

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2023, a celebration of the many wonderful achievements of our pupils this half term. And as always, it has been a busy one!

Our Wow Work competition saw over 40 pupils' work nominated and it was a pleasure to read and see the outstanding quality that had been produced. The winning 12 will have their work on proud display for everyone to be inspired by.

Earlier this term, the Governors of the school had the opportunity to talk to the children, visit their lessons and look at the work they are producing. They were very impressed by the high standards seen and the children's enthusiasm, confidence and pride. The huge number of achievement and attendance certificates, as well as the array of wonderful nominations for the Pride of Parkside Awards that I was able to give this week, is testament to this. I am very proud of the children's accomplishments this term.

Thank you for your support in attending either a face to face or virtual parents' evening this term. In January you will receive a mid-year report giving you information on your child's progress in the core subjects and information on their attitude to learning across all subjects.

Finally, I would like to end with a sincere thank you for all your support this term.

I would like to wish you all a healthy and relaxing Christmas break.

Mrs Mancini



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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:



Holly S	Riley P	Ava W	Finlay H	James C	Eva B	Poppy M	Isabella O-B
Evie G	Harley N	Bronte L	Elliott H	Ethan W-D	Kevon P	George B	Kiean-Lee Y
Holly H	Mia H	Ted M	Darcy R	Thomas W	Willow H	Lola W	Amilie-Lou C
Amelia W	Eva B	Archie R	Lexi R	Billie H	Holly W	Anaya S	Madelaine S
James P	Lewis S	Maddison J	Isabella J	Noah McG	Christiana H	Mollie-Boo L	Caprice McD

WOW WORK

This half term, Mrs Mancini set the school a challenge - to be nominated by a teacher for a piece of exceptional work. Our pupils have been working hard with this in mind, focusing on producing the best work possible, considering accuracy, knowledge, presentation - and creating those pieces of work which just make you say, "Wow!"



Mrs Mancini was inundated with nominations, with the following pupils being lucky to secure a prize for their work:

Seth P	Hayden E	Nathan K	Thomas S	Madelaine S	Francesca H	Zak A
Oliver N	Lauren M	Oliver B-M	Evie G	Reuben E		

This work will now be on display in school as an example of the very best of Parkside. Well done to all of the winners!

YEAR 5 SHOW

Year 5 filled the hall with festive cheer on two evening performances of the Christmas Show. During our Thrive sessions, Year 5 pupils have worked hard to apply our Parkside Values whilst learning a new skill. Their performances were magical; filled with songs, sign language and a fabulous rendition of 'Jingle Bells' performed entirely in Polish. The show concluded with audience participation, singing along to the 12 days of Christmas. Thank you to parents and carers for their support and a well done to all the pupils for their hard work throughout.



DISNEY THEATRE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP - NOVEMBER 2023

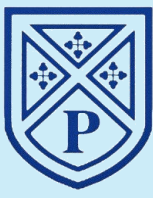
A large group of pupils from all year groups took part in a virtual workshop where they learnt a dance, song and acting tips from Disney Theatre professionals. At the end of just one session they performed a fantastic routine.



DRUMMING WORKSHOP

On Friday 17th November, 6JDe took part in a drumming workshop with Reverend Peter. The pupils were fascinated by the drums and enjoyed learning the history of the drum and how to play the instrument. Reverend Peter took the session and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed playing. They had to listen carefully and copy the Reverend in time, paying careful attention to the tempo.





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MUSIC EVENTS

The Autumn term has been incredibly busy in the Music Department. Our first group of Year 5 students have received their FAME sessions (whole class tuition) on the violin which has been a great success and now the students have a fantastic opportunity to continue their musical journey through smaller group tuition, funded by The David Morgan Trust. We are most grateful for their support!

At the start of December, we welcomed into school three of our feeder first schools for a fantastic 'Music Morning'. There were some excellent performances from all schools involved and the event was enjoyed by all.

In the build up to Christmas, our musicians have been working really hard. The participants in our extra-curricular groups have been increasing and their commitment has been outstanding. On Tuesday 12th December, our KS3 Singers performed in North High School's concert singing 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year', along with beautiful vocal and violin solos performed by our Year 7 and 8 students. Then two days later, all of our Parkside Singers visited Chandler Court Care Home to sing some Christmas songs and carols to the residents. Both choirs sang wonderfully and the residents were filled with much cheer.

Then, on Tuesday 19th December, all of our musicians and singers joined together for a fabulous Christmas concert. All year groups took part playing guitars, flutes, clarinets, piano, ukuleles, violin and drums along with plenty of singing. Music ranged from Shakin' Stevens to traditional Christmas carols, with a notable performance of Silent Night; the first verse sung in German along with Makaton Signs!

Everyone performed amazingly - some of the performers had only been learning their instrument for a few months – and it was lovely to see what joy the musicians of Parkside could bring to all who attended.

BLACKWELL ADVENTURE DAY

'On Thursday 9th November, Year 5 were given the opportunity to apply many of our Parkside Values during an activities day to Blackwell Adventure. There was a great deal of resilience demonstrated by pupils overcoming their fears whilst others showed kindness and compassion, supporting their peers during the different activities.

Some pupils in year 5 said:

"The Archery was my favourite thing to do. I would love for school to have an Archery Club." Joe.

"I really liked the Giant Zipwire - especially as I got to go upside down. Also Crate Stack was good because it was all about teamwork." Bessie.

"The whole trip was very fun and I would highly recommend you to go." Nicole.

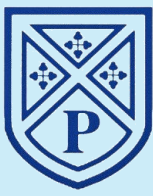
As a school, we are incredibly proud of the pupils achievements and how well they represented Parkside whilst on the trip



THRIVE

On Wednesday 6th December we hosted a family Thrive craft afternoon. Some of our parents were invited in to take part and during this time we made Christmas crackers, decorations, and orange cloves. It was a lovely festive afternoon.

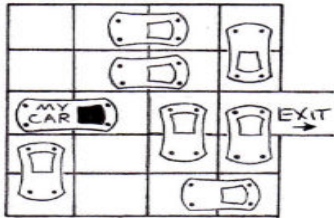




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PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

A selection of pupils in year 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge during November. This is a countrywide competition for 9-11 year olds. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and tried their hardest in the competition. All pupils received a certificate for participation, with some pupils achieving bronze silver and gold awards. Well done to everyone that took part, your resilience was amazing! For those of you at home wishing to challenge yourself, have a go at a typical question below:



In this car park problem, cars can only go forwards and backwards. What is the smallest number of cars that I have to move before I can drive my car straight out of the car park?

- A 3 B 4 C 5 D 6 E 7



Mrs Cox has an apple orchard and enjoys sorting out her apples. She can either put all her apples into bags of 4 with no apples left over, or she can put all her apples into bags of 5, with no apples left over. Which of the following could be the number of apples she has?

- A 88 B 92 C 108 D 112 E 120



Bronze Award: Cameron A, Annabel C, Theo C, Alfred C, Daniel C-F, Oscar L, Daisy P, Benjamin R, Tegan S, Sam W, Finn A, Lucas A-W, Immy G, Imogen G, Ethan K, Jamie M, Theo P, Liam R, Noah R, Jimmy W, Georgia W, Noah S

Silver Award: Sam K, Freddie R, Luca T, Elliot H

Gold Award: Noah L

ENGLAND ROCKS

From 14th-16th November KS2 took part in England Rocks on TTRS, battling against over 4000 other schools across the country. Well done to everyone that took part.





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SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council have been working really hard this term to action the suggestions that have been made by our pupils. They have set up a Rubicks Cube club and a Card Trading club in school. Both clubs have been well attended!

We are also working hard to try to secure some benches for the MUGA for pupils to use at break and lunchtime. Our council have met with Mrs Mancini, BAM and the PE Department to discuss location; they have also met with Mrs Browning in the school office to discuss costs. After Christmas, the council will be organising some fundraising activities so that the benches can be ordered. We are aiming for these to be in place by February half term.

Keep an eye on the School Council Progress Board in school to find out more about our next projects.

CAREERS

This half term has been remarkably busy for Careers, where we have been working hard to 'Inspire Futures'. Mrs Papadopoulos organised a fantastic STEM Careers week, where pupils heard from a wide range of speakers about a plethora of options for their future Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

In addition to this, KS3 pupils were lucky to have an assembly with professional rugby player, Lark Atkin-Davies. Organised by Mr Spalding, the pupils asked Lark some fantastic questions and heard all about her sporting accomplishments and how she came to be a professional player.

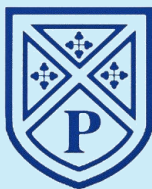
ODD SOCKS DAY

On Monday 13th November, Parkside took part in the national Odd Socks Day campaign, run by the Anti-bullying Alliance. Each year, we celebrate difference and uniqueness and were pleased to see many of our pupils and staff proudly wearing their odd socks in support of the campaign and to mark the start of Anti-bullying week.



AGENTS FOR CHANGE

As part of our Equally Safe project, a programme organised and run by the Department for Education, 27 of our pupils from across the school were selected and trained to become for Agents for Change. They completed a day's training in November and are now officially 'Agents for Change'. They will work alongside Parkside staff to promote equality and diversity and help tackle bullying. They are currently putting together an action plan and will be hitting the ground running in January! Look out for their pictures and work around the school in the New Year!



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READING SUCCESS

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



LIBRARY NEWS

The library has had a good term with all the enthusiasts reading that has taken place. The crypto library competition was very successful with the code being cracked by Alfred C. Our Scholastic Book Fair, which took place at the end of November, was extremely well supported and raised a substantial amount of rewards for the school which enabled us to buy quite a few news books. A big thank you to everyone who supported and thank you for all the donations

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

Nicole O	Sam A	Tristan C	Logan H	Sienna B	Poppy R	Alice L	Elliot L
Honey C	Leo F	Oliver F	Eleanor H	Mia D-W	Callum L	Freya R-C	Charley W
Lucy M	Harley N	Sophie H	Mason W	Finlay H	Ava W	Frankie B	Terrence W
Emran A	Mia M	Aivah B	Elliot G	Holly H	Dylan D	Dacrey D	Kieran-Lee Y
Theo T							

The top readers so far this year are:

Holly H	2,350,262 Words Read
Madelaine S	1,478,385 Words Read
Ella P	1,275,476 Words Read
Evie G	689,506 Words Read
Lewis E	653,225 Words Read
Seth P	620,405 Words Read

Parkside Middle School Reads!



In December 2023, students have read...

605 Books

12,155,312 Words

for **34 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®



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SPORTS FIXTURES

WORCESTERSHIRE FA U13 GIRLS CUP

The opening round of the U13 Girls Worcestershire Cup witnessed an extraordinary display of skill and domination by Parkside, culminating in a resounding 7-1 victory. Parkside's performance was nothing short of sensational as they impeccably executed their game plan, efficiently converting possession into a flurry of goals. The standout player of the match was undoubtedly Ellie D, whose exceptional prowess on the field was showcased through a remarkable hat-trick, leaving the opposition struggling to contain her brilliance. Adding to the team's triumph, Scarlett contributed two magnificent goals, while Trixie's well-executed strike further solidified Parkside's dominance on the pitch. Notably, the seamless integration of two year 7 players into the higher age group displayed not only their individual talent but also the cohesive unity of the team. Aubree's successful contribution by slotting in a goal highlighted the depth of skill within the squad, proving pivotal in securing an impressive victory for Parkside.



LARK ATKIN-DAVIES

On Friday 8th December, we were lucky enough to have a Question and Answer session with Professional Rugby player, Lark Atkin-Davies. Lark is a current England International with over 50 caps for her country and also plays for Bristol Bears in the Allianz Womens Premiership. Lark delivered an amazing talk about her career, touching on some of her greatest achievements, as well as some of her low points in her career. She spoke about the qualities needed to become a professional player and the resilience and determination she has had to show during her hugely successful career.

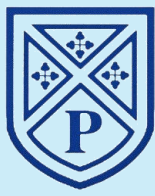


All the pupils listened brilliantly during the assembly. We had pupil questions asked by George H and Charlie H from 8ES and we found out some amazing information. Thank you so much for all the questions you sent in and a huge thanks to Lark Atkin-Davies for sharing her experiences with our school! If you wish to take up rugby in or outside of school, then please speak to Mr Spalding, or sign up to after-school club.

YEAR 8 RUGBY

The Year 8 rugby team beat St Johns 50-30. The boys attitude and effort was absolutely amazing and they were a real credit to the school. Here's a picture of the winning team.





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YEAR 6 DISTRICT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In a recent football tournament, our school's team demonstrated incredible resilience and determination, drawing all three of their matches. What made this achievement even more remarkable was that for some of our pupils, it was their first-ever competitive football experience, representing our school team. The nerves and excitement were palpable, but their teamwork and newfound skills shone through as they secured those three draws. In addition, two of our pupils boldly stepped up to play for a year group above their own, a commendable accomplishment that should make them immensely proud. The tournament may not have resulted in victories, but the sportsmanship and growth exhibited by these young athletes left a lasting impression, symbolising the true spirit of the game. – Miss Wallis



The boys' team were extremely nervous at the start, so with our first game being against St John's, we opted for a defensive formation. We overloaded them in midfield. Late in the second half, we struck a counter offensive which resulted in a nail biting 1-0 win. Our second game, against Westacre was a very close one, Ollie B, our captain was superb. The game ended 0-0. lead by our new GK Reuben, who kept a clean sheet and Sol's majestic turns on the wing, we deserved to win the game. The third game was a thriller! Against a vigorous Catshill team, from a corner kick, Parkside went all in for the win, with our GK going up with 2 mins left, knowing they had to win to reach their first final. Mason did a spectacular overhead kick which rebounded and dropped perfectly at Noah R's feet, he smashed it into the net and we won 2-1.

During the final, they outplayed the other team, totally dominated, determined to win. They displayed excellent teamwork and work ethic and dug deep, Mason grabbed the winner. The result, 1-0.



DISTRICT BADMINTON

The annual KS3 District Badminton Tournament held at Bromsgrove School was an exhilarating event, filled with spirited competition and many successes for our pupils who sealed victories against their opponents.

Among the standout successes were the Year 7 boys, who displayed exceptional skill, tenacity and teamwork throughout the tournament. Their dedication and hard work translated into impressive victories, earning them recognition and applause from fellow competitors and spectators alike. The atmosphere was charged with excitement and enthusiasm as all pupils, regardless of age or experience, savored the thrill of their inaugural competitive badminton tournament. The event not only showcased their sporting abilities but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship among the participants, making it an immensely enjoyable experience for everyone involved.





YEAR 5 & 6—TTRS 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 the academic year. An overwhelming response from the pupils with 254 pupils from KS2 taking part in the battles and 302,945 correct times table questions answered throughout the battle!



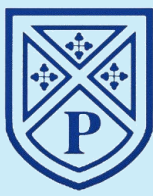
The winning bands were Arctic Money, Pump Up the Volume, Little Mixed Numbers, Number Souls and Rocktagons. With Year 5 beating Year 6.

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

The next battles commence in the Spring Term.

Battle 1	Arctic Money 55,258 Highest Earners: Rockin' Vanilla Phil Rockmuller	Maths Potato 48,159 Highest Earners: Layla Pop Omeo Louis	Panic! At the Division 31,665 Highest Earners: Finley La Rock Joseph Biondo
Battle 2	Pump Up the Volume 14,470 Highest Earners: Suzy Chico William Burgess	Red Hot Chilli Numbers 7,878 Highest Earners: Anjali Rox Chester Rich	Maroon 5 Squared 12,004 Highest Earners: Cain Sharp Cornelius Egg
Battle 3	Black Add Peas 20,179 Highest Earners: Rudy Nolan Carl Sixx	Little Mixed Numbers 24,024 Highest Earners: Rylee McGrea Jordan Reed	
Battle 4	Sausage and Math 31,662 Highest Earners: Iggy Yow Royal Summer	Number Souls 32,383 Highest Earners: Damon Sparks Alexandra Bennington	
Battle 5	21 Pie Charts 2,192 Highest Earners: Ava Culture Alexa Day	Rocktagons 21,933 Highest Earners: Mya Robbins Von Baker	
Battle 6	Year 5 161,991	Year 6 140,954	

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!



STEM

Over the last two weeks, KS2 pupils have watched a virtual book launch by the author Adam Kay. His latest book, *Incredible Inventions*, has been added to the school library and pupils finished the session full of excitement to seek Adam Kay's books.

When asked about the virtual book launch, pupils said:

"It was very interesting and I enjoyed the history."

"I like how he said he was a random kid who had no training and now is a famous author."



During the video, the book's illustrator Henry Paker sketched inventions and shared these. Many pupils commented that they enjoyed watching what the illustrator was drawing and hearing what inspired him.

All pupils have enthusiastically engaged in a STEM week to celebrate Tomorrow's Engineering week (6th-10th November) and recognise National STEM Day (8th November). As part of a whole school assembly, pupils were given information on what STEM stands for, how it links to "Every Lesson Counts" and the potential influence STEM subjects could have on their futures.

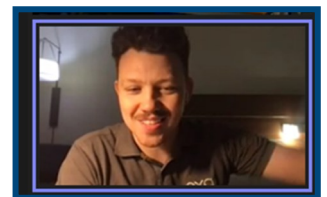
Each year group participated in STEM virtual visits from many outside speakers.

Year 5 had a presentation about gaming and esports and how technology has enhanced the way people play video games. The guest speaker talked about Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and some pupils went on to design their own VR gaming platform. The pupils were extremely enthusiastic with one year 5 pupil stating, "The talk gave me lots of ideas about what I can do when I'm older". The guest speaker said, "I really enjoyed the session with the children. Their enthusiasm and energy were absolutely humungous!"



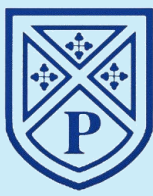
Year 6 had a presentation from a Navel Architect. They were also given the opportunity to become a STEM PenPal with a lady who works as an Engineer. These postcards have been sent off to the Engineer who will personally respond to each pupil. We excitedly await these replies.

On Wednesday, Year 7 had a virtual visit from a gentleman named Ollie. He is a motorsports engineer and presented about his career in the Pitlane. There were so many question answered about Formula 1 racing and the career pathway Ollie had taken. The pupils enjoyed "learning about who inspired him" and finding out about what qualifications are needed to become a Pit Lane Developer.



Finally, Year 8 pupils had two question and answer sessions. One with a STEM ambassador regarding STEM careers and routes into various professions and a second with a medical statistician. She discussed what the job entails, her route into the career and why they may wish consider this in the future. The guest speaker said "the pupils certainly seemed very engaged" and she would happily come to speak with our pupils again.

It has been a busy yet funfilled STEM week. We are incredibly proud of how they represented the school during the week, demonstrating the Parkside Standard at its highest. The feedback from the pupils was also overwhelmingly positive with many pupils inspired for their futures.



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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 Miss Taylor who has moved on to pastures new and Ms McEwan who has been our acting SENDCo and we would like to welcome back Mrs Moffat who has returned from maternity leave. We would like to congratulate Mrs Norris on the birth of her baby boy.

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

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.	