

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year; this is a bumper issue as this half term has been exceptionally busy! We hope you enjoy reading about the pupils' experiences and achievements.

I would like to congratulate our Year 6 pupils who have all now received their SATs results and have done incredibly well. We look forward to being able to share the school's overall results with you next term.

I hope that by now you have taken time to read your child's reports. Thank you for your responses and comments. As I read and signed them, it was wonderful to see hard they have worked and how many opportunities they have embraced throughout the school year.

Thank you to those of you who have completed the parent / carer survey. I have added both links below, should you or your children still wish to do so.

I would like once again to wish our Year 8 leavers and Mr Dacre, Miss Manning, Miss Cook, Mrs Devereux and Mrs Brittle all the very best for their futures.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Parkside I would like to thank you for your support to the school this year and wish you a restful and enjoyable time with your families.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Mancini

Parent Survey— <https://forms.office.com/e/5B1QU1Xndg>

Pupil Survey— <https://forms.office.com/e/abceanrg19>



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UKMT MATHS NEWS

Congratulations to Jackson P and Alfie O who qualified for the follow-on round of the UKMT individual challenge the Kangaroo Olympiad. Both rose to the challenge, with Alfie achieving a participation certificate and Jackson achieving a fantastic merit certificate. Well done, a fantastic achievement for them both.



STEM—PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE FINAL

On Thursday 15th Amilie-Lou and Kiean-Lee represented Parkside at the STEM works, Primary Maths Challenge Final. They demonstrated exemplary behaviour, teamwork and resilience. Although they didn't win the overall competition, they did incredibly well to get into the final, out of 3,000 pupils who took part across schools in Worcestershire!

On the day, they had to build a model robot out of Knex, that would be used to transport packages around a factory. The design criteria stated the model had to fit onto a A3 piece of paper and include mechanisms (such as pulleys and levers).



Whilst the models were being judged, Amilie-Lou and Kiean-Lee got to visit the Mazak factory to watch real –life robots create, design and build. It was a very enjoyable day and the pupils were brilliant.

RLM SHOWCASE

On the afternoon of Monday 3rd July and Tuesday 4th July, Year 5 excitedly welcomed their parents to showcase their Real-Life Maths work. During the Summer term, the pupils have applied their Maths knowledge to plan and organise a party.

Whilst at the showcase, parents were given the opportunity to explore the Real-Life Maths concepts and knowledge with their child. Pupils used their oracy skills to confidentially discuss the work they have been doing. This included eating the cookies made by the pupils, measuring 100ml of squash, investigating ratio of marshmallows and calculating area, perimeter and volume of given shapes.

The hall was buzzing with enthusiasm and pupils really enjoyed this experience.

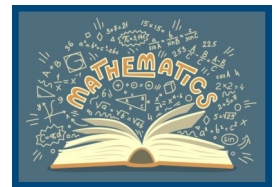
Parents commented:

"It has been lovely to come in this afternoon and take a look at what they have been learning about in Real-Life Maths".

"Ruby and Willow did a great job of showing me around".

"It has been great to see Maisie talk enthusiastically about her school, lessons and learning. A really powerful thing for us parents. Thanks".

"Fantastic choice of motivation using marshmallows and cookies. I've never seen children so keen to talk about Maths!"



YEAR 5 STORY WRITING

As part of Parkside Middle School's celebration of World Book Day 2023, each of our Year 5 classes created their own story book. Every pupil contributed to their class' book. We were so impressed with the books that we had them all published.





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HOUSE NEWS

This term House Captains and Vice Captains have been busy sourcing raffle prizes from local businesses to raise funds for their charities. The raffle was drawn on Tuesday 14th July and a list of winners was posted on the message board. The raffle raised £212.40 in total.

The total raised this year is as follows:

RNLI: £166.80

Birmingham Children's Hospital: £178.87

NSPCC: £187.41

Primrose Hospice: £175.71

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support this year.

Overall House winner this year is: Malvern!



LIBRARY NEWS

What a wonderful year it has been for our library! It has been a place of knowledge and creativity, providing pupils with a fantastic place to explore new worlds. It has been great to see how pupils have enjoyed the wide range of genres available. The library has been buzzing with excitement as they actively participated in various competitions. Let's not forget the tremendous success of our book vending machine, which allowed pupils to choose prizes. A special thank you goes out to all those who generously donated books and supported our second-hand book sale. Your contributions were greatly appreciated, and they enabled us to purchase the books that were specifically requested. Keep up the reading during the Summer break and see you back in September for more exciting adventures in the world of books!



HOUSE BOOK COMPETITION

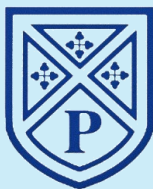
At the start of June, pupils took part in a House Competition to create the tallest book tower. Pupils from all years brought in books in good condition that they had read and no longer wanted. The books were placed in House boxes in the library and the House Captains used the books to build the towers. The House with the highest tower was Malvern!



WEAR IT YELLOW DAY

On Friday 16th June, Parkside supported the Cystic Fibrosis Trust's 'Wear it Yellow Day'. So many children and staff came to school wearing a yellow accessory and £54.05 was raised, which went straight to the Trust. Congratulations to Libby in 6RM who was the winner of 'Guess the Yellow Bear's Name'. Thank you to all who took part





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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:



A'Zhari S	Hayden H	Noah R	Noah L	Jamie ML	Grace G	Anaya S	Reuben H
Indya M-N	Charlie M	Lola W	Billy B-J	Roman W	Charlie R	Kuba S	Stanley L-R B
Tyler C	Nathan K	Louie W	Georgia W	Sonny B	Amelia B	Bella G	Isla-Mae B
Sienna B	Georgia R	Poppy R	Seren C	Alfie O	Lottie E	Jessica E	Dannelie LR
Freyja E-F	5HP						

TOP 8 ACHIEVEMENT POINTS FOR THE SUMMER TERM

Year 5	Year 6
Jack B-P	Louis B
Erin G	Stanley D
Aila-Honey H	Adele F
Louis S	Mae L
Lillie-Mae W	Ethan MD
Lola W	Jenson O
Ava W	Layla P
Kiean-Lee Y	Brandon P
Year 7	Year 8
Eleanor D	Jacob M
Mia G	Luca M
Ava H	Frank P
Ted M	Mason P
James P	Charlie P
Demi R	Daisy P
Will S	George S
Eva S	Henry T





YEAR 5 & 6 TTRS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Well done to all the pupils that have taken part in the last 'Battle of the Bands' on TT Rock Stars of the academic year. An overwhelming response from the pupils with 536,814 correct times table questions answered throughout the battle!

The winning bands were Sausage and Mash, Maths Potato, One Division, Rocktagons 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	Black Add Peas 47,180 Highest Earners: Layla Pop Cheryl Rock	Little Mixed Numbers 16,057 Highest Earners: Anjali Rox Will Romero	Number Souls 20,478 Highest Earners: Benny Stein Layla Spatula
Battle 2	Pump Up the Volume 37,261 Highest Earners: Rockin' Kramer Natty Snoob	Maths Potato 37,577 Highest Earners: Irox Park Scott Egg	Maroon 5 Squared 18,033 Highest Earners: Carolina Deschoolmeester Faith Slate
Battle 3	Panic! At the Division 44,308 Highest Earners: Kit Slate Jade Falco	Sausage and Math 101,212 Highest Earners: Omeo Louis Led Louis	
Battle 4	One Division 97,480 Highest Earners: Roy Keene Ant Southen	21 Pie Charts 91,308 Highest Earners: Aston Wiley Rob Allchin	
Battle 5	Red Hot Chilli Numbers 2,787 Highest Earners: Jessy Lightrock Fred Marks	Rocktagons 31,378 Highest Earners: Godzilla O'Connor Suzy Chico	
Battle 6	Year 5 256,286	Year 6 280,528	





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BROMSGROVE SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION

Students from Catshill, St. Johns, Parkside and South Bromsgrove school participated together with RE teachers in a Bromsgrove Spirited Arts competition on Friday 23rd June based on the MP - Jo Cox's quote -

"We have far more in common than whatever divides us" – RE teachers set the framework for the day and students worked together creatively to produce pieces of artwork, poetry and write about common spiritual values based on the famous quote.



NATIONAL RAIL LEAVES ON THE LINE

On Thursday 29th June, Year 5 welcomed National Rail into their classroom for an hour STEM workshop called "Leaves on the line". Pupils were challenged to think about solutions to when leaves reduce the railway services.

One pupil from 5JB said "I enjoyed mixing the liquids and solids to make a new gel to stop leaves getting on the railway line".

The pupils worked brilliantly in teams applying their knowledge of Science (electrical conductivity) and represented the school perfectly (demonstrating the Parkside Standard).



SDH ACADEMY—ACTIVITY DAY

On 13th July, Year 5 took part in an activity day ran by SDH Academy in Coventry. They braved the typical English weather and participated in some cricket, circus skills, team building and boxercise. Lots of fun was had and lots of skills were learned. The coaches commented on how engaged and well-mannered Year 5 were throughout the day. Well done to all of you!

SOCIAL AWARENESS DAY

On 14th July, Parkside held its annual Social Awareness Day, where we had 15 visitors come into school and teach our pupils on a whole host of topics such as emotional Intelligence, healthy lifestyles, electrical safety and many more. It was a wonderful day where our visitors were impressed by the enthusiasm and engagement of all our pupils across the school. I would like to thank all our visitors for making the day so special, with a special thank you and well done to all our pupils.



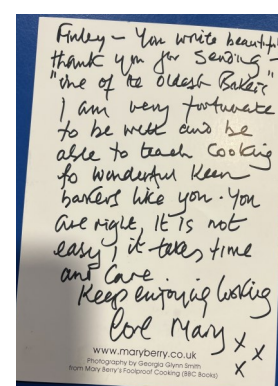
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BAKE OFF

We are thrilled to share some exciting news from one of our talented pupils, Finley R from 7CF! As part of a recent assignment, our students were asked to write about a celebrity who inspires them. Being a passionate baker himself, Finley chose the legendary Mary Berry as his inspiration. Little did he know that his heartfelt piece of work would catch Mary Berry's attention!

We are proud to announce that Mary Berry has not only read Finley's composition but has also taken the time to respond. Finley's dedication and love for baking clearly resonated with the baking icon, and her response has undoubtedly left him overjoyed. It's a testament to the incredible achievements and inspiration that celebrities can provide to young minds.

We congratulate Finley on his remarkable accomplishment and encourage all our students to continue pursuing their passions and seeking inspiration from those who make a difference in their chosen fields. Well done, Finley! Your dedication and enthusiasm are truly inspiring to us all.



ORACY

Throughout the year, our pupils have been working hard to develop their oracy skills. Using the 'oracy benchmarks' pupils have been developing all areas of effective communication: Physical, Linguistic, Cognitive, and Social and Emotional. Pupils have been working on these skills every week during their class 'Talk Time' sessions, where Form Tutors have planned a variety of activities to encourage pupils to think carefully about how they communicate. Mrs Mancini has set termly challenges for classes so that they have had group targets to work towards.

Our work on oracy this year has built up to our successful oracy afternoons this term. Parents were invited into school so that pupils could demonstrate their improved skills and talk about their learning. Year 6 and Year 7 pupils achieved this through their 'Book-talk' sessions, selecting the work from throughout the year that they have been most proud of. Year 5 ran a successful 'Real-Life Maths' picnic afternoon. Year 8 saw the return of their annual presentation afternoon, where pupils present to parents, celebrate their achievements and graduate from Parkside.

Our work on oracy will continue into next year - we look forward to the new challenges that we will present to pupils!





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CULTURE WEEK

During the week of 3rd July, Parkside Middle School took part in a whole-school cultural inspiration week. The aim of the week was to broaden our horizons and to encourage our pupils to seek to know about our world. Each year group began by looking at their own culture, concentrating on how we can identify within our British culture and what makes Britain special. Pupils explored their own cultural identity through looking at British music, the wonderful world of William Shakespeare and his plays, British food, examining different cities and what makes them unique, as well as engaging with our core British values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, and Individual Liberty. Each year group then looked at a different world culture throughout the week. Year 6 and Year 8 also had their residential weeks during this week.

Year 5

Year 5 travelled to India to learn all about Indian culture. In English, they explored traditional storytelling, including the story of Rama and Sita. In Maths, they looked at Rangoli patterns, as well as using their statistical knowledge to learn more about weather and data analysis. Pupils learned about the main religious practices in India as well as exploring Henna art. The week culminated in them designing, making and flying their own kites to replicate the Makhar Sankranti festival in Ahmedabad. In PE, pupils learned to play Kho Kho.



Year 7

Year 7 began their week by immersing themselves in William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', taking part in a 'play in a day' activities. After familiarising themselves with the plot, they then used their art and design skills to create theatrical masks to be used in a production of the play. Some classes went on to perform extracts of the play later in the day. Year 7 then travelled to China to explore Chinese culture. They learned some key phrases and enjoyed speaking the language. They also learned about the Chinese zodiac, explored key landmarks and cultural sights in Geography, and learned some traditional songs in Music. In Maths, pupils explored tangrams and magic squares. In PE, pupils learned about the sporting successes of China. Pupils embraced the artistic culture, by creating lanterns and experimenting with calligraphy.

Year 6

When not on their residential activities, Year 6 pupils enjoyed looking at Greek culture. They spent some time looking and tasting traditional Greek food, as well as exploring dance and entertainment culture within Greece. Pupils also used their artistic skills to design Ancient Greek-inspired decor - including pots and pillars!

Year 8

When not on residential activities, Year 8 pupils travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles, stopping at key cities along the way. At each city, pupils learned about the cultural influences and some of what each city is famous for. Their visit to Cardiff saw them creating daffodils with origami, in 'Edinburgh' they designed their own tartan, listened to Tony Walsh's poetry in Manchester and designing their own plates in 'Worcester' in recognition of Royal Worcester.

We look forward to making this an annual tradition!



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RESIDENTIAL WEEK

OAKER WOOD

121 Year 6 pupils headed to Leominster for a residential this half term. Oaker Wood Leisure was the perfect place for our pupils with many adventurous activities to build confidence and resilience, as well as opportunities to build new friendships and work together as a team in different situations. We would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all pupils that went, we had an amazing time and you were all a credit to the school.



BUSHCRAFT

This year we headed into Blenheim Woods for 2 nights of outdoor adventure. The pupils were a credit to themselves and the school during the trip and took every opportunity given. They immersed themselves in survival skills; making shelters and fires and learning how to prepare and cook food in the wild. There was also plenty of time for relaxing in the tents and playing in the woods. All pupils showed qualities of teamwork and resilience throughout our stay, and I do hope they recall fond memories of their trip in years to come. It was a pleasure to take the pupils and look forward to next year's already!



MUSIC

The Summer term has been incredibly busy in the Music department. We were fortunate to receive funding from the David Morgan Trust to allow us use of a class set of turntables. Students across KS2 enjoyed learning the basics of scratch Dj-ing whilst also exploring graphic notation, performance and composition. The project was a real success and students really engaged with this contemporary music genre.

It was a pleasure to take the KS2 singers to the Alexander Theatre in Birmingham to see 'Demon Dentist' as part of a reward trip; the show was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

SUMMER CONCERT

The afternoon of the 20th July saw over 40 children take part in the Summer Concert. There were performances from students across all year groups and whilst for some this was their first musical performance, it was fantastic to have so many students involved showcasing their hard work and talents.

The concert was varied including singing groups and soloists, guitarists, pianists and other instrumentalists and there was a notable performance by some of our KS3 students who performed 'Summer of 69' in a band with piano, drums and electric guitar which saw the audience burst into applause. A massive well done to all of the students involved, Mrs Williams is very proud of the hard work you have put into music, not only for the concert but throughout the school year.

We are looking forward to introducing a FAME project from September across Year 5, where all students will have the opportunity to learn the cornet, violin or flute for a term. Many thanks to the David Morgan Trust for funding this exciting project!



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SPORT

WOMENS WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT

To celebrate the Women's World Cup 2023, Parkside hosted an extra-curricular football tournament which was open to all year groups. The pupils were divided into teams and all represented a different country from the group stages of the World Cup. Pupils relished the challenge of competing against the other countries for the title. A special mention goes to Zoe H, Katy C and Lilly S who took full responsibility for promoting, organising and hosting this sports event as part of their role.



KEY STAGE 2 ATHLETICS

Our Key Stage 2 athletes experienced great success at the District Tournament when they brought home 15 medals. The Year 5s really enjoyed their first opportunity competing at Abbey Stadium. Likewise, the Year 6s enjoyed representing the school across a variety of field and track events. A special mention to Aubree C, who achieved a gold medal in the rounders ball throw and Adele Foster who achieved first place in the long jump.



KEY STAGE 3 ATHLETICS

Athletics was a great success on Wednesday 14th June. The Year 7 and Year 8 girls were both placed 2nd out of 8 schools, only losing to Bromsgrove School. The boys did really well in their field events. Altogether, our KS3 pupils brought home 19 medals!! A special mention to gold medalists Lottie R, Scarlett T and Katy C who qualified to represent their County in the Minors Athletics Competition.





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SPORT

ROUNDERS MATCH VS HOLY TRINITY

Our school teams played their first rounders fixture against Holy Trinity School, Kidderminster. Key Stage 2 won with a victory of 14.5 rounders to 5. A special mention to Jack C, who was voted Player Of The Match. Our Year 7 team proudly won their game 7 rounders to 5.5. Well done to Ellie D who was voted as Player Of The Match. Our Year 8s were less fortunate as they lost 8- 5.5. A special mention to Martha B, it was her first time representing the school and she was voted as Player Of The Match.

REDDITCH UNITED FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Our boys football teams across the year groups were given the opportunity to participate in a football tournament hosted by Redditch United FC. The tournament took place at the Trico Stadium. Pupils enjoyed competing against local schools from Redditch and loved the experience of playing at a football stadium. The tournament was organised and ran by the Redditch United Education Post 16 Education students.



SCHOOL GAMES NATIONAL SUMMIT 2023 - BARCLAY CARD GAME CHANGERS

Zoe H and Katy C took on a significant role and responsibility as they attended the School Games National Summit 2023. Here, the girls were representing Barclays Game Changers, as well as Parkside. This was organised by the Youth Sport Trust who brought together the network of 450 School Games Organisers from across the country, alongside the 43 Active Partnerships and 46 National Governing Bodies of Sport involved in the School Games.

An action-packed day involved keynotes, workshops, networking opportunities with a focus on Physical literacy, tackling inequalities and Youth Engagement. Zoe and Katy were heavily involved in the Youth Engagement session that displayed their super oracy skills whilst presenting information and answering questions. Both girls spoke with confidence, fluency and articulated all their ideas well to an audience of over two hundred people.



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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 of how and where they park within our car park.

STAFF NEWS

As this academic year comes to an end we are saying goodbye to Mrs Brittle, Mrs Devereux, Miss Manning, Miss Cook and Mr Dacre. We will welcome Miss Gilyead, Mrs Harper, Miss Taylor, Miss O'Hara, Miss Simmons and Miss Morgan to Parkside in September. We would like to congratulate Miss Doherty on the birth of her baby boy.

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.

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 a permission form to complete. All medication brought into school must be in the original packaging with instructions.

WATER BOTTLES

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



EQUIPMENT LIST

At Parkside, we firmly believe in the importance of working together to prepare pupils for life; one of the ways that we can do this is by helping them to take responsibility for their own learning. This includes them being prepared and organised for all lessons. We would therefore ask that you support the school, and your

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 in September	





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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Monday 4th September | School closed – TE Day |
| • Tuesday 5th September | School reopens to Year 5 |
| • Wednesday 6th September | School reopens to Years 6, 7 and 8 |
| • Thursday 14th September | Year 8 Information Evening |
| • Friday 22nd September | Whole school photographs |
| • Thursday 19th October | Year 6 Information Evening |
| • Thursday 19th October | Whole school Nasal Flu Vaccinations |
| • Thursday 26th October | School closes for half term |

