

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

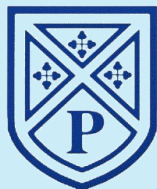
As we approach the half way point of the school year, it is wonderful to see the pupils really embracing the wide range of opportunities on offer at school. There has been a focus on providing an inspiring enrichment programme that supports the children to understand how their learning is relevant in the wider world. I hope you enjoy reading about a selection of these in the newsletter.

Being organised and independent are key skills we teach throughout their time at Parkside. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the children are attending on time, organised for the school day, wearing the correct uniform and bringing the equipment they need.

You will read in the newsletter about our Sports for Champions Day. It was a huge success and the children participated with enthusiasm and energy. Thank you so much to all of our families for the incredibly generous donations.

Best wishes,

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;

Harvey McK	Libby E	Archie G	Naz O	Harry B	Logan E-J	Isabel B	Isla M
Stanley L R-B	Maisy W	Abbey G	Thomas C	Harley N	Thomas S	Seren C	Izzy P
Harry B	Aysha H	Seth P	Mia S	Alfie O			

SPORTS FOR CHAMPIONS

On Monday 13th February, Parkside welcomed decathlete Matt Lee to school for an inspirational day of fitness circuits, wellbeing and fundraising. Our fantastic Sports Leaders supported Matt in organising a challenging timed fitness circuit, with every pupil in the school taking part. Our pupils had 5 stations of activities - burpees, leg drives, half or full press-ups, tricep dips and star jumps. Pupils had to complete as many as they could at each station, with Matt circulating, encouraging and joining them in their efforts. Pupils had to show the Parkside Values of Teamwork and Resilience in order to complete the circuit.

This was followed by an inspirational assembly, where Matt Lee shared his story about his life as a professional athlete. He talked openly about some of the challenges he faced in school and how sport was his area to thrive. He talked of his time at Aston Villa Football Academy and the reasons why he transitioned to athletics and the decathlon. He demonstrated some of his sports, and impressed the pupils with how far and high he can jump! He finished his assembly with a question and answer session, where our pupils asked a range of interesting questions. Matt commented on the exemplary attitude and efforts of all of our pupils - he was impressed with their behaviour, but also their resilience during the circuits. He also commented that our Sports Leaders are some of the best he had ever seen!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our parents, carers and families for the wonderful support that you've shown with the fundraising. We raised a phenomenal £3639 for our school fund and are very proud of all of our pupils for their effort on the day. We hope that they enjoyed the experience.

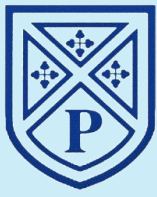
2 WEEK TURNAROUND

Thank you to all parents/cares for their support with the 2-week turnaround. The outcomes were overwhelmingly positive. Regular equipment checks will continue to be carried out next half term to ensure pupils are prepared in the morning for their learning each day. A reminder of essential equipment and school uniform can be found on the website or in the pupil handbooks. After half term our next 2 week turnaround will focus on movement around the school specifically on stairwells, between lessons and lining up at break and lunch.

POLICE CADETS

Well done to our latest cohort of fully graduated Police Cadets. They have worked superbly for 6 weeks with PC Nash understanding basic forensics, Police communication and some of the basic Police processes used to solve crime and keep the public safe. We look forward to starting with the next group of year 5 pupils after half term.





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HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On the 27th of January, at 11:00am the Head Pupils of Parkside attended the Holocaust Memorial Day service at Sanders Park. The service was led by Reverend Ray Khan. Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust through Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. During the service, we listened to breath-taking stories, prayers of penitence and songs performed by North and South High Schools. We left the service with powerful messages dwelling in our mind.

'Enable us to defend those who are not strong enough to defend themselves.'

'No wickedness can ever extinguish your infinite love.'

'May remembrance make us alert to the reality of evil and to the words that are used.'

'Deepen our respect for everything!'

At Parkside, we will always try to be good citizens and never let evil thrive. We have spent lessons learning about the 'Ordinary People' involved in the genocide. Also, we recognise how fortunate we are in the UK that we are not at this similar risk.

Written by : Jackson P, Charlie H, Ruby W and Katy C.



MEETING AN ASTRONAUT

On Thursday 2nd February, Year 5 had the pleasure of meeting Helen Sharman (the first British astronaut) during a virtual question and answer session.

Prior to the event, the pupils were given the opportunity to submit questions which were addressed throughout the exciting live lesson. This activity links to their current Science topic "The Earth and Beyond".

Freddie commented, *"I like how it answered all our questions and encouraged children to go to space."*

Tyler said, *"It was fascinating and encouraged under 18s to go to space."*

Josh recalled he, *"liked the quotes that the astronauts shared to 'believe in yourself' and 'try your hardest at all you do'."*



STEM KNEX

Once again, we had the pleasure of welcoming Sarah into our school for the STEM works KNEX challenge. Pupils were given the task to create a robot which had the ability to sort items within their model factory. Their model had to include a robot, a set of shelves and parcels. All the pupils represented the school with excellent attitude, conduct and used resilience to complete the task. They presented confidently to the group and could answer questions about the relevant parts of their design. Amilie-lou and Kiean-Lee were selected as the Parkside winners and will go on to the final to represent our school in June.



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KIDS INVENTORS DAY

On Tuesday 16th January 2023, to recognise Kids' Inventors Day, Year 6 took part in an inventor's challenge. They were given play dough and spaghetti and set the challenge to create a free-standing structure or a bridge. They had limited time and resources. All pupils demonstrated excellent resilience to achieve the task.

THE FARADAY CHALLENGE

On Thursday 19th January, a group of 34 Year 8 pupils took part in the Faraday Challenge. This is an annual competition that introduces students to engineering, inspires them to consider engineering as a career and helps to develop their practical and employability skills, including team working, problem solving and creative thinking. All teams worked tirelessly all day to come up with a ground-breaking innovation. When it came to the judging, there was only one point that separated the winners from the runner up. A huge well done to the winners Alfie J, Alfie O, Jackson, Charlie R, Charlie W and Harry as Project Manager. All of the children were a credit to our school and made us very proud.

THINK TANK

On Friday 13th January all of our Year 8s visited the Birmingham Think Tank Museum. Children got to explore the award-winning Science Museum and even managed to experience interactive Science shows. The children relished the opportunity to explore the vast amount of galleries and historical artefacts, modern interactives and fantastic futuristic facts. The whole of Year 8 represented Parkside beautifully and we look forward to taking them on their next trip soon.

POPPY APPEAL 2022

Thank you for all the donations made for the Poppy Appeal! We raised £241.52 which is amazing.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you for all of the donations you made through our Christmas Jumper Day. We have raised £111 which is fantastic. That works out as £27.75 for each House. Thank you again.

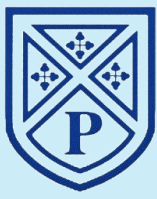
YEAR 5 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

This term, in Geography, we have been exploring our local area. As part of this, Year 5 participated in their first fieldwork at Parkside; we were so fortunate with the weather! They learnt a lot before, during and after and had a great time. Their behaviour was exemplary and they did Parkside proud. Well done, Year 5!

FAMILY THRIVE

We recently celebrated our Thrive School of Excellence award by having a whole school assembly where we spoke to pupils about our achievement. We also all took part in a neuroscience lesson where we learnt about our triune brain and made our own brains out of play doh. it was a fantastic afternoon.

After Easter we will be running our Family Thrive sessions again. A letter will be sent with further details.



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SURVIVAL REWARD DAY

As the children in The Den have been working so hard in their lessons this half term, they had a reward day on Wednesday 15th February. This was no ordinary reward day- it was a survival reward day! When the children came into school, the children were told they had been washed up on a desert island after their ship sank. They went into forest school and found 2 mystery suitcases which had washed up on the shore. They could use the building resources inside to create a den to shelter from the rain. They worked in teams and were given challenges throughout the day such as knot tying, first aid application and water filtration.

Throughout the day, the children were awarded gold stars for teamwork, determination and leadership skills. They managed to earn enough stars to unlock the wooden chest. It was filled with their favourite foods which they enjoyed whilst relaxing in their den.

In the afternoon, the children learnt Morse Code using a torch light to communicate. They also solved clues hidden around the school to find treasure. Well done to all the children in The Den for their hard work, excellent attitude towards their learning and kindness to one another.



THE DEN—TRANSPORT TOPIC

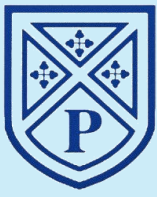
Our English topic for this half term has been Transport. This week, the children have been holding debates in Parliament (The Den) to argue points for and against HS2 construction. They have taken on characters (The architect, the builder, the climatologist, the businessman, the wildlife officer) and creating arguments for or against the new high-speed train. We even created our own BBC news report using iMovie.



LIBRARY NEWS

It has been great to see so many pupils back in the library since the new year and with the weather being a bit chillier they have enjoyed reading more. We currently have a Parkside crypto-library competition where pupils take an AR quiz of the book that they have completed and earn a chance to guess the code to win some lovely prizes. There has been such a fantastic response and many pupils have been very close. The code was cracked and it was 703!

We have just had our delivery of scholastic brochures so don't forget that it is now online at <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/parksidemiddle/digital-book-club>. There are hundreds of fantastic children's books to choose from, and every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club will earn 20p for our school in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by 10th March 2023.



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PE NEWS

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

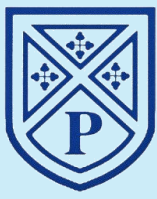
Miss Wallis took both our KS2 and KS3 athletes to South Bromsgrove High School to take part in the District Sports Hall Athletics. These events were a mixture of both individual and team races which earned the school points depending on where you were placed. The KS2 girls came away as Bronze Medallists, finishing in 3rd place and the boys came 4th. All competitors really enjoyed participating in the different events, as well as cheering on their friends and were a credit to the school. A very special mention goes to Ellie D, Immy S and Scarlett T who did exceptionally well, winning their races. Another well done to the Year 8 girls relay team who also won first place. Overall, our Key Stage 2 teams, along with Year 7 girls, were awarded bronze medals and more success with year 8 girls being gifted 2nd place.



YEAR 5 DISTRICT NETBALL

The Year 5 Netball team entered their first competitive tournament which was held at Westacre Middle School in Droitwich. The team's nerves were high as they played Witton, their first match ended up in a 2-0 win. After their first win, confidence soared as they beat AFMS with a 7-0 victory! Pupils then qualified through to the 'Winner Group' where they were to compete for either bronze, silver or gold medals. The team performed excellently beating SJMS 2-0, there was just one team left to beat in the final: Alvechurch. The team went down 1-0 within the first two minutes, leaving just 5 minutes for two goals to be scored! But, they didn't let their heads drop and they didn't give up, they showed utter determination and perseverance from the starting whistle to the very last! Blocking shots and counter-attacking, passing the ball, dodging into space they did everything they needed to do to win. Well done to you all, you really brought your A game and have now been crowned District Champions, scoring 13 goals in the tournament and only conceding one.





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PE NEWS

REDDITCH UNITED

Last week Miss Wallis took a number of students to Redditch United Football Club where they got the opportunity to tour the Trico Stadium and take part in a football skills session which they showcased to a very special visitor, Rachel Maclean, MP for Redditch. Students were selected for their commitment to the club and based on their outstanding behaviour in school. The coaching staff all commented on how wonderfully behaved the pupils were along with Miss Wallis who claimed they were a credit to the school.



YEAR 8 DISTRICT NETBALL TOURNAMENT

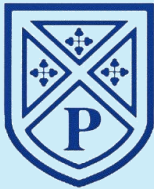
A huge well done to Year 8 girls netball team who came 3rd place in the District Tournament, out of 9 schools. They won their group stages beating Dodderhill 2-0, Droitwich High School 3-1 and St Johns 7-0. They then qualified to the semi-finals where they played Alvechurch and lost, they ended up battling it out for 3rd place, replaying Droitwich High School winning 4-1. A special mention to Sophia T, who was voted by her peers as player of the tournament.

BARCLAY CARD GAME CHANGERS

Two pupils from Parkside have been offered the opportunity to be part of the Barclays Game Changers programme. Barclays Game Changers are a team of female ambassadors across England helping to give all girls the same opportunities to play football in school as boys. Nominated by their teacher Miss Wallis, both Katy C and Zoe H will represent the voice of their peers and promote the wider benefits of football to girls through sharing their own story within sport. They will champion the importance of offering equal opportunities for girls to get involved in football and influence better provision of girls' football at their school. 300-600 young people across England have been nominated to be Barclays Game Changers this year from over 300 schools.

#LETGIRLSPLAY





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ART OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all artists...

Why not get involved in this fantastic competition to help celebrate the Kings' coronation!

The theme is 'The King'

RGS SPRINGFIELD JUNIOR ART COMPETITION

RGS Springfield are launching an Art Competition for children aged 2-11 on the theme of "The King" to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III in May 2023.

This event is all about creativity, so interpret the theme as you like, it does not just have to be about crowns and flags!

cmstrgs@rsw.org.uk', 'We look forward to receiving your entries.', 'RGS Springfield, Britannia Square, Worcester, WR1 3DL, 01905 249999'."/>

RGS SPRINGFIELD JUNIOR ART COMPETITION

Your submission can come in a variety of formats or sizes, we would like you to be as creative as possible. It could be a painting, a collage, a photograph, a digital piece or whatever you like! It is up to you.

The Art work will be judged by a member of the Gallery at Bevere and the winner will receive a one to one masterclass with Susan Birth, an artist from Bevere Gallery.

Age categories will be 2 - 4, 5 - 6, 7 - 8, 9 - 11 years.

We will be hosting an exhibition of work at RGS Springfield from 2 - 5 May.

The winning school will receive a masterclass from the Head of Art at RGS Worcester.

All entries must be submitted to RGS Springfield by 21 April 2023.

If you would like any more information please contact cmstrgs@rsw.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your entries.

RGS Springfield,
Britannia Square, Worcester, WR1 3DL
01905 249999

creative
Art Showcase

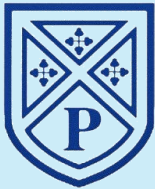
2023
Save The Date



- **25th February - Fun Quiz**
Barnt Green Social Club - book your team, via our website
- **February-April - Young Creators**
'Imagination Unlimited' Online Exhibition, enter now see website.
- **5th-10th April - Avoncroft Workshops**
'Natures Kitchen' - Food Art & Creative Zone for families
- **24th June - Butterfly Ball**
Join us for a fun party night at Guesten Hall, Avoncroft.
Live music & much more. Gather your friends and party! (Fundraiser)
- **22nd July - Creative Fest 23**
With Bromsgrove Festival at Sanders Park.
Family day of performance, art, craft & get involved tasters
- **28th & 29th October - Showcase 23 Plus**
Art from the Heart - Art Exhibition
An inspirational weekend of Performance, Art, Craft & taster
Workshops, Gallery & Exhibition of regional artists

Mark these dates in your calendar and join us for a fun-filled year of creativity and inspiration.
Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information, tickets and updates.

www.creativeartshowcase.org



SEND LOCAL OFFER SURVEY

The All Age Disability Service have been asked to look at the current webpages of the SEND Local Offer, as this is being updated by Digital Design in order to move it onto a new platform with refreshed graphics and easier navigation.

As you know, the Local Offer provides information about the provision and services that families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have a Special Educational Need (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children First need to ensure that everything included on the current website makes sense and is helpful and relevant.

As part of this they are keen to look at the way the site is structured to ensure that it is easy for parents, young people and professionals to navigate and find the information they are looking for. They will be looking at the content itself and other activities, but this is about the way the information is organised.

They would be grateful if you could complete the following short survey and also please share it with young people, parents, carers, stakeholders and professionals to complete.

The survey closes on Sunday 12th March 23:59.

[Send Local Offer \(google.com\)](https://www.sendlocaloffer.gov.uk/)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 27th February—School reopens
- Wednesday 1st March—School closed—Industrial Action
- Monday 6th March—Thrive Parent Forum
- Wednesday 15th March—School closed—Industrial Action
- Thursday 16th March—School closed—Industrial Action
- Tuesday 7th March—Virtual Parents Evening
- Friday 10th March—Year 7 Gurdwara (7AF, 7VSa & Group 1 7CW)
- Tuesday 14th March—Virtual parents Evening
- Friday 17th March—Year 7 Gurdwara (7CF, 7KWS, Group 2 7CW & The Den)
- Tuesday 21st March—Virtual Parents Evening
- Friday 31st March—Year 7 & 8 Planet Ice, Solihull
- Friday 31st March—School closes for Easter holidays