School, our girls demonstrated resilience and skill in a game of two halves. Despite St. John's dominating the first half, our team worked tirelessly the whole second half, with Ellie D crafting numerous scoring opportunities. However, in a game where both goalkeepers were phenomenal, St. Johns eventually won 1-0. Special recognition goes to Sophie B for her standout defending, earning her the well-deserved title of Player of the Match. Your hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship have made us proud!



THIS GIRL CAN

Key Stage 3 pupils from our school had an exhilarating experience at the 'This Girl Can Festival' hosted at the Whitehorse Hotel in Worcester. The day was packed with excitement as the girls enjoyed a range of alternative sports activities including cross fit, weightlifting, glow-in-the-dark dodgeball and boogie bounce. The team building games added a collaborative spirit for the participants. Beyond the physical activities, the girls engaged in discussions during Q&A sessions, touching on topics such as healthy eating and the importance of participation in physical education, highlighting the significance of promoting an active lifestyle among young women. This event not only provided an avenue for fun and fitness but also empowered our students to embrace sportsmanship and wellness in their daily lives.



ST GEORGE'S PARK

Our Key Stage 3 girls recently enjoyed an unforgettable reward trip to St George's Park, the renowned training centre for English football and other national teams. During their visit, they were treated to an exclusive tour of the facility, exploring the pitches named after legendary English footballers, as well as the boot room and changing rooms. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the opportunity to view the prestigious Women's Euros trophy. The girls also enjoyed a coaching session led by an UEFA B coach. They relished the chance to showcase their football prowess while honing their skills under expert guidance. We are incredibly proud of our students for embracing this opportunity and demonstrating exemplary sportsmanship throughout their time at St George's Park.



U13 SEMI-FINAL WIN

Parkside's success in football continued as our Under 13 Girls football team beat a very fine team from St Bede's Catholic Middle School at the Woodfield Academy on 22nd April. In a keenly contested match, the girls won their semi-final of the Worcestershire Cup by 3 goals to 1, and now represent the school in the upcoming final. Congratulations to Ellie D who was voted player of the match.



KS3 TOURNAMENT

A huge win for both of our Year 7 Boys' and Girls' football teams who won the Key Stage 3 Football Tournament held at Bromsgrove School on Friday 4th April. The boys drew 2-2 in the final, but won after prevailing in a very tense penalty shoot out. Our goalkeeper Natty J was fantastic, saving many of the opposition's penalty attempts. Lexi R scored 12 goals in the tournament, as the girls were also crowned champions winning their final 4-1. All the pupils did Parkside proud, bringing back the gold!



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ATTENDANCE

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The Department for Education have recently launched a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of school attendance, highlighting the benefits beyond just attainment, such as friendships and well-being. Here at Parkside we believe that regular school attendance is important for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and mental health.

We understand that for parents and carers it can be difficult to know when to send your child in to school if they are feeling unwell. It is usually safe for children to attend school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However children should stay at home if they have a high temperature of 38° or above. If we become concerned about the level of illness related absence your child has had we may contact you and request medical evidence to support this.

The NHS has published guidance to help parents and carers decide whether their child is well enough to attend school. This includes information on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions such as coughs, colds, chicken pox and headlice. See the below link to access this information.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

As a school we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that children are supported to attend school and reach their full potential. If there are any reasons that prevent your child from attending school or if you would like to discuss your child's attendance please contact our Attendance Officer, Miss Harper.

We now have a specific form on our school website to report an absence and/or medical appointment, this can be found under the 'Contact Us' tab. You can continue to report absences by calling the school office (01527 873660) and leaving a message, or sending an email to our dedicated attendance email - absence@parkside.worcs.sch.uk.

Please ensure that absences are reported by 09:00am and we ask that you contact us **EVERY** day your child is unwell. Any unreported absences are marked as unauthorised on your child's attendance report.

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of children attending school on time. Our rear gate to the playground closes at 08:50am to ensure that all children are in registration ready to start their day promptly. If you are running late for any reason, please contact the school office.



PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Portals

Contact Us

Search

Contact Form

Absence Form

01527 873660



Our School

Year Groups

Our Curriculum

Parents/Carers

New Pupils



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PARKING

Our main car park gates close between 8:40am and 9:15am and 3:00pm and 3:30pm each day. Please can we also remind parents and carers to be mindful that the car park is for staff, visitor use and drop off only.

ROAD SAFETY

Please may we remind pupils of road safety and sensible conduct on the way to and from school, remembering to use the zebra/pelican crossings when arriving/leaving school, local residents have raised concerns wanting our pupils to stay safe.

BICYCLES

If your child wishes to cycle to school, please ensure they follow the highway code. When arriving at school pupils can lock the bicycle away safely in the bike shed. When leaving school, please can all pupils push their bike until off the school site before cycling away safely to protect Parkside and Meadows pupils and parents.

WATER BOTTLES

Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school each day.



MEDICATION

Should pupils require medication in school, a medical consent form should be completed and signed by parents and carers. Please note we are unable to give medication unless it is in the original packaging with instructions. We keep a small amount of Calpol in school for emergencies. If you know your child may require Calpol in school, please bring in a supply for us to use. If your child has pierced ears, please can we ask that you supply tape for them to use in PE for health and safety reasons.



LUNCHTIME

Lunchtime meals are now £2.53, pupils can also buy a drink to go with their meal at an additional cost. If pupils are bringing their own sandwiches, please remember to bring in a drink. If you are entitled to FSM, please apply even if your child does not want the meals, as additional funding is made available for the school for other purposes, which will benefit your child.

STAFF NEWS

As this half-term comes to an end would like to congratulate Mrs Harper on the arrival of her little boy! We would also like to welcome Mrs Foreman who will be joining us in the next half-term as a Learning Support Assistant.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Can we remind Parents/Carers that school finishes at 3:15pm. For safeguarding reasons, if you are unable to collect your children at the end of the school day, please make alternative arrangements for them to be picked up at this time or use Castle Kids Care Club. Our staff are not in a position to be able to supervise your children after school, and it is not appropriate for them to be sat waiting in reception.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4 th June	School reopens
Wednesday 5 th June	Year 8 Individual and Group Photos
Friday 14 th June	Year 5 Class Group Photos
Friday 14 th June	Half of Year 8 Transition to NBHS
Friday 21 st June	Half of Year 8 Transition to NBHS
Monday 1 st July to Wednesday 3 rd July	Year 6 Oaker Wood Residential Trip
Wednesday 3 rd July to Friday 5 th July	Year 8 Bushcraft Residential Trip
Tuesday 9 th July	New Intake Induction Evening
Thursday 11 th July	Year 5 Activity Day at Bablake Cricket Ground
Friday 12 th July	Social Awareness Day
W/B 15 th July	School Reports
Monday 15 th July	Year 8 to 9 Transition Day
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 7 Group 1 Aztec Adventure
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 7 Group 2 Aztec Adventure
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 8 Presentation Afternoon
Thursday 18 th July	Year 8 Inflatables Day
Friday 19 th July	School closes for Summer Holidays
Monday 22 nd July	School closed – TED Day

EQUIPMENT LIST

Blue handwriting pen	Whiteboard pen (Dry wipe)
Pencil	Pencil crayons
Ruler (cm/mm)	Glue stick
Rubber	Pencil case (small)
Pencil sharpener	Highlighter
Green pen	Wired headphones for Computing
Scientific calculator (KS3 only) – these can be purchased from the school via ParentPay.	