

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has been a very short half term, there have been many achievements and a lot to celebrate.

One of my highlights was a week 'delving' into Maths at Parkside. The Senior Leadership Team visited every lesson, talking to the pupils, looking at their work and watching them learn. It was wonderful to see their engagement, enthusiasm and confidence in the subject and we were very impressed with the high-quality teaching and learning that was evidenced throughout the department. Next half term we will be delving into History.

We will also be holding three more parent/carer evenings, continuing the blended approach that was requested through our parent consultation last year. Please see below for the dates of our next Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings:

- Tuesday 5th March 2024—Virtual
- Tuesday 12th March 2024—Face To Face
- Tuesday 19th March 2024—Virtual

Being organised and independent are key skills we teach our pupils throughout their time at Parkside. Please can I ask for your continued support in ensuring the children are attending school, arriving on time, wearing the correct uniform and bringing the equipment they need. This will ensure that they are ready for the day and ready to learn. Our mantra with the pupils is that 'Every Lesson Counts'.

Wishing you an enjoyable and hopefully a little less wet, half term.

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:

Lucy C	Trixie C	Oliver N	Mae L	Morgan W	Cara S-W	Ethan W-D	Freya-R C
Alistair Y	Dylan D	Jack G	Ella H	Eva H	Seren L	Oliver O-B	Keira S
Eli D	Seren L	Laker J	Harry S	Stanley R	Theo P	Tegan S	Skyla-Jai P
Teddy W	Mia M-S	Alfie H	Max L-S	Libby J	Ben R	Maisey T	Aila-Honey H
Freyja E-F	Darcey R	Llaynii-Jay McG					

BBC FILMING

A huge thank you and well done to KS3 who have taken place in a BBC documentary this half term assisting Pete Martin of Redditch Self Defence Club in educating young people on the issues of knife crime. The pupils' behaviour, attitudes and engagement in the assembly was outstanding. More details to follow on when the episode will be shown on TV.

6JDe BREAD MAKING

6JDe thoroughly enjoyed making bread with Reverend Powers on Friday 26th January. They learnt about bread and staple foods. Then they used their Real-Life Maths skills to measure out the ingredients, following a simple recipe. Finally, the pupils kneaded the dough and took it home to bake with their family.

'The bread was nice.' - Ollie N

'I used the dough to make cinnamon rolls.' - Reuben H



FARADAY CHALLENGE

Parkside hosted the Faraday Challenge Competition this term, which was run by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET). A number of our Year 8 students took part in teams of six and we were also joined by teams of pupils from three other local schools.

The IET Faraday® Challenge Days are cross-curricular activity days covering Science, Design and Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). They are held at schools, organisations and universities around the UK.

The students taking part had the opportunity to research real-life engineering problems. They had a great day coming up with designs and solutions to these problems and learning about how engineering is relevant in many situations. They worked well together in their teams, behaved exceptionally well and really enjoyed the experience.





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YOUNG VOICES

On 22nd January, we had the absolute pleasure of taking 40 children from all year groups to Resorts World Arena to perform as part of the 6,600 strong Young Voices Choir. The day was a huge success and all the children enjoyed themselves; they really sang their hearts out! We would like to give them all a huge well done, as they represented Parkside brilliantly and made us so proud!



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

On Monday 29th the Head Pupils of Parkside Middle School took part in the Bromsgrove District Council Holocaust Memorial Day Service. The theme of this Year's service was 'Fragility of Freedom'. Parkside took part in the 'Prayers of Penitence' section of the service with Poppy M as the reader. Then after a blessing, led by Reverend Ray Khan, Eva S collected a flower bulb which represented hope. Afterwards we were treated to some refreshments. It was wonderful to be part of such an important service. Back at school, the whole school took part in a range of activities for Holocaust Memorial week, including learning about the history of antisemitism, as well as creating some reflective poetry.



YEAR 7 GURDWARA VISIT

Year 7 visited Smethwick Gurdwara and they thoroughly enjoyed their guided tour around the Gurdwara, learning about Sikhism and trying the langar.

Pupil write up :

On the 9th and 16th January 2024, Year 7 visited Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick in Birmingham.

Some kind volunteers showed us around the Gurdwara and showed us different aspects of the building and the Sikh religion. Whilst in a Gurdwara, you must cover your head and take off your shoes as a sign of respect.

We were first taken by a tour guide to a model praying room where she explained some of the basic ideas within Sikhism and then went into detail about some of the more well-known practices. She then led us to the main hall of the building where people pray to God and traditional Sikh songs are sung. You are encouraged to give a donation to the gurdwara, as it is run by the community and must pay for the langar (meal). Finally, we were given a taste of some of the food that Sikhs eat, such as chapatis and curry.



Everyone enjoyed the trip and we would like to say thank you to the volunteers who gave up their own time to make sure we had a great experience.

Written by Seth P



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SPORTS FIXTURES

YEAR 5 PRIMARY PANATHLON

The Year 5 sports competition, known as the Primary Panathlon, showcased a diverse range of events that tested the students' skills and teamwork. From the precision of Boccia, to the target throw, the strategic table cricket, the precise tenpin skittles, and the intensity of the basketball shoot, the pupils faced a challenging array of activities. The Year 5 team not only embraced these challenges but emerged victorious, earning well-deserved gold medals.

The triumph was even more remarkable as the Year 5 team surpassed expectations by obtaining more points than some Year 6 teams that also took part in the competition. The accomplishment holds significance as it marks the first-time representation for many of the pupils, highlighting their natural talent. This success not only brings pride to the individual athletes but also serves as a testament to the strength of unity and determination within.



YEAR 6 PRIMARY PANATHLON

Year 6 students recently showcased their sporting prowess at the Primary Panathlon competition, engaging in a series of challenging events that included Boccia, target throw, skittles, table cricket, and then an intense basketball shoot-out. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the diverse range of activities that tested their skills and promoted teamwork. Excitement and determination filled the air as the Year 6 team navigated through each station, demonstrating not only individual talent, but also the ability to work cohesively as a team.

Their exceptional performance was reflected in the final results, as the Year 6 team secured a well-deserved second-place finish, earning silver medals. Their achievement is testament to their dedication and hard work.



SECONDARY PANATHLON

Our Year 7 and 8 pupils showcased their athletic prowess at the Secondary Panathlon held at the Ryland Centre in Bromsgrove. Engaging in a diverse range of sports such as basketball shoot out, skittles, tennis, Boccia and curling, the students demonstrated exceptional skills and sportsmanship. Their collective efforts resulted in accumulating enough points to secure a commendable third position, earning them well-deserved bronze medals. We take great pride in the dedication and enthusiasm they exhibited throughout the competition, highlighting not only their individual talents but also their ability to work seamlessly as a team in pursuit of success on the Panathlon stage.



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SPORTS FIXTURES



CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

Following their success in the District Cross Country Championships on 16th January, Lucy C and Trixie C qualified for and competed in the County Cross Country Championship held at Bromsgrove School on 29th January.

Competing against 120 elite Worcestershire cross country runners, Trixie finished in a very creditable 18th place and Lucy finished 7th. Lucy's excellent performance means that she now qualifies for the English Schools Cross Country Championships - a tremendous achievement!

KS3 NETBALL MATCH Vs CATSHILL

Our three Key Stage 3 netball teams displayed an outstanding performance as they hosted Catshill and sealed victories across all their matches. The home advantage seemed to fuel the teams' determination, and despite playing in a variety of positions, the pupils showcased remarkable adaptability and teamwork. The victories secured by each team were nothing short of immense, underscoring the depth of their skills and the effectiveness of their strategic play. The versatility exhibited by the players in different positions further emphasised their well-rounded abilities, making the overall success a testament to their dedication, hard work, and cohesive team work on the netball court. A special mention to Nefeli D who was chosen as player of the match.

KS3 NETBALL MATCH Vs DODDERHILL

Our two Year 8 netball teams showcased remarkable adaptability and teamwork during their recent matches. Despite being split into two groups and playing in a variety of positions without their usual team mates, both teams displayed impressive versatility on the court. Their collective effort resulted in outstanding victories, with scores of 10-4 and 12-1. The players' ability to seamlessly adjust to new roles and collaborate effectively highlights the depth of their skills. These triumphs stand as testament to their resilience and cohesive spirit that defines their netball prowess.

YEAR 7 NETBALL MATCH

In an electrifying netball match that kept all substitutes and spectators on the edge of their seats, both teams exhibited exceptional netball skills and determination that defined the essence of the sport. The closely contested battle unfolded with alternating goals, creating an intense and nail-biting atmosphere. The score remained tight throughout, with neither team holding a lead of more than two goals at any point. The spirited competition reached its peak in the last quarter, where despite our team's valiant efforts, Dodderhill managed to secure a two-goal advantage, sealing their victory. Despite the outcome, the girls' collective performance was truly commendable and their teamwork made us extremely proud. We are immensely proud of their efforts and display of sportsmanship throughout the fiercely fought match.





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SKY ARTS 2024

Get your paint brushes at the ready for an exciting new competition to get our pupils warmed up ahead of Sky Arts' Access All Arts week this June.

We want to feature your pupil's artwork in a very special episode of our show 'Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir' that will broadcast on Sky Arts during arts week.

The challenge

To celebrate our British birds, we're challenging your pupils to create a picture of a bird, in whatever material they choose.

Send them in to us, and then Jim and Nancy will select their favourites to feature in the show.

Try painting a bird you've spotted in the playground, playing field or your garden. Look for shapes, textures and colours on the birds and find creative ways to capture them through art.

How to enter

To be in with a chance of being selected, simply share a picture of your pupils' artwork on social media using the hashtag #AccessAllArts.

Alternatively, you can email your entries to accessallarts@nationalschoolpartnership.com or see Mrs Cheuk.

You have until Friday 8th March 2024 to submit your entries.



sky





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THE HUB

Feb Half Term Camp



Tuesday 13th February

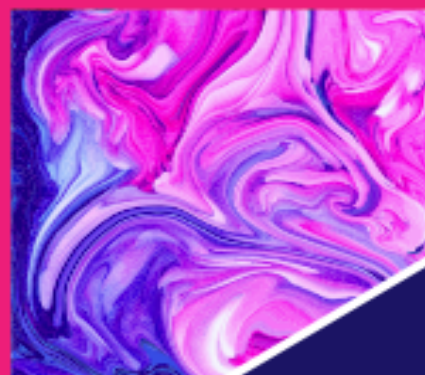
9.30am - 2.30pm

Sports competitions,
pancake making & origami
@Bromsgrove Baptist
Church, B60 2JD

Wednesday 14th February

9.30am - 2.30pm

Marble paint art, valentine's
crafts, & junk drumming
workshop @Bromsgrove
Baptist Church, B60 2JD



**For ages
8 - 13yrs**

Each session also includes games, consoles, sports, small arts & crafts.

Prices: £10 per individual day or £15 for both days per young person.

If there are 2 or more children in 1 household, you will receive a 25% discount.

To book, please Email Dan Owen on Do@thehubbromsgrove.org



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ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education have recently launched a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of school attendance, highlighting the benefits beyond just attainment, such as friendships and well-being. Here at Parkside we believe that regular school attendance is important for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and mental health.

We understand that for parents and carers it can be difficult to know when to send your child in to school if they are feeling unwell. It is usually safe for children to attend school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However children should stay at home if they have a high temperature of 38° or above.

The NHS has published guidance to help parents and carers decide whether their child is well enough to attend school. This includes information on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions such as coughs, colds, chicken pox and headlice. See the below link to access this information.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

As a school we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that children are supported to attend school and reach their full potential. If there are any reasons that prevent your child from attending school or if you would like to discuss your child's attendance please contact our attendance officer, Miss Harper.

We have recently been reviewing our school absence procedure and to ensure a smoother process we have now added a specific form to our school website to report an absence and/or medical appointment, this can be found under the contact us tab. You can continue to report absences by calling the school office (01527 873660) and leaving a message or sending an email to our dedicated attendance email - absence@parkside.worcs.sch.uk.

Please ensure that absences are reported by 09:00am and we ask that you contact us **EVERY** day your child is unwell. Any unreported absences are marked as unauthorised on your child's attendance report.

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of children attending school on time. Our rear gate to the playground closes at 08:50am to ensure that all children are in registration ready to start their day promptly. If you are running late for any reason, please contact the school office.



PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Portals

Contact Us

What's new

Contact Form

Absence Form

01527 873660



Our School

Year Groups

Our Curriculum

Parents/Carers

New Pupils



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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 that the car park is for staff and visitor use and drop off only.

STAFF NEWS

As this half term comes to an end, we would like to congratulate Mrs Miarowska on the arrival of her little girl!



WATER BOTTLES

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

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.

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.

SPEAK UP

Please can we remind children that our 'Speak Up' button on the school website homepage can be used by the children to report any safeguarding concerns. This will be monitored by Mrs Jenkin our DSL.



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.	