



October 2022

## Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. You will receive one each half term and it is designed to share with you some of the opportunities and successes your children have experienced, as well as key information and updates. Can I remind you that our school website also provides you with a wealth of information and is regularly updated to celebrate the children's work, achievements and school news.

As you will see, it has been an incredibly busy and exciting half term and our children have made an excellent start to the school year. The Senior Leadership Team have spent time visiting each class recently, and we have been delighted to see that engagement, enthusiasm and positive attitudes to learning were evident across the school. We have also spent time looking in depth at teaching and learning in English. We were particularly impressed by the quality of written work in the children's books, the choice of high-quality texts they are reading and the confidence with which they can talk about their learning.

Our whole school focus on the development of oracy skills is well underway with 'Talk Tuesdays and Thursdays' providing lots of opportunity for discussion and all subjects focusing on the development of vocabulary to enable the children to 'Speak like a Specialist'.

If you have not yet looked at the pupil handbook there is wealth of information in there to support your children with their learning at home.

As a school we continue to be fully committed to building strong relationships with our families. It was wonderful to be able to finally meet many of you at our information evenings and the Year 5 coffee morning. Thank you for your patience and support with the introduction of the parent and pupil portal, I hope you are finding it useful to be able to access your children's homework and to celebrate with them in their achievement points. You will receive a link shortly to a survey that will enable you to share your views of the school.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a relaxing half term break.

Mrs Mancini



## HOUSE NEWS

This half term has seen pupils voting for their House Captains who had created election videos.

Congratulations to the following:

**Worcester:** Captain - Sam S , 8NJM & Vice-Captain - Luke B, 8LF

**Hereford:** Captain - Harry S, 8ES & Vice-Captain Matthew B, 8ED

**Malvern:** Captain - Isaac D, 8NJM & Vice-Captain Will W, 8ED

**Gloucester:** Captain - Lilly-May S, 8NJM & Vice-Captain - Cian V, 8LF

Pupils have also had the opportunity to nominate charities and then vote for the charity that they would like their House to support this year.

The following charities have been chosen:

Worcester- Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity

Hereford- Primrose Hospice

Malvern- NSPCC

Gloucester- RNLI



## YEAR 5 MATHS & ENGLISH MORNING

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October Year 5 parents/carers were invited into Parkside to learn about the expectations in Maths and English in Year 5. This included looking at the Maths Calculation Policy, being introduced to the digital platforms used in both subjects, seeing how high-quality texts are used and the importance of reading for pleasure. The parents/carers had the opportunity to join their child in a Maths lesson too. Despite a few parents feeling nervous returning to the classroom, everyone enjoyed the experience! Thank you to Bob the Alien for making an appearance too to help with our Oracy skills! All presentations from the morning are available on the school website. Please take a look at the photos of the morning and read some of the quotes from parent/carers and pupils!

Quotes from pupils

Mason *"I didn't have a parent help, but I still enjoyed the morning."*

Connor *"I enjoyed seeing my grandad and doing decimals because they're my favourite thing in Maths!"*

Indie *"I liked doing column addition and having Dad to help me."*

Parents commented:

*"I enjoyed this morning, Mrs Bennison was very enthusiastic."*

*"I have loved working with my son this morning."*

*"It was really helpful to see how Maths is taught."*

*"It is useful having the methods so we can help at home."*





### TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

On Friday 23rd September, all Year 5 pupils (and staff) were invited to come to school dressed as Rock stars. Throughout the exciting day, pupils participated in many times tables activities, including logging on to TT Rockstars and setting up their avatar. The inspiration day was in preparation for 'Rock-tober', where each maths group will go head-to-head in an online TT Rockstar Battle-of-the-Bands

### YEAR 5 TRIP TO BLACKWELL

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October, Year 5 enjoyed a fulfilled day of team building, stepping out of their comfort zones and overcoming active challenges at the Blackwell Adventure Centre. We are so proud of their efforts and conduct whilst off-site. Well done!

### AMAZON FACTORY VIRTUAL TOUR

Year 5 were given a virtual tour of the Amazon factory in Manchester on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The aim of the trip was to inspire the next generation of tech experts by allowing them to experience the real-world learning of robotics within the factory. All pupils were extremely well behaved during the event and asked many thoughtful and exciting questions at the end. One Year 5 pupil said *"I really enjoyed the tour and liked hearing about the career choices at the Amazon factory"*. Another pupil commented that *"the robots were like the ones we are designing in DT at the moment"*. Hopefully, we can run this tour with other year groups, later in the year.

### DISNEY THEATRE WORKSHOP - THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER



A group of Year 5's took part in a virtual workshop where they learnt a dance, song and acting tips from Disney Theatre professionals! They did a super job in just half an hour and had lots of fun.



### LASTEST LIBRARY NEWS

It has been a lovely start to the year with so many enthusiastic readers visiting the library. We have also been very impressed by the wide variety of books and genres that have been chosen. Our Halloween competitions ran through October. Pupils entered some amazing spooky stories for our writing challenge and the entries for our mask competition were most creative. Well done to all those who entered! We would like to congratulate the following pupils who have been awarded a gold token for the Parkside vending machine his half term for their strong oracy skills during their lessons.

Kevon P - 6JDe	Casey B - 8ED	Ethan G - 8ED	Aiden F - 8ES
Ollie S - 7AF	Billy B-J - 6RM	Poppy M - 7VSa	A'zhari S - 7KW-S
Frankie B - 5SN	Connor B - 5JP	Kiean-Lee Y - 5SN	Lillie-Mae W - 5HP
Libby E - 8ES	Lucy M - 7KW-S	Amilie-Lou C - 5SN	Harrie G - 8LF





## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR YEAR 5-8 FOOTBALL CLUB – REDDITCH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

Exciting news as we welcome external coaches to facilitate our extra-curricular sporting opportunities. Parkside PE department are now in partnership with Redditch United Football Club. The qualified football coaches supplied by Redditch United FC will be delivering the extra-curricular football clubs for girls in all year groups as well as Key Stage 3 boys. This will allow our pupils to experience high quality football coaching from specialist coaches, as well as cementing solid school-club links, offering further opportunities for pupils wishing to experience competitive sport outside of school and become part of a football academy.

## **YEAR 8 SPORTS LEADERS – NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY**

This year's Sports Leaders were invited to attend a Leadership Training Day at South Bromsgrove High School on Wednesday 5th October 2022. This award will give students a chance to become recognised within the community for their engagement in sports leadership as well as learn about the role of a Sports Leader.



## **YEAR 5 - 8. 'TURN UP AND PLAY TOURNAMENTS'**

At Parkside we encourage and inspire all our students to engage in competitive sport outside of school. In an attempt to increase participation opportunities, Parkside will be hosting weekly 'turn up and play' sports tournaments whereby all the local middle schools are invited to attend. These tournaments will give opportunities for all students with an interest in sport, the chance to experience competitive sport and play against a variety of other local middle schools. Miss Wallis and Mr Spalding will be advertising these tournaments in and around school and during PE lessons where sign-up sheets will be available. This half term our sports focused on girls netball and boys football.

## **YEAR 6 GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

The Year 5 and Year 6 footballers were excited for their first District Tournament, which took place at Catshill Middle School on 12th October 2022. With a cautious start, the girls drew 0-0 to Westacre in their first match. After their nerves were steadied, the team were more confident and began to play effectively as a team to cement a 1-0 victory over Alvechurch. The last game of the group stages was against Catshill; confidence levels were high and the team were able to secure another 1-0 victory. With 7 points, Parkside had secured themselves a place in the semi-final against Witton.

The very tense 7-minute match ended up in a 0-0 draw which led to a penalty shoot-out. Despite fantastic efforts from our team, Witton scored 2 out of their 3 penalties crowning them winners of the tournament. However, the team should be proud of their results and the way that they collaborated as a team. A special mention to our goalkeeper who was a credit to the school, showcasing some fantastic goalkeeping skills and keeping three clean sheets across the group stages. Well done!



## YEAR 7 TRIP TO WARWICK CASTLE

Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Warwick castle on Thursday 29th September. Pupils got to experience battle skills, they climbed the towers and when they reached the top saw the fantastic views of Warwick. They learnt about the history of the castle and discovered how it was built and what castle life was like throughout the years. We also enjoyed the falcon show where we saw birds with wingspans up to 9 foot and witnessed the bowman demonstrating how bows and arrows were used to defend the castle. The trip was a huge success and enjoyed by all.



## YEAR 6 TRIP TO BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM

On Friday 14th October, Year 6 went on a Humanities trip to the Black Country Museum. The pupils saw history brought to life as they participated in a Victorian school lesson, met historical characters who showed them what it was like to live and work in the first industrialised landscapes in Britain and explored reconstructed shops, workplaces and houses. The pupils had many questions throughout the day and fully embraced all that the museum had to offer.

## YEAR 8 STEM WORKSHOP

Year 8 had the chance to take part in a series of STEM workshops run by the Sea Cadets with a particular focus on Marine Engineering. During the workshops, children learned about buoyancy, calculated density, how to change an items density and The Archimedes Principle. They were challenged to build their own boat before finally competing against each other to see which had the best buoyancy. A big thank you to Richard Quin who ran the workshops - the children left with a new understanding of engineering.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL—MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Harvest Festival collection, we had an overwhelming amount of donations. All donations went to 'New Starts' charity and Marion from the charity came in to speak to us in our Harvest Festival Assembly about how and who all the donations will help. We really demonstrated our Parkside Values of Respect, Teamwork and Kindness through our donations. A well done to all the Year 8 prefects who helped organise the donations and a special well done to Casey B (8ED) who led the assembly. Some Year 5 pupils wrote lovely poems about



## INKTOBER

Ready for a challenge? - want to extend your drawing skills?; Take part in 'INKTOBER'!

You can choose daily or weekly drawing tasks to take part in.

The project is fast & fun, and you have the option to upload your results.

Let's celebrate the budding artists among you all!

[www.inktober.com](http://www.inktober.com)

**INKTOBER52**  
 IS A WEEKLY DRAWING  
 CHALLENGE FOR THE  
 ENTIRE YEAR:

- ONE PROMPT A WEEK
- 52 WEEKS IN THE YEAR
- 52 DRAWINGS



## THINGS TO NOTE

### ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent, please can we remind you that you need to inform school via telephone or email to [office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk). This needs to be done each morning that they are absent.

### CAR PARK & PARKING

Please note that the school car park is locked each morning from 8.40-9.15am and each afternoon from 3.00-3.30pm.

Also, please can we ask that you park considerately when dropping off and picking up from school. We have received complaints about parking on double yellow lines, junctions and on the pavement.



### LOST PROPERTY

We are seeing a large amount of lost property in school. Please can we ask that your child has their name in their uniform and that you encourage them to look after their belongings. If they do lose any items, they can look for them in the Lost Property area.

### WATER BOTTLES

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school with them every day.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 20th October—School closes for half term
- Friday 21st October—School closed – TE Day
- Monday 31st October—School reopens
- Tuesday 1st November - Virtual Parents Evening
- Thursday 10th November—Whole School Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations
- Tuesday 6th December—Christmas Concert
- Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th December—Year 5 Production
- Wednesday 14th December—Christmas Lunch
- Friday 16th December—School closes for Christmas break