

## 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 achievements 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 with school news as well as the full curriculum that the children study in each term.

As you will see, it has been an exciting half term with a wide array of opportunities designed to engage and inspire the pupils. Most recently the elections for House Captains have taken place and over 40 pupils now form part of our new Smart School Council.

As a school we continue to be fully committed to building strong relationships with our families. It was wonderful to be able to meet many of you at our information evenings, Thrive afternoons and the Year 5 coffee morning. Next half term we will have our curriculum parents' evenings where you will be invited to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their learning and progress, either face to face or virtually. I will write to you separately regarding this.

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

Mrs Mancini



*Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.*

## PRIDE OF PARKSIDE

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



Keyara P	Ameur B-K	Ted M	Mia G	Nicole O	Lexi R	Lucy C	Rebekah B
Alfie P	Emilia F	Olivia D	Evie H	Reuben C	Zach L	Harry O'T	Rosa O'N
Harriet T	Lily B	Evie G	Sienna B	Aila-H H	Isabella J	Harrison W	Harry H
A'zhari S	Elliot K	Logan T	Will S	Ameur B-K	Olivia D	Seren C	Summer M
Tia T	Emilia F	Dylan J	Evie G	Finley R	Maisey T	Shivani B	Freddie P-L
Eva S	Eva B	Jack J	Jessica E	Elliott G	Emelia T	Harry K	Madelaine S
Arthur T	Serren C	Dante S-S	Liam G	Dan K			

## READING SUCCESS

Our pupils have been reading lots and taking plenty of quizzes so far this year. They have enjoyed using the new Accelerated Reader platform - remember you can log in to see how many books have been read too.

### Parkside Middle School Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

**741 Books**

**13,311,840 Words**

for **12 minutes/day!**  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE  
**Accelerated Reader®**

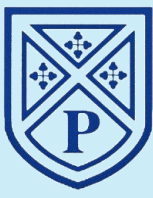
The top readers so far this year are:

Holly H	1,123,561 words
Madeleine	890,707 words read
Ella P	570,919 words read
Heidi D	372,088 words read
Seth P	364,332 words read

We rewarded lots of pupils with a token for the school vending machine. Well done to the following pupils for being successful over this half term:

Daniel C-F	Olivia D	Freya K	Seth P	Luke F	Maddie S	Poppy R	Shahraan Q
Holly H	Harlow R	Olivia D	Elodie H	Olivia H	Bronte L	Toby R	Isla-Mae B
Seth P	Mac W	Ella P	Melody D	Jaden K	Harry K	Evie G	Jessica E
Lauren M	Naz O	Toby R	Bronte L	Elise T			





## THRIVE UPDATES

### FAMILY THRIVE AFTERNOON

We have held a Family Thrive for our Year 6 and 7 pupils where we invited families into our Friday afternoon Thrive. During this time parents and carers participated in the lesson where we looked at the triune brain and how it works. We talked about our instinctual brain, our emotional brain and our cognitive (thinking) brain. We used play-doh to create this and talked about how our brain reacts in certain situations.

Year 6 then thought about what happens when we “flip our lid” and our thinking brain disconnects from our emotional brain. We discussed the role of the amygdala and hippocampus - which are key parts of our brain. Pupils and parents enjoyed creating their play-doh brains, while learning more about managing our emotions.



Year 7 looked at the adolescent brain and discussed how it changes as we become teenagers. We also looked at the chemical changes that take place and how this also impacts teenagers. Pupils and parents experienced some of our Thrive techniques and ‘ways in’ to talking about our emotions, such as metaphor check-ins.

### FAMILY THRIVE HALLOWEEN CRAFT AFTERNOON

On Monday 23rd October we invited some of our families in to participate in a Family Thrive Halloween Craft Afternoon. We carved pumpkins and created our own pumpkin designs with paints. It was a lovely afternoon.



### WORLD SPACE WEEK CAREERS TALK

On Friday 6th October, Year 7 and 8 pupils recognised World Space Week with a virtual space talk. The guest speaker, Dr Vicky Fawcett is an astronomer from Newcastle University. She discussed how to become an astronomer (sharing her career pathway) and explained her research into black holes.

Following the virtual talk, pupils were given the opportunity to ask Dr Fawcett further questions. Pupils were also given the opportunity to discuss their own career thoughts and research the pathways into those careers.

Pupils said "she explained the facts very well" and they found "telescopes and her educational journey interesting."



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## TT ROCK STARS

Monday 25th September marked the return of TT Rockstar day. Year 5 pupils looked incredible as they came into school dressed as rock stars. Thank you to parents and carers for helping create superb costumes.



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 go head-to-head in an online TT Rockstar Battle-of-the-Bands. Therefore, they were also introduced to their "band manager" who guided them through the first band battle throughout October.

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The KS2 Maths bands are currently battling on Times Table Rockstars as part of Rock-tober. The tournament finishes on Tuesday 31st October at 4pm. Please encourage your child to carry on playing. Watch this space for the results!



## YEAR 5 MATHS & ENGLISH MORNING

Thank you to all parents/carers that attended the Year 5 Maths and English morning. The feedback from parents was very positive and the pupils enjoyed having an adult join them in a Maths lesson. Bob the Alien also made an appearance to help the pupils 'Speak like a Specialist', promoting their good oracy skills. The presentations from Mrs Cox about Maths and Mrs Wright about English at Parkside are available on the school website for those parents/carers who were unable to attend.



Parents comments:

*'It was great to see a class in action, it was much more interesting than my memories of school'*

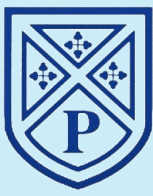


*'Amazing, great to see a lesson in action. I found the information session very informative.'*

*A very warm welcome for parents/carers to Parkside'*

*'Very informative morning. Great to see how a lesson is run.'*





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## **SPORTS FIXTURES**

### **YEAR 7 AND 8 GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

The school grounds recently came alive with the electric energy of a girls' football tournament that brought together the talents of Year 7 and Year 8 students. In a spirited display of sportsmanship, both year groups demonstrated their love for the game and a fierce determination to succeed. Both year groups took pleasure in showcasing their skill and teamwork competing against local rival schools, Aston Fields and Alvechurch. The event not only celebrated the prowess of our female athletes but also the sense of community and healthy competition that sport fosters. With smiles and enjoyment echoing across the pitches, it was a day of triumph for both the players and the school spirit.

### **YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL**

On Monday 16th October, the Year 8 boys football team played their first cup fixture against Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic School in Worcester. The boys played a great game, taking the lead just before half time through an Archie R goal. Blessed Edward equalised with about 10 minutes to go and unfortunately the boys lost the resulting penalty shootout 5-4.



### **KS3 BOYS RUGBY**

On Wednesday 11th October, the KS3 boys rugby teams travelled the short distance to Bromsgrove School to play a triangular tournament against Aston Fields and Bromsgrove School. The boys put in some outstanding performances, some of them playing their first competitive game. The attitude and effort from the Parkside boys was incredible. They were a real credit to the school; well done lads!

## **SPORTS LEADERS**

On Wednesday the 18th of October, the Parkside Sports Leaders helped to organise and officiate the Meadows First School Cross Country event. All the Sports Leaders did an excellent job and acted as great role models for the younger pupils.

On Thursday 19th October, 20 of our Sports Leaders attended a Leadership Training event held at South Bromsgrove High School. The event was run by Pioneer Leadership and involved lots of problem solving and decision making games. The pupils really enjoyed the event and it helped to give them some experience of leadership early in the school year.







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## TRIPS

### HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

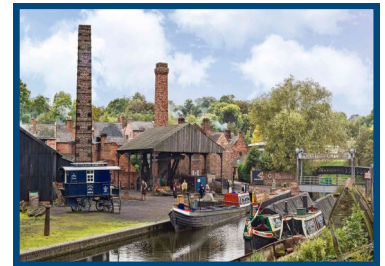
Parkside had the privilege of taking 30 excited Year 7 pupils to the Houses of Parliament last week. During our visit we had a tour of the Houses of Parliament and learnt about how it was once the palace of Henry VIII. We were able to go into the House of Lords and also the House of Commons, seeing where the debates between MPs take place. We then had the unique opportunity to take part in a debating workshop inside the Commons - showing the potential of some of our pupils as a future career in politics! We also learnt about how a Bill eventually becomes a law.



Whilst in London, we took the opportunity for some sightseeing of famous landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and also Westminster Abbey. The day was a rare opportunity for our pupils to see where our Government is conducted and was a unique chance to learn more about the Citizenship curriculum of the rule of law and how democracy operates in our country. The pupils benefited substantially from this experience and represented Parkside in an exemplary way.

### BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM

Our recent visit to the Black Country Living Museum with our pupils was an unforgettable educational experience that transported us back in time to the heart of the Industrial Revolution. 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. They experienced a trip on the canal to see for themselves what life was like for miners and children. The pupils had many questions throughout the day and fully embraced all that the museum had to offer.

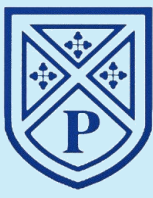


### KINDNESS—A LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST

We are delighted to report that our recent Year 8 school trip to deepen our understanding of the Holocaust was a resounding success, providing our students with a truly unforgettable experience. The outing centred around a performance of 'Kindness: A Legacy of the Holocaust', a play based on the incredible testimony of Hungarian Holocaust survivor Susan Pollack OBE.

Our pupils had the unique opportunity to witness this powerful production, which delves into the depths of history, sharing stories of resilience, love, and survival during the Holocaust. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that left a profound impact on all who attended.

Following the emotionally charged performance, students engaged in a stimulating panel discussion with the talented actors, as well as the director and writer, Cate Hollis and Susan Pollack herself. This allowed them to gain further insights into the creative process behind the play and deepen their understanding of this important historical period.



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## **WARWICK CASTLE**

On 21st September, Year 7 went on a history trip to Warwick Castle. Warwick Castle is a medieval castle developed from a wooden fort, originally built by William the Conqueror during 1068. Pupils climbed the towers and when they reached the top saw the fantastic views of Warwick! The whole of Year 7 were exemplary throughout the day in terms of their participation and their behaviour. They got to experience a War of the Roses tour, learnt about the history of the castle, discovering how it was built and what castle life was like throughout the years. We also thoroughly enjoyed the recently reinstated trebuchet show - a phenomenon of fire, ammunition and history, as well as the falcon show where we saw birds with wingspans of up to 9 feet!



Notable comments from pupils included, "I've never seen anything like this before in my life!" and "This is the best trip that I have ever been on!"

A hugely successful trip that was enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

## **HATE CRIME AWARENESS EVENT**

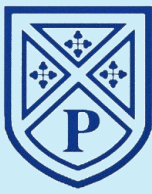
On Thursday 19th October, 17 Year 8 pupils attended a Hate Crime Awareness Event at Parkside Council Offices, focusing on the effects of Hate Crime and how we can support people in our community who find themselves a victim of these crimes. They were treated to a special performance from the About Face Theatre Company, who, through the medium of drama, portrayed a real-life story of how an everyday train journey turned into something entirely different. Our pupils were a credit to the school, and they thoroughly engaged with the company, offering sensible and mature comments on what they had witnessed and how things could have played out differently. The organisers were impressed with the maturity shown and the answers given.

We look forward to sharing our experience of this event with the rest of the school community.

## **FOOD, GLORIOUS, FOOD!**

Back in Spring, Mrs Ford, with the help of pupils attending Gardening Club, transformed the school garden. They planted a variety of vegetables and during this half term we have harvested our crops. We have been very pleased with our efforts and are looking forward to the next cycle of growing more vegetables! (We definitely think we have green fingers!)





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## SCHOOL COUNCIL

This year our school council looks slightly different...



We have joined an exciting project called Smart School Councils where the key ethos is that every child has a voice and any idea is worth sharing. The 'council' is made up of every person in the school. We have a 'Communication Team' who work behind the scenes to listen to suggestions, plan questions for our weekly class meetings and who are responsible for helping any pupil in the school to 'action' their ideas. Our Communication Team are there to support our pupils to all take an active role in our School Council and community.

To be a member of the Communication Team, pupils had to complete an application form and were selected by their Heads of Year. Whilst we will meet as a team twice each half term, each member of the team will be working hard to listen to the ideas of our pupils and to put these ideas into action. Even if pupils aren't on the Communication Team, they still have the opportunity to make a difference by joining an Action Team enabling them to lead change.

Every week, during Talk Time, our pupils will use the Class Meeting tool to discuss questions and ideas that are linked to our themes of the week. Our pupils have relished this opportunity so far this term, with form tutors commenting on how much the pupils are enjoying their Talk Time. At the end of every class meeting, pupils can contribute ideas for actions that they feel would make our school better.

We hope to keep you updated on our work each half term through the newsletter. The first actions for the council are:

Set up a Rubix Cube Club.

Set up a Board Game Club.

Set up a Card Trading Club.

Providing benches on the MUGA.

To find out more, you can visit Smart School Councils here: <https://home.smartschoolcouncils.org.uk/>

We look forward to sharing with you the exciting ideas the children wish to explore to make our school even better.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

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. Reverend Powers from the Methodist Church also came to speak with us about the importance of Harvest and gave us all a gift of wheat seeds! A well done to all the children who used their great oracy skills to lead the assembly and to the children who read their Harvest poems clearly and confidently.







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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 half term comes to an end, we would like to wish farewell to Mrs Askew who has moved on to pastures new and we would like to welcome Miss Harper who has joined us as our new Attendance Officer. We would like to congratulate Miss Ratcliffe on the birth of her baby girl.

## **LUNCHTIME**

Lunchtime meals will now be £2.53, pupils can also buy a drink to go with their meal at an additional cost. If pupils are bringing their own sandwiches, 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**

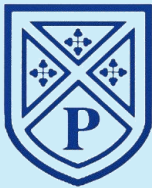
Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school with them each day.



## **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 child, by providing the following equipment for the year:

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 via ParentPay.	



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## BAM DINNER SPECIAL

**BONFIRE NIGHT**

CELEBRATE WITH US – 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

LUNCHTIME

**SPECIAL**

MEAT

BURGER IN A BUN, CHIPS AND  
BAKED BEANS

VEGETARIAN

JACKET POTATO, BEANS AND CHEESE

DESSERT

## UPCOMING STEM AWARENESS WEEK

Linked to Engineers Week, it has been planned that all our pupils will take part in a variety of STEM activities throughout the week. We look forward to celebrating the successes of this week and sharing photos, after the events, on the newsfeed of our school website.



## Parkside Middle School

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### Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy Term Time Only

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor at school. The hours of work are 12.30pm – 1.30pm each day, 5 days a week (5 hours).

If you are interested in the role, please contact the school office on 01527 873660 or email [office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk) for an application form.

#### *Safeguarding statement:*

*Parkside Middle School is committed to safeguarding and the PREVENT strategy and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Pupils learn to accept and uphold our fundamental British values.*

*This post is subject to a DBS Enhanced Disclosure, satisfactory references and pre-employment checks. Shortlisted applicants will also be asked to provide a self-declaration form.*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- |                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Thursday 26th October   | School closes for half term          |
| • Friday 27th October     | School closed – TE Day               |
| • Monday 6th November     | School reopens                       |
| • Thursday 9th November   | Year 5 Blackwell Adventure Trip      |
| • Tuesday 14th November   | Parents Evening (F2F)                |
| • Tuesday 21st November   | Parents Evening (Virtual)            |
| • Tuesday 28th November   | Parents Evening (F2F)                |
| • Wednesday 20th December | Christmas Lunch                      |
| • Thursday 21st December  | School closes for Christmas holidays |
| • Friday 22nd December    | School closed – TE Day               |