



December 2022



Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2022. You will see from the children's achievements in the news items what a busy, exciting and successful term we have had. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils involved in a range of expressive arts performances, including many children singing their way through our Christmas dinner yesterday! This term we have had a whole school focus on the development of oracy skills. Pupils have engaged in a range of tasks across the curriculum and in their form times to enable them to build confidence, interact within a group and consider body language and tone of voice when communicating. Many gold tokens for our vending machine were given out in recognition of the effort and progress the children have made in this area. Year 8 have ended the term writing and presenting some amazing speeches in their English lessons that clearly demonstrate their improvement in oracy skills.

As well as our parent/carer survey, we have conducted a pupil survey this half term. It is very important to us that the children feel that they have a voice and can share their thoughts and ideas about their school and that they know they will be listened to. It is wonderful to know that the overwhelming majority of our pupils feel happy, safe and enjoy coming to school. We will be working with the children on some of their ideas and responses next term.

Many thanks for your ongoing support, kind messages, cards and gifts that have been sent in, they are very much appreciated by all.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and that you all have a wonderful Christmas break.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mancini



PRIDE OF PARKSIDE

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

Sam A	Matthew B	Luke B	Casey B	Anna C	Scarlett C
Ava C	Adam D	Dylan D	Darcie-Mae E	James G	Willow H
Aysha H	Phoebe H	Maria L	Seren L	Mia M	Louie M
Frank P	George P	Keyton P	Harry S	Samuel S	Imogen S
Lilly-May S	Izabella T	Lacey W	Kiean-Lee Y		

HOUSE NEWS

This half term has been busy for Parkside’s houses.

The House and Vice captains would like to thank all the parents, carers and pupils who sent in cakes for the charity cakes sales. We are pleased to tell you that the following amounts were raised;

Gloucester raised £77.70 for RNLI;

Hereford raised £103.81 for The Primrose Hospice;

Malvern raised £96.86 for NSPCC; and

Worcester raised £107.02 for the Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

At Parkside we are committed to celebrating the pupils’ achievements. This term we have amassed over 74,000 achievement points with 279 children receiving their 100+ certificates this term. The form group trophy for the term was a close race with 6AY just beating 6RM who were second, and 5JP & 6BA who were joint third. 6AY will proudly display the Parkside trophy in their classroom and enjoy a form group reward when we return after the Christmas break. All pupil’s achievement points are communicated daily via Bromcom and can be viewed within the parent app. A massive well done to all our pupils, let’s see if we can get even more achievement points next half term.

THE PARKSIDE STANDARD

After the Christmas break, we will be having an increased focus on Parkside Standard 4 - “We will be organised and prepared for the school day”. It is vital that pupils are prepared for the day to enable them to achieve in the classroom. We will be ensuring during registration times that pupils are attending school with all essential equipment. A full list of essential equipment for school can be found on page 8 of the Pupil Handbook. Please could all parents/carers support us by making sure your child is fully prepared and organised for the school day.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Thank you to all the children who contributed to the Christmas Service this week. It was absolutely delightful to see how many talented singers and musicians we have at Parkside. Thank you to the Year 8 pupils who led the service and read beautifully, we were all very impressed. Reverend Levett joined us to remind us of the joy that can be found at Christmastime through a very entertaining story. Well done to everyone involved!

YEAR 5 PRODUCTION

Year 5 put on a fantastic performance of 'Hosanna Rock' for parents this week, it was a real success. Every child was involved in the production in roles such as stage hands, dancers, singers, actors and many more. It was brilliant to see the children's confidence grow throughout rehearsals. We are incredibly proud of all the hard work the children have put into this production and hope you all enjoyed it!



STRIVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY INSPIRATION DAY

On Friday, 18th November, the whole school took part in an inspiration day which focused on developing our pupils' awareness of 'carbon literacy' and 'net zero'. Pupils considered the challenges and solutions facing our school as well as local communities and societies with regards to sustainability. They used the week to engage with some of the discussions being held at COP27 and the impact that they can have on change for the future.

After spending the day in year teams looking at challenges and solutions related to energy, farming, transport and waste, pupils designed some buildings of the future, where they used their design and technology knowledge to invent some practical solutions. They also considered potential career paths and how they could make a difference in their daily lives.

We then welcomed a guest speaker from Greenpeace, Nicky Manu, who held an assembly for the whole school to inspire them to take further practical steps. During the assembly, our Year 8 pupils shared some of their design ideas and models. The work produced during the day is now on display in our lower corridor.



READING AT PARKSIDE

At Parkside, we believe that reading is a vital skill which is central to pupils accessing the full curriculum. As a result, all teachers are teachers of reading. We ensure that our pupils are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discrete and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Above all, we want children in our school to become confident, enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers. Every pupil has an Accelerated Reader login and are encouraged to take regular quizzes, which can earn them Achievement Points and House Points. Every time they take a quiz, the programme registers how many words they have read - next term, we will be rewarding pupils who become Word Millionaires (two of our top readers have already achieved this accolade this term!).

This term, our top readers are:

- 1st - Ella 5HP has read 32 books and 1,228,991 words!
- 2nd - Holly 7AF has read 28 books and 1,223,030 words!
- 3rd - Amelia 6RM has read 15 books and 703,270 words!
- 4th - Heidi 5JP has read 22 books and 670,535 words!
- 5th - Dillan 6RM has read 11 books and 668,856 words!

Each of these pupils will receive Achievement Points and a prize.

You can see which books and quizzes your child has been taking by visiting the following website and using your child's AR login: <https://ukhosted36.renlearn.co.uk/2250811/HomeConnect>

For some recommended reads for each year group, please see the English section of the school website.

CHRISTMAS BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

If you are looking to gift a book this Christmas, here are some suggestions for festive and wintery reads.

[2022 Christmas Book Gift Giving Guide | Ages 9+ | The Reader Teacher](#)



TT ROCKSTARS—BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Well done to all the pupils that have taken part in the first ‘Battle of the Bands’ on TT Rock Stars of this academic year. We had an overwhelming response from the pupils, with 265 pupils from KS2 taking part in the battles and 568,438 correct times table questions answered throughout the battle!

The winning bands were Pump Up the Volume, One Division, Number Souls, Red Hot Chilli Numbers and Black Add Peas—with Year 6 beating Year 5.

See below for the full results and highest earners in each band (Rock Star avatar names!)

Battle 1	One Division 177,740 Highest Earners: Wendy Case Roy Keene	21 Pie Charts 25,096 Highest Earners: Tommy Gremio Rocky Matthews	Panic! At the Division 22,393 Highest Earners: Bluebell Hazelmyer Jake Martinez
Battle 2	Pump Up the Volume 70,746 Highest Earners: Rockin’ Kamer Pearl Jammer	Maths Potato 59,611 Highest Earners: Carolina Deschoolmeester Roxy Howerdel	Maroon 5 Squared 18,033 Highest Earners: Thunder Fender Vance Blackwood
Battle 3	Black Add Peas 59,141 Highest Earners: Layla Pop Todd Bush	Sausage and Math 55,816 Highest Earners: Led Louis Ann Devillier	
Battle 4	Little Mixed Numbers 16,057 Highest Earners: Scarlet Rockula Anjali Rox	Number Souls 32,934 Highest Earners: Albert Springsteen Phil Rockmuller	
Battle 5	Red Hot Chilli Numbers 24,777 Highest Earners: Jason Gravenites Ned Cherry	Rocktagons 5,797 Highest Earners: Adam Neil Pip Lyndsey	
Battle 6	Year 5 192,090	Year 6 376,348	

It is really important that the pupils know their times tables and division facts fluently, so please encourage your child to keep practising and playing on TTRS every week!

TT ROCKSTARS COMPETITION—ENGLAND ROCKS

KS2 pupils took part in England Rocks, a TTRS competition across the whole of England from 7:30am on Monday 14th November to 7:30pm on Wednesday 16th November. Pupils could play on any game for the maximum of an hour a day. Each class/band was given a class average to make the competition fair. Our top performing bands were: Pump Up the Volume, One Division and Maroon 5 Squared, with Pump Up the Volume being placed 2,815 out of the 28,586 bands taking part.

Well done to everyone who took part in their own time, demonstrating the Parkside value of Teamwork!



KS2 PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

Some of the KS2 pupils had a chance to try the Primary Maths Challenge on Thursday 17th November. This challenge includes Maths questions with a twist that really make you think out of the box! Well done to everyone that took part, you needed lots of resilience! The following pupils received certificates for their efforts:

Gold - Seth and Keelan

Silver - Rory, Nefeli, Jorgie, Brandon, Finn, Jimmy

Bronze - Amelia, Erin, Stanley, Aaron, Hayden, Summer, Elissa, Poppy, Dylan, Oscar, Samuel, Jack

A typical question, in case you want to try at home:

10. Sir Pent has a tank with 4 snakes in it.
Slither is twice as long as Monty.
Viper is half as long as Slither.
Rattle is 15cm long, and half the length of Viper.
How long is Monty?



A 15 cm B 30 cm C 45 cm D 60 cm E 75 cm

KS3 MATHS NEWS

This term staff from our local HSBC bank have come into school to deliver a financial maths workshop to all classes. Year 8 looked at spending decisions while Year 7 looked at being savvy shoppers. Pupils found the workshops very informative and useful.

MUSIC EVENTS

The Music department has been very busy this half term with a number of successful events taking place.

Several extra-curricular clubs have been running throughout the term and the student's commitment and hard work has been excellent. They have given performances during a Music Morning, hosted by Parkside, for the local first Schools and also as part of the Bromsgrove School Middle School's Orchestra. On the 6th December we welcomed around 100 parents and carers into school to watch their children perform in Parkside's Christmas Concert (our first live Christmas Concert since 2018!). A big thank you for attending and supporting the students! There were some fantastic performances and the evening was enjoyed by all. I'd also like to thank the staff at Severn Arts for working hard with those who receive peripatetic lessons to help them prepare their performances for the Concert.

The singing groups across KS2 and KS3 enjoyed our annual Christmas Carolling at Chandler Court Residential Home during the final week of term and KS3 singers performed at North Bromsgrove High School's Christmas Concert.

Aside from the performances and events that have taken place, I'd like to give a special mention to a group of boys across Year 7 and 8 who have attended an additional weekly music session. The purpose of this group was to learn and develop musical skills whilst focusing on building team working skills and resilience. The boys worked incredibly hard to put together a performance of 'Another One Bites the Dust' on drums, guitars and keyboards. Some learnt a completely new skill whilst others used their existing knowledge to help teach others in the group. We were amazed at their perseverance, focus and determination. Well done boys, we are very proud of what you have achieved this term and your nomination for Pride of Parkside was well deserved!



PE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

This half term has seen many successes, including the Year 7 boys being crowned District Football champions and our Year 7 girls remaining undefeated. The girls secured victories over Catshill Middle School, Aston Fields Middle School and Westacre Middle School.

Our 'Turn Up and Play' tournaments have been an incredible success, which has been the driving force for our pupils to experience competitive sport. We are incredibly proud to announce we have had a whopping 276 pupils participate in sports fixtures since the start of September. These figures illustrate how sport is thriving at Parkside.

Additional successes include multiple pupils finishing in the top 10 at The District Cross Country held at Bromsgrove School.

We held an interhouse rugby match for our KS3 pupils where Mrs Williams-Sharpe took on Mr Spalding in a lunch time rugby fixture. The rivalry, team spirit and competitiveness from both spectators and players made this an enjoyable afternoon for all. Congratulations to Mr Spalding's team who were declared champions.

Year 6 World Cup Fitness Festival

The PE Department had the pleasure of taking a number of Year 6 pupils to participate in a Fitness Festival, organised by the sports leaders at South Bromsgrove High School. The festival took place at Bromsgrove Hockey Club and was 'World Cup themed'. Each fitness station incorporated elements of football, including: beat the goalkeeper at a penalty shootout, dribbling games, possession challenges along with target practice and reaction time drills. The pupils enjoyed challenging their partners at a wide variety of mini-games. They loved engaging in this morning full of physical activity and referred to it as 'The best school day ever'.



Panathlon Challenge—The Den

On Thursday 1st December, six boys from The Den competed in a 'Panathlon Challenge' against eight other schools at the Ryland Centre. The events included; boccia blast, bean bag throw, parachute popcorn, kurling, basketball, flight path, bowling and table cricket. They finished the competition in second place. Each member of the team received a silver medal, certificate and a trophy to keep at school. They demonstrated sportsmanship, teamwork and resilience. We were proud of how they embraced a new challenge and how they represented Parkside.

PE Kit

We would like to thank you for continuously supporting our PE department; pupils are looking extremely smart in their new PE kit and wear it with pride. We kindly ask that jewellery is removed for PE lessons. If this is not possible, we ask that you please provide your child with a note. Shin pads are now mandatory for all competitive football fixtures. The PE department are happy to provide some, if necessary. As the cold winter months are approaching and outdoor PE lessons will still be taking place, it is recommended that you provide some additional warm clothing, including gloves, if possible, and a spare bag for muddy/dirty boots or trainers.



The Boot Room Initiative

The School Games is a national programme in England that inspires millions of young people across the country to take part in competitive school sport. Youth Sport Trust, who oversee delivery of the Schools' Games and a network of School Games Organisers, turned to Planet Earth Games Trust to help enhance the sustainability of schools across England. The first part of this work has been developing a new 'green' value.

In an attempt to help to make our school more eco-friendly and in support of The School Games National Programme, the PE Department are setting up a 'football boot recycling station'. If you have any unwanted, or older pairs of football boots that are still in a usable condition, we are encouraging pupils to bring them in to our school PE department. These will be made available to our pupils for outdoor PE lessons taking place on the field. Pupils will receive ten achievement points for every pair they donate.

Thank you in advance for your support in this initiative.



FAMILY THRIVE

We have just come to the end of our first Family Thrive course. It was extremely successful, and we will be running the course again next year so please look out for information about this soon.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you for all of the donations for our shoebox collection as part of Operation Christmas Child. We sent a total of 17 shoeboxes to children who are less fortunate than us and I know they will be extremely

CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER

Thank you for all of the purchases you made through our Christmas card fundraiser. We have raised over £200 which is fantastic. Thank you again.

STAFF NEWS

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Wright has given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Congratulations! We look forward to welcoming Miss Rathmill back to school in January.

ADVERSE WEATHER

At this time of year there is always the likelihood that the school might be closed due to adverse weather. Should this happen, the information will be broadcast on BBC Hereford & Worcester and HW Free Radio.

A text will be sent to all parents and carers in the event of a school closure and the school website will be updated.

Alternatively, you can find information on the County Council website www.worcestershire.gov.uk.

The main reason for school closure will be that staff, many of whom live a distance away, cannot get into school. We would therefore ask you not to telephone school as this will block the line for staff to call in. Information on closure is announced on a daily basis and it should not be assumed that a closure will be extended unless specifically stated the following day.



ART

Over the break pupils may find themselves with spare time and fancy doing something Arty!

Here are some fun tutorials and suggested activities that will support their Art learning in the new year. Pupils (and Parents) can watch the tutorials and try drawing from them, to practice our key skills.

Well done to all pupils for their hard work in Art this year!

Year 5: [Easy One Point Perspective drawing - YouTube](#)

Year 6: [Op Art Tutorial - YouTube](#)

Year 7: [Self-portrait drawing 3-5th grade - YouTube](#) [How to Draw Lips - Technical Lecture - YouTube](#)

[How to draw a realistic eye—You Tube](#)

Year 8: Try blending two everyday objects together in a drawing, to create a Surreal image

[Surreal drawing—Youtube](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 3rd January—School closed—TE Day
- Wednesday 4th January—School reopens
- Friday 13th January—Year 8 trip to Thinktank
- Friday 17th February—School closes for half term
- Monday 27th February—School reopens
- Tuesday 7th March—Virtual Parents Evening
- Tuesday 14th March—Virtual parents Evening
- Tuesday 21st March—Virtual Parents Evening
- Friday 31st March—School closes for Easter holidays