

Parkside Middle School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you to all of you who attended one of our Parents / Carers' evenings this half term. I hope you found the discussions around your child's learning and progress informative and useful.

As we move into the Summer term, the aim of their teachers will be to 'Nurture Success', ensuring that they meet their end of year targets and that our Year 8 pupils are ready to transition into their high schools. Your ongoing support in ensuring good attendance, punctuality and encouraging them to be organised with equipment and homework is appreciated.

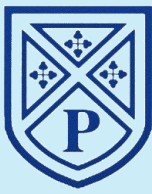
On this note, I would like to say how proud we all were of our Year 6 pupils in their recent Mock SATs week. Their resilience and increased maturity were recognised by all the teachers and many of the pupils stated how much more confident they now feel. I am sure they will all have every success next term.

The Summer term is always incredibly busy with end of year assessments, school trips and residentials and end of year celebrations. We have included these dates in this newsletter. However, please can I remind you that all dates will be on the calendar on the school website, which is updated regularly.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you enjoy reading our Spring newsletter and wish you all a lovely Easter 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:



William D	Eleanor H	Emilia F	Ila-May P	Bessie F	Sophie B	Lillie-Mae W	Elliott G
Charley W	Alfie H	Jamie H	William J	Bobby F	Edie F	Isabelle S	Mia D-W
Harrison H	Maverick S	Mollie-Boo L					

WORLD BOOK DAY

At Parkside, we celebrate reading and successes related to reading every day. We encourage regular nominations for our school vending machine and reward pupils for their commitment to their reading, or their improvement with reading in school. Alongside this, we regularly run competitions to ignite an extra boost for reading, with a half termly programme to ensure that pupils maintain their enthusiasm for reading for pleasure. For us, reading and a love of books isn't just for one day of the year!

Thursday, 7th March was World Book Day and this year Parkside celebrated this event all week long with a range of events to promote reading. Teachers donned disguises for this year's 'The Masked Reader' challenge. Pupils had a series of videos released to them each day with a different disguised staff member reading the blurb from their favourite books - pupils had to guess both the teacher and the book, with the grand reveal showing Mr Swaffield disguised as Hulk Hogan, Mrs Cox as Shrek and Mrs Terrey as Baby Yoda, to name but a few!

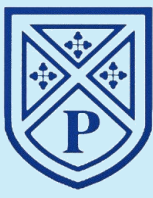
Mrs Wright ran a 'Potato-Head' competition with Key Stage Two. During their Thrive lesson, pupils transformed potatoes into their favourite book characters using art materials and a potato! We had a huge range of designs and we were so impressed with their efforts! Can you guess some of the characters from the photo?



In KS3 lessons, pupils had a 'Who Durnit' crime story that was revealed in sections across the course of the day. Mr Durnall also hosted 'The Greatest Book Quiz on Earth!' during a whole-school assembly, where each year group competed to answer some tricky questions about books, authors and reading. Year 8 were victorious, showing their impressive knowledge confidently.

CAREERS

On Monday, 26th February, Parkside celebrated National Careers Week in school. Over the course of the year, our pupils have had a wide range of activities planned for them to 'Inspire Futures'. We have had virtual visits from astronauts, astrophysicists, F1 drivers, authors and rugby players. During Careers Week, we wanted pupils to reflect on their own pathways and interests, considering how their hobbies and interests of today might inspire their profession in the future. We thought about our 'soft skills' and how our Parkside Values will influence our future employability. This half term, we have also invited Worcestershire Apprenticeships to deliver an assembly to our Year 8 pupils, as well as Severn Trent who have delivered assemblies and workshops to pupils in school.



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READING



Parkside Middle School Reads!

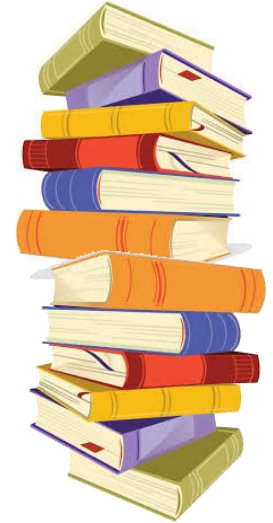
In this school year, students have read...

3,679 Books

66,197,406 Words

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

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®



LIBRARY NEWS

A big thank you to all those who supported our second-hand book sale which was a great success. We raised just over £120, which we will use to buy new resources for the library. We have had some amazing book recommendations from the pupils and many of the book leaves were hung on the tree for others to see. The library continues to be a hub for exploring new interests, and it's been wonderful to see the ongoing enthusiasm for reading. We will be relaunching the Library to KS3 when we are back to encourage reading for pleasure!

MARS DAY

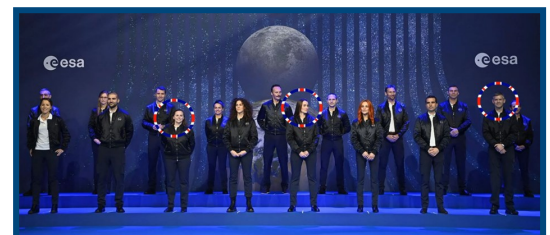
In recognition of Mars Day 2024, Year 5 had the opportunity to "Blast off to Mars" during a virtual experience. Throughout the afternoon, pupils were asked to vote on which spaceship (and supporting space technology) they would like for their mission to Mars. They were asked whether a Pilot, Scientist or Engineer would be a good career background. The host then discussed career options with the pupils.

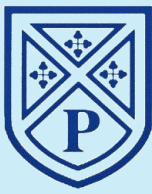
There was a question and answer session with many of our pupils asking thoughtful questions with interesting responses.

Two Year 5 pupils quoted:

"I loved how they told us to pick what they would use, for example, what space craft we should board to get to Mars. Also Luna (the space dog) is so cute". Nicole O 5JP

"I loved the opportunity to learn about space (Mars) and seeing Luna the space dog." Oscar M 5JP





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KNEX STEM CHALLENGE

What a fantastic morning of problem solving! On Thursday 21st March, 30 pupils from Year 5 took part in the STEM Works KNEX challenge. They were given an Engineering task to design a way of transporting a bridge from one area to another, using only KNEX pieces. Evan J and Toby R won this year's challenge and will represent the school at the upcoming final! All pupils worked brilliantly, demonstrating fantastic team work and communication skills. Sarah (who delivered the workshop) was extremely impressed with all of the models built. We will keep you updated on how Parkside do in the final.



STEM

During our last week of this half term, both Key Stage 2 and 3 have taken part in a water awareness assembly delivered by Severn Trent. The visitor shared photos and facts linked to looking after our water works and the importance of water for our planet. Additionally, Rob from Severn Trent returned on the Wednesday to deliver a workshop to all Year 5 pupils. The interactive workshop allowed pupils to take part in a "quiz show", dress up with water awareness props and discuss the differences we can make to ensuring we take care of water. Both events were well received and pupils enjoyed the fun-filled events.

THINK TANK

The Year 8 students embarked on an exciting trip to the Think Tank, where they immersed themselves in the world of science and discovery. The highlight of the trip was witnessing two captivating shows: "The Science of Sport" and "The Energy Show". Both shows were met with enthusiasm and enjoyment from all students. Throughout the day, the pupils exhibited exemplary behaviour and active engagement, making the trip a resounding success.



COVENTRY RFC

As a reward for their outstanding commitment to school rugby this year the Year 7 & 8 Rugby teams enjoyed a visit to Coventry RFC to watch a Championship game of rugby. The boys enjoyed a training session on the main pitch, a question-and-answer session with professional players & watched the game. The boys were a pleasure to be with and the staff at the rugby club commented that they were the best and most enjoyable group they have had all season.



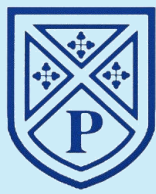
WARWICK UNIVERSITY

A group of 15 Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to visit Warwick University Maths and Engineering Department. They were joined by KS3 pupils from other Spire Trust middle schools (Catshill, St. John's and Witton). They were given a 'Careers using Maths' talk from the university staff and a tour of the department and wider campus, also having a chance to take part in different engineering activities, including origami maths, Dobble geometry and fluid dynamics through an aerofoil experiment. All the pupils were enthused by the trip and we hope it has helped 'inspire their futures'.



'It was really good. I'd do it again!' Mollie B-L

'It was a massive campus and we were given lots of knowledge' Jayden B



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PE FIXTURES

At Parkside we have had a really busy term for fixtures! We have had rugby fixtures in both Year 7 and 8 against Aston Fields, Walkwood, St Bede's, Witton and St John's as well as football fixtures against Blessed Edwards, Worcester and Waseley. We have also had the highly anticipated Mr Spalding vs Mrs Williams-Sharpe fixture, with Mrs Williams-Sharpe's team taking the victory. All the boys that have participated have shown amazing commitment to the team, demonstrating outstanding attitudes and determination. They have all been a real credit to the school and fully delivered the Parkside Standard.



Lucy C in 8LF represented Herefordshire and Worcestershire Schools at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships on Saturday 16th March at Pontefract Racecourse in West Yorkshire. This is an amazing achievement and the furthest that a pupil from our school has ever reached in Cross Country!

The Parkside Year 8 Sports Leaders supported a Gymnastics festival held at Parkside for local first schools. The pupils showed great leadership skills and communication ability when supporting the younger pupils.

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Parkside proudly hosted the Year 6 District Netball Tournament on 14th March. The tournament kicked off with an impressive victory over Catshill, and the success continued as we secured narrow yet decisive victories over Aston Fields and Dodderhill.

The pinnacle of the tournament came in a heated showdown against local rivals Alvechurch, where a single goal secured our triumph. With victories against St John's and Witton, our team demonstrated remarkable cohesion and prowess, conceding only one goal throughout the tournament and ultimately earning the title of District Champions. Every player exhibited enthusiasm and dedication, contributing to Parkside's success.



YEAR 8 DISTRICT NETBALL

Our Year 8 netball team showcased their tenacity and skill in the recent tournament, securing a hard-fought victory against Alvechurch by a mere one-goal margin in their tournament opener. They demonstrated their offensive prowess, netting several goals against Dodderhill, and engaged in a closely contested match against Aston Fields. However, it was their final showdown against St John's that truly tested their strengths. With the game hanging in the balance, they displayed remarkable determination, ultimately clinching victory by a slender one-goal, sealing the championship with a resounding 4-3 triumph. Their performance throughout the tournament exemplified teamwork, resilience, and sheer grit. A special mention to Ellie D who was voted player of the tournament.



REDDITCH UNITED

On Tuesday 5th March, 14 boys from the after school football club attended a reward trip to Redditch United FC. The boys played in a tournament between local schools and finished 3rd and 4th. The boys really enjoyed the trip and there was some great football played.





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PE FIXTURES

PRIMARY PANATHLON

Parkside pupils from Year 5 represented North Worcestershire in the Primary Panathlon finals. Despite facing tough competition from six other schools, their skills helps them secure the runners-up position and win silver medals. Although they narrowly missed the top spot by just three points, their impressive performance has propelled them into the final round of the competition, where they will compete at the regional level.



U13 CUP MATCH

Year 8 showcased their prowess on the football field, dominating play and securing a victory in the quarter-final match against Christopher Whitehead. Aubree C, a standout from Year 7, scored the opening goal, setting the tone for the team's success. Ellie D's stellar performance, netting two goals, earned her the title of opposition player of the match. With this impressive win, they advance to the semi-finals with confidence and determination.

KEY STAGE 1 FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Our sports leaders relished the opportunity to take on leadership roles during the Key Stage 1 Football Festival, hosted at Bromsgrove School. Tasked with designing football-related stations integrating multi-skills for the participating pupils. They delivered their football drills with enthusiasm and creativity. Their interaction with younger students was exemplary as they not only engaged them effectively but also aided in honing their skills. Their conduct throughout was praiseworthy, reflecting positively on both their dedication and the schools ethos.



RUGBY

Parkside Year 8 Rugby team played a triangular tournament against St John's Middle School and Walkwood. The games were of a really high standard and there was some amazing rugby on show. Parkside beat Walkwood 5-2 in their first game and drew 3-3 against the big rivals, St Johns. Rugby will stop now as we move into summer term. Mr Spalding, Mr Swaffield and Mrs Williams-Sharpe would like to say a huge thank you to the boys for their commitment and dedication to the school rugby team and hope that the boy's rugby journeys continue for many years to come.



On Thursday 21st March, Parkside Year 7 Rugby team beat Aston Fields 25-10! The boys attitude and effort was absolutely amazing and they were a real credit to the school. Big well done to Jamie M who was player of the match!





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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. If we become concerned about the level of illness related absence your child has had we may contact you and request medical evidence to support this.

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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://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 now have a specific form on 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

Search

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.

ROAD SAFETY

Please may we remind pupils of road safety and sensible conduct on the way to and from school, remembering to use the zebra/pelican crossings when arriving/leaving school.

SCOOTERS

Please may we remind you that scooters are not permitted on school grounds.



BICYCLES

If your child wishes to cycle to school, please ensure they follow the highway code. When arriving at school pupils can lock the bicycle away safely in the bike shed. When leaving school, please can all pupils push their bike until off the school site before cycling away safely to protect Parkside and Meadows pupils and parents.

WATER BOTTLES

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



MEDICATION

Should pupils require medication in school, a medical consent form should be completed and signed by parents and carers. Please note we are unable to give medication unless it is in the original packaging with instructions.

We keep a small amount of Calpol in school for emergencies. If you know your child may require Calpol in school, please bring in a supply for us to use.



If your child has pierced ears, please can we ask that you supply tape for them to use in PE for health and safety reasons.

LUNCHTIME

Lunchtime meals are now £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.

STAFF NEWS

As this term comes to an end would like to congratulate Miss Higgins on the arrival of her little boy!



We would also like to congratulate Miss Pickett who will be getting married and will return as Mrs Greensill.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 8 th April	School reopens
Wednesday 24 th April	5EO start Swimming
Monday 6 th May	School closed for May Day
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Monday 20 th May	Year 6 Inspiration Week
Tuesday 21 st May	Year 6 Oakerwood Information Evening
Wednesday 22 nd July	Year 8 Bushcraft Information Evening
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (single dose)
Friday 24 th May	School closes for half term
Monday 10 th June	Year 5 & 7 Assessment Week
Wednesday 12 th June	North Bromsgrove High School Assembly
Friday 21 st June	Year 8 visit North Bromsgrove High School
Monday 24 th June	Year 8 Assessment Week
Monday 1 st July - Wednesday 3 rd July	Year 6 Oaker Wood Residential Trip
Wednesday 3 rd July—Friday 5 th July	Year 8 Bushcraft Residential Trip
Tuesday 9 th July	New Intake Induction Evening
Thursday 11 th July	Year 5 Activity Day at Bablake Cricket Ground
Monday 15 th July	Year 8 Transition Day
Tuesday 16 th July	Year 7 Group 1 Aztec Adventure
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 7 Group 2 Aztec Adventure
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 8 Presentation Afternoon
Thursday 18 th July	Year 8 Inflatables Day
Friday 19 th July	School closes for Summer Holidays
Monday 22 nd July	School closed – TE Day

EQUIPMENT LIST

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.	



EASTER RECIPES TO TRY!

We would love to see pictures if you make these or any other Easter treats!

EASTER NESTS



Ingredients—

- 200g milk chocolate
- 200g dark chocolate
- 100g desiccated coconut
- Mini chocolate eggs

2 METHOD STEPS -

Step 1—

Break up all the chocolate and place it in a bowl over a pan of simmering water (don't let bowl touch water) until chocolate has melted. Set aside to cool slightly. Add the coconut and stir to combine.

Step 2—

On a large sheet of baking paper, create chocolate nests about 7cm in diameter. Use the back of a metal spoon to make a small dent in the centre of each nest, where eggs will sit. Cool completely, then refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm. Just before serving, fill nests with eggs.

CHOCOLATE EASTER CRACKLES

Ingredients—

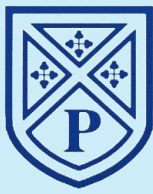
- 200g Mars bars, chopped
- 2 tbsp thin cream
- 2 tsp cocoa powder, sifted
- 750g Rice Krispies
- Mini chocolate eggs

1 METHOD STEPS -

Step 1—

Place the Mars bars, thin cream and cocoa in a heatproof bowl over simmering water (get an adult to help), making sure bowl does not touch water. Stir until melted and smooth. Place Rice Krispies in a large bowl, pour in Mars bar mixture and stir until well combined. Pile mixture into paper cases and decorate each with an Easter egg. Place in the fridge until firm.





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THE HUB

Easter Camp For 8 - 13 years

Week 1:

Monday 25th March,
Tuesday 26th March,
Wednesday 27th March
9.30am - 3.30pm

Easter



Week 2:

Tuesday 2nd April,
Wednesday 3rd April,
Thursday 4th April
9.30am - 3.30pm

Location: St Johns Middle School, Watt Close, Bromsgrove, B61 7DH

**Prices: £10 per individual day or £25 per week (for all 3 days)
and £50 for both weeks (for all 6 days) per young person.**

Free spaces available via HAF funding for young people
in receipt of free school meals.

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

