

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you having just finished our end of term Pride of Parkside Assembly. This is a time when the whole school come together to celebrate the achievements of the pupils. There is always a vast array of success to celebrate and today was no exception. Awards were given to pupils who consistently demonstrate our 'Proud to be Parkside Values'- going above and beyond to show kindness to others and who have shown resilience and determination to improve and do their best. Awards were also given for outstanding learning behaviour and exceptional progress and achievement in Reading, Art, PE, Maths and Science.

However, it is not just in these assemblies that I see, hear and celebrate the achievements of the pupils. Recently I have spent time in classrooms watching pupils learn, looking at their work and talking to them about their learning and how they feel they are progressing. It is wonderful to see excellent behaviour for learning; pupils are enthusiastic with high levels of enjoyment and motivation. Our focus on oracy since September is also evident as they are communicating well in groups and are able to debate and justify their ideas with more confidence. Next term, our oracy work will focus more on presentational skills.

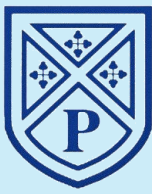
I would like to thank those of you who took the opportunity to attend our information evening on the school's approach to the RSE Curriculum and our first Parent Forum. As result of the feedback from this, we will be reviewing parental access to the functions on Bromcom. In the Summer term we will consult with you on our parents' evenings and use these findings to plan and organise these events in the future.

The Summer term is always incredibly busy with end of year assessments, school trips and residentials and end of year celebrations. Please can I remind you that all dates will be on the calendar on the school website, which is updated regularly.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mancini



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GURDWARA

On Friday 17th March, Year 7 visited Smethwick Gurdwara which is a Sikh temple located near Birmingham. A typical day at the Gurdwara starts early in the morning with the recitation of prayers followed by the preparation of Langar, a community kitchen that serves free food to the community. The temple is open to everyone, regardless of their religion, caste, or creed. People from all walks of life come to the Gurdwara to seek solace and participate in the various religious activities such as singing hymns, reading the holy scriptures, and performing seva, or selfless service. The atmosphere at the Gurdwara is one of tranquillity and devotion, and it provides a sense of community and belonging to all those who visit. A day at Smethwick Gurdwara is an enriching and spiritually fulfilling experience. The trip was fascinating, and the pupils learnt so much about the Sikh culture and way of life. Upon arrival, we were required to cover our heads and remove our shoes before entering the main hall, where we found worshippers sitting on the floor and listening to the recitation of prayers and hymns. After the prayer session, we were welcomed to the Langar, the food was incredible, and the pupils enjoyed several helpings of the lentil dahl and chapatis. Overall, the trip to a Gurdwara provided a glimpse into the rich culture and tradition of Sikhism, while also offering the opportunity to connect with the community and experience the spirit of service and devotion that is central to Sikh beliefs.



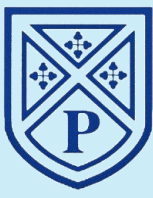
YEAR 7 SINGING BATTLE

On Friday 17th March each form group in Year 7 took part in a singing competition against each other. The song selected was "Where is the Love?" by the Black Eyed Peas; a link to our Spring 1 English topic of 'Protest Poetry'. The song was a real hit with the year group, especially the rap at the beginning, which definitely hooked them in! Each form had to learn the first verse and chorus and could put their own spin on it. They practised the song for weeks, perfecting their rendition, before the singing showdown commenced! The competition was judged by Mrs Cheuk and her Year 5 THRIVE Group who have been working hard on their oracy skills, so this was a big moment for them. A wonderful afternoon had by all, but particularly for 7AF who were the winners!



YEAR 6 MOCK SATS

A massive well done to all our Year 6 pupils during Mock Sats. They showed brilliant resilience and maturity. As a school, we asked the pupils to do the best they could, so they could be proud of their own achievements and they certainly rose to this challenge! We were really impressed with the attendance during the week too. A big thank you to the rest of the school that supported the Year 6 pupils during this important week. We now have to do it all over again in May! Well done Year 6.



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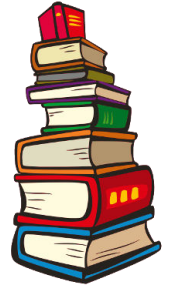
BOOK-NOOK COMPETITION

We ran our annual Book-Nook competition and saw some wonderful entries submitted to school. The level of creativity was amazing, with a lovely range of novels selected by pupils to represent. They have been on display in our school library for all to see, and will continue to be on display next half term. A huge congratulations to all pupils who participated. The quality was so high that the English Department has rewarded all pupils with a prize this year.



CELEBRATING READING

Thursday, 2nd March was World Book Day. This year, we decided not to limit our celebration and love of reading to one day of the year. Instead, we decided to reward our pupils for their reading over the whole half term. Reading is for life!



READING REWARDS

Over the course of the half term, teachers have been nominating pupils for a reward from our school vending machine. Teachers nominated those pupils who had clearly demonstrated a love for reading, had significantly improved their reading scores, or who had been noted for making a clear effort towards increasing the amount that they read independently. Pupils have been visited by Mrs Mancini over the course of the half term and were able to select a book of their choice - we have given out more than 30 tokens!

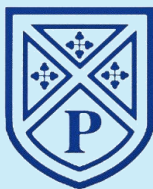
PARKSIDE CRYPTO-LIBRARY

Congratulations to Oscar S for winning Parkside's Crypto-library challenge this half term! To encourage and promote reading in school, any pupil who passes an Accelerated Reader quiz has earned an opportunity to guess the 3-digit code and win the prizes inside. Oscar successfully cracked the code and won this half term's prizes – well done Oscar! Next half term will see the Crypto-library refilled and ready for all of our readers to have another go!

YEAR 7 LIBRARY VISITS

During this term's Year 7 Bromsgrove Library visit, each class had the chance to explore the wide range of books on offer and engage in a fun and educational treasure hunt. Students were given the task of finding various books using clues provided, encouraging them to navigate the Library and familiarise themselves with its layout. The visit allowed students to develop their literacy skills, expand their knowledge and interests, and foster a love of reading. The Library staff also provided helpful guidance and recommendations for students looking for specific genres or titles. Overall, the Year 7 Library visit was a great success, providing an engaging and enriching experience for all involved.





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WORD MILLIONAIRES

This half term has seen a huge increase in pupils taking quizzes for Accelerated Reader. Since January, Parkside pupils have taken 1,533 Accelerated Reader quizzes and read an incredible **33,348,636 words!**

Our Spring Term top readers are:

Heidi D who has read 1,603,015 words

Holly H who has read 1,339,821 words

Ella P who has read 1,240,777 words

Thomas W who has read 1,145,657 words

Joy D who has read 774,215 words

These top 5 pupils will receive a prize from Mrs Vincent in the school library.

Remember, you can access information about the quizzes your child has taken through the Home Connect parent link on Accelerated Reader:

https://ukhosted36.renlearn.co.uk/2250811/Home_Connect



PRIDE OF PARKSIDE

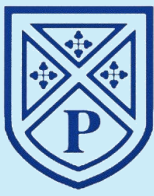
Congratulations to the pupils who have earned a Pride of Parkside certificate this half term. These pupils are:

Holly W	Lizzie J	Georgia W	Izabelle T	Kieran C	Nyla T	Noah L	Amilie-Lou C
Frankie T	Jessica E	Chloe MK	Callum S	Maisie F	Harry R	Zac W	Stanley LR-B
Sienna B	Chloe MC	Jaden K	Nathan K	Wyatt L-D	Liam G		

SKY ARTS

At Parkside, our year 7 pupils entered into the **Sky Arts children, Portrait artist of the year competition**. We worked independently and within lessons to produce a wonderful range of fantastic and unique portraits. Our work has now been sent off to be judged.. so fingers crossed! The portraits are on display within the school for the whole of Parkside to look at and celebrate. We also added our own First Prize winner - to the website for you to see. Very well done to Mia S in 7VSa . A huge well done to all Year 7 pupils for their hard work (Chocolates for Mrs Cheuks' top 6 entries!)





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PE NEWS

KS2 HOCKEY FESTIVAL

Pupils enjoyed participating in a Key Stage 2 Hockey Festival hosted by South Bromsgrove High School at Bromsgrove Cricket and Hockey Club. Pupils really enjoyed participating in their first competitive hockey tournament, a lot of goals were scored and a special mention goes to Rupert C who was Player of the Tournament. Well done!



YEAR 7 DISTRICT NETBALL TOURNAMNET

Our Year 7 girls visited St John's earlier in the week, where they competed in The District Netball Tournament. The girls knew that they had a very tough starting match against Alvechurch, but they rose to the challenge and defended really well and managed to hold them to a draw of 2-2. The pressure was on after drawing the first game and they knew they needed to do their best to win all of their other games to be contenders for gold medals. Their next match was against Catshill, and they managed to score an incredible 12 goals in 10 minutes and proudly conceded zero. A tougher match followed against Aston Fields and the weather conditions were also against us as the rain and strong wind seemed to blow every ball the shooters threw away from the net. Nevertheless, Harley and Bella persevered with shot after shot and we eventually scored 2, beating them 2-1. Our other games included victories of 4-1 over St John's and 7-0 over Witton. It was very tense when the results came in, as Alvechurch had also won all of their games, but due to the amazing hard work and sheer determination of getting our goal difference as high as we could every game, it meant we were crowned the District Champions with a goal difference of +25. Well done girls, amazing efforts!



This half term we have had lots of fixtures against various local schools. In Year 7 we had football and rugby fixtures against Aston Fields and Witton. In Year 8 we had rugby fixtures against St John's. We have had some amazing performances from all the boys, some of them playing their first competitive rugby games! They represented the school brilliantly and were a credit to Parkside. In Year 6, the Netball team were placed 2nd in the District Netball Tournament they took part in. We also had two interschool football fixtures with Mr Spalding's team taking on Miss Wallis' team in a lunchtime football fixture. These fixtures had massive uptake and it was great to see so many KS3 pupils taking part.





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CHOCOLATE BAR DESIGN AND ADVERTS

The pupils in The Den have been designing their own chocolate bars this term. They evaluated chocolate bars already on the market, selected ingredients, designed and printed a wrapper and finally made their very own chocolate bar! This week they filmed and edited their own adverts with soundtracks and slow motion. As always, we are so proud of the effort and hard work that the children have put into their learning.



HAF EASTER ACTIVITIES

You may already be aware of the Holiday Activities & Food fund (HAF) targeted at children and young people entitled to Free School Meals.

There will be a variety of free activities available in Bromsgrove, Redditch and throughout Worcestershire over the Easter Holidays for those children, which can be searched for via the link below:

<https://www.haf-it.co.uk/>

Please also have a look through the leaflet via the link below for a range of activities taking place in the local areas during the Easter holidays.

<https://www.parkside.worcs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/HAF-Activities-Easter-2023.pdf>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 17th April—School reopens
- Monday 1st May—School closed -Bank Holiday
- Monday 8th May—School closed - Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 9th May—Friday 12th May -Year 6 SATS week
- Thursday 18th May—Year 6 Height & Weight
- Tuesday 23rd May—Oakerwood Information Evening
- Friday 26th May—School closes for half term





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LUNCHTIME

Pupils that are buying food from school can also buy a drink to go with their meal. If pupils are bringing their own sandwiches in, please remember to bring in a drink.

STAFF NEWS

As this half-term comes to an end, we would like to send a big thank you and farewell to a couple of members of staff. Miss Nuttall will be moving on to pastures new and Mrs Moffatt will be starting her maternity leave. We wish them all the very best.

In other news, Miss Field will be getting married and will return as Mrs Rea, congratulations!

Welcome to Mr Ricketts who will be joining us as Head of ICT and Ms McEwan who will be our SENDCO.



CLUBS

The Parents Booking System will be open for club bookings on Monday 17th April at 6pm.

MEDICATION

Please can we confirm that all medication sent into school for pupils must be signed in and signed out by parents / carers. There is also an instruction/permission form to complete. All medication brought into school must be in the original packaging with instructions. Thank you



PARKING

Our main car park gates close between 8:40am and 9:15am and 3pm and 3:30pm each day. Please can we also remind parents and carers to be mindful of how and where they park within our car park.

WATER BOTTLES

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



MORRISONS FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

<https://www.morrisons-corporate.com/media-centre/corporate-news/morrisons-teams-up-with-kelloggs-to-launch-a-free-breakfast-club-this-easter/>



For further information and regular updates please visit our school website: <https://www.parkside.worcs.sch.uk/>