

Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

October 2024



Parkside Middle School Newsletter

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 success your children have experienced, as well as key information and updates.

As you will see, it has been an exciting half term with a wide array of opportunities designed to engage and inspire the pupils.

We hope you enjoy reading it and have a lovely half term.





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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:



Sophie H	Layla P	Grace A	Amelia B	Harry W	Ella-Grace K	Henry L-S
Kevon P	Oscar L	Emily D	Tobias G	Keyl C	Phoebe B	Francesca H
Samual A	William B	Oliver B-M	Faith A	Alistair Y	Amelia B	Henry L-S
Jack L	Evelyn S					

ACHIEVEMENT POINT REVIEW

Well done to the 303 pupils who received their achievement points reward this week. We have had a very successful half term, earning a very impressive 61954 achievement points as a school. Let's see how many pupils can earn rewards before Christmas, and see if we can beat this half term's total as a team when we return after the break.

As a school, we have begun a new initiative, where pupils can 'cash in' their achievement points for rewards! Pupils took part in a survey during Talk Time and told us what sort of rewards they would like to receive. From this, we have created a 'menu' of items that pupils can choose from, when each milestone of points is met. Prizes range from sweet treats, to stationery, to no-tie days and even extra achievement points are on offer! Pupils will be able to choose their reward at the end of each half term and will continue to accrue points and build on those they already have, to receive the next prize up the following half term.

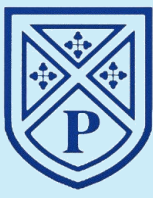
The staff and pupils are very excited about this new reward scheme. It is wonderful to see the amount of prizes that have already been achieved.

HEAD PUPILS

Congratulations to the following children who were elected as this year's head pupils

Jack C
Wills D
Hayden E
Mae L
Summer M





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BOOK CORNERS

As part of an initiative to promote reading at Parkside, classes were asked to create a 'Book Corner' where pupils could read in school in a stimulating environment.

Each class created some excellent Book Corners and, after much deliberation, the judges decided that class 5SN were the winning class.

Their Book Corner can be seen here with some other fine examples. (If you have any children's books that you no longer require we would be grateful for any donations.)



BOOK FAIR

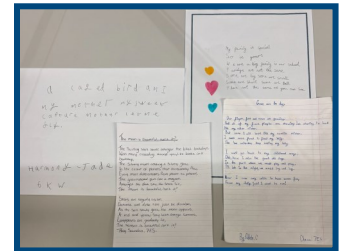
We have a Book Fair coming up on 25th November to 2nd December and this year we will be going cashless. Books will be available to purchase at school with cards, online, or gift vouchers can be ordered for pupils to receive their books within the book fair week.

Here is a link to browse what books will be available.

[scholastic-secondary-invitation-autumn-2024-2271306.pdf \(d3ddkgxe55ca6c.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3ddkgxe55ca6c.cloudfront.net/scholastic-secondary-invitation-autumn-2024-2271306.pdf)

WORLD POETRY DAY

To celebrate Poetry Day on 3rd October budding writers wrote a poem of no more than 100 words. Our winners were Holly, Adele and Eden! Thank you all for your fantastic poems.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Friday 4th October we had our Harvest Festival. We learnt about how Harvest is celebrated around the world and we were joined by Deacon Janet Thompson. Thank you so much for all of the donations. These were all given to Home-Start, which is a local foodbank charity in Bromsgrove.

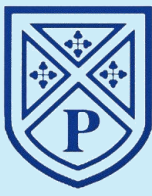
FAMILY THRIVE

We have held two Family Thrive events this half term. The first was with our Year 6 families when we looked at the triune brain. We made brains using play-doh and learnt about each part of the triune brain. We then had our Year 7 family Thrive afternoon when we looked at the changes that happen to our brain once we become teenagers. Both afternoons were a huge success. Thank you to all the parents and carers that were able to join us.

FAMILY THRIVE HALLOWEEN CRAFT AFTERNOON

On Thursday 24th 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.





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YEAR 5 ROCKSTAR DAY

Monday 23rd 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/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 will go head-to-head in an online TT Rockstar Battle-of-the-Bands. Therefore, they were also introduced to their "band manager" who will guide them through the first band battle throughout October. Results will be announced in due course – which band will win the title? Battles finish on 3rd October at 4:00pm.

FIRST PARKSIDE CHAMPIONS SESSION INSPIRES PUPILS

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of our Parkside Champions Mentoring Programme! In the first session, pupils had the invaluable opportunity to connect with local business leaders and alumni, gaining insights that will shape their futures. The session perfectly embodied our core values of **Embrace Opportunity, Nurture Success, Inspire Futures**. Through this initiative, our students are not only exploring career paths but also building the confidence and skills they need to achieve their goals. We look forward to many more inspiring sessions ahead!



YEAR 5 MATHS & ENGLISH MORNING

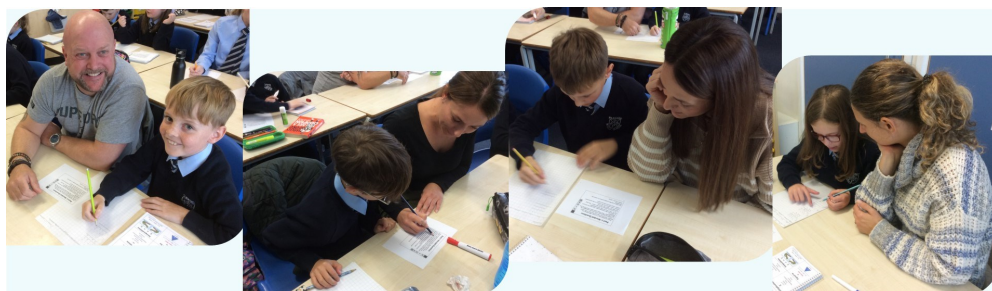
Thank you to all parents/carers that attended the Maths and English morning. The feedback from parents was very positive and the pupils enjoyed having an adult join them in a Maths lesson. Bob the Alien also made an appearance to help the pupils 'Speak like a Specialist' promoting their good oracy skills.

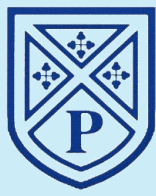
Additionally, see the positive comments below regarding the event:

"My son is enthusiastic at Maths. I enjoyed watching him learn".

"My daughter has settled in so quickly at Parkside and it was nice to come and see her in her lessons".

"I enjoyed working with my son in his Maths lesson this morning - thank you"





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ORCHESTRA DAY

On the 10th October, ten of our musicians participated in an 'Orchestra Day' hosted by Bromsgrove School. It was a wonderful day of music making, alongside students and staff from Aston Fields, Catshill, St John's and Winterfold schools.

The students enjoyed learning new repertoire and many valuable ensemble skills before taking part in a concert at the end of the day to showcase their hard work to parents and carers. It was an absolute pleasure to accompany the children for the day!

We hope to welcome many of you to our forthcoming Christmas Concert on the 10th December.



BLACKWELL ADVENTURE

On Friday 11th October, 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:

"I loved the giant zip wire because you could conquer your fear of heights and go fast" (Jasmine 5HG)

"I enjoyed the crate stack. It was fun when it toppled over and you were just hanging there" (Ruby 5HG)

"My favourite was the 3G swing - I enjoyed swinging from the top" (Evie 5JP)

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



WARWICK CASTLE

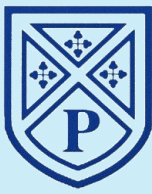
On Friday 27th September, Year 7 went on a history trip to visit Warwick Castle. Warwick Castle is a medieval castle developed from a wooden fort, originally built by William the Conqueror during 1068. Pupils climbed over 500 steps up the towers and when they reached the top, saw the fantastic views of Warwick. The weather was kind to us and the whole of Year 7 were brilliant throughout the day in terms of their participation and their behaviour.

Pupils experienced battle skills workshops and ventured around various parts of the grounds, learning 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 falconry display where we saw birds with wingspans of up to 9 feet! This is the largest bird of prey show in the UK and we were able to get up close and personal with some!

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.



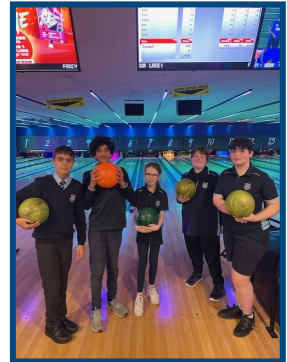


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SPORTS FIXTURES

WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOL GAMES KS3 BOWLING EVENT

On Tuesday 15th October, Mr Spalding took a group of pupils to the Worcestershire School Games KS3 Bowling event at Tenpin in Worcester. The pupils worked amazingly well and really enjoyed participating in the event. They finished with a total combined score of 438 which earned them a medal! Well done to all pupils who took part in the event.



SPORTS LEADER TRAINING AT SBHS

On Thursday 17th October, Mr Spalding took some of our Sports Leaders to North Worcestershire Leadership Training Day hosted at South Bromsgrove High School. This event was organised to develop our Sports Leaders' skills, focussing on; leadership, teamwork and communication. These skills will all be very important in their role as a Sports Leader. The pupils got involved in a range of activities and were able to interact with other young leaders from across North Worcestershire.



Y8 RUGBY

Mr Spalding took a group of Year 8 pupils over to Bromsgrove School to play in a rugby tournament against St John's, Aston Fields and Bromsgrove School. There were some standout performances from the boys, some of who were playing in their first competitive game. Notable mentions must go to Caileb E-Y, Connor K and Jamie M.

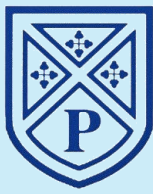
TURN UP AND PLAY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

This half term we have hosted 3 Turn up and Play Football tournaments here at Parkside. Pupils were able to sign up to the tournament and take part in a participation focussed tournament. We hosted St John's, Alvechurch and Aston Fields. Everyone that participated showed great determination and resilience. Well done boys!

PLAY LEADER

We are excited to announce that 16 of our Year 8 pupils have been selected for 'Play Leader Training.' This programme is designed to teach them the essential qualities of great leadership, particularly when working with younger pupils. Throughout the training, they engaged in various activities that highlighted the importance of effective communication, teamwork, and responsibility. One of the highlights was the opportunity to design their own games, encouraging creativity and critical thinking as they considered how to make activities enjoyable and inclusive for all.

Following their training, the pupils had the chance to put their skills into practice by delivering the games they created. Each session was assessed, focusing on different aspects of their delivery, such as organisation, engagement, and adaptability. Having successfully completed the training, these dedicated students have received their badges and will now take on a vital breaktime roles, organising and leading games for Year 5 pupils. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing their leadership skills in action.



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SPORTS FIXTURES

YEAR 6 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

We recently hosted a Year 6 netball tournament, marking the players first experience in a competitive setting. The enthusiasm and determination of our young players shone through as they played exceptionally well, securing victories in three matches and showing great sportsmanship in the two they lost. This tournament was a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their skills and gain confidence on the court, setting the stage for many more exciting matches to come.



YEAR 7 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Parkside Middle School recently hosted an exciting Year 7 netball tournament, showcasing the talent and teamwork of our students. Our teams performed exceptionally well, with three of them triumphing over St. Johns A team, B team, and Dodderhill. In a nail-biting match against Alvechurch, we fought hard but ultimately drew, highlighting the competitive spirit of the day. Meanwhile, the B team had a mixed performance, winning one match, drawing another and facing two losses. The players demonstrated resilience and determination throughout the tournament.

YEAR 8 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Year 8 participated in a thrilling netball tournament hosted at Parkside Middle School, showing their skills and teamwork. The team had a commendable performance, winning two matches, drawing one and experiencing a narrow loss in another. Their dedication and sportsmanship were evident throughout the tournament, making us proud of their efforts and achievements.

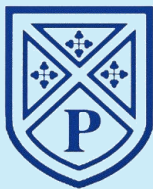
YEAR 6 GIRLS DISTRICT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Our Year 5 and 6 female footballers recently participated in a District football tournament at Catshill, showcasing their skill and determination. The team achieved impressive victories against Catshill A team, Westacre, and Alvechurch, although they faced a tough loss to Alvechurch and drew with St John's and Catshill B. Despite these challenges, their performance earned them a well-deserved bronze medal overall. A special mention goes to Grace A, our incredible goalkeeper, whose outstanding saves were instrumental throughout the tournament. Her exceptional performance earned her the title of Player of the Tournament, highlighting her vital role in the team's success!



YEAR 6 BOYS DISTRICT FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Year 6 boys recently participated in a District football tournament at Catshill, where they demonstrated great spirit and sportsmanship despite facing tough competition. Although they lost every game except for one, which ended in a draw, the team showed resilience and determination throughout the event. Their positive attitude and teamwork are commendable, and they gained valuable experience that will undoubtedly help them improve in future matches.



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ATTENDANCE

As we approach the end of half term I would like to remind parents and carers of the attendance legislation that came in to force in August 2024. This applies to absence in term time (holidays) and any other unauthorised absence.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

[Legal-Information-for-Parents-and-Carers-LEAFLET-NEW-for-Sept-2024.pdf](#)

[Attendance-changes-from-August-2024.pdf](#)

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 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 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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Just a reminder that 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. Please be aware that home visits are undertaken when a child has been absent for three days with no contact from parents. Should your child be absent for 10 days with no contact, a referral will be made to the Children Missing in Education Team (CME) at Worcestershire County Council.



PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Portals

Contact Us

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, 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. Local residents have raised concerns wanting our pupils to stay safe.

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. Scooters are not permitted as mode of transport to and from school.

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 £2.64, 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. If you are entitled to FSM, please apply even if your child does not want the meals, as additional funding is made available for the school for other purposes, which will benefit your child.

STAFF NEWS

As this half term comes to an end we would like to wish farewell to Mrs Dewey who has moved on to pastures new. We would also like to congratulate Mr Spalding who will be getting married!



END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Can we remind parents/carers that school finishes at 3:15pm. For safeguarding reasons, if you are unable to collect your children at the end of the school day, please make alternative arrangements for them to be picked up at this time or use Castle Kids Care Club. Our staff are not in a position to be able to supervise your children after school, and it is not appropriate for them to be sat waiting in reception.

POLITE REMINDER

Please remember smoking or vaping is not permitted on school premises.



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

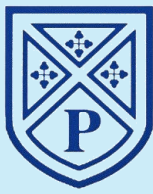
AUTUMN TERM 2024

Monday 4th November	School Reopens
Wednesday 6th November	5HG Start Swimming
Friday 8th November	Year 6 Black Country Museum Trip
Friday 8th November	Year 5 Neurodiversity Day
Tuesday 12th November	Parents Evening
Thursday 14th November	Parents Evening
Friday 15th November	Flu Vaccination
Tuesday 19th November	Parents Evening
Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Arts Concert
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 20th December	Christmas Service & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20th December	School closes for Christmas holidays

EQUIPMENT LIST

During the half-term please ensure your child has all of the essential equipment listed below,

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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We would like to invite all pupils to take part in Inktober - A drawing activity to engage and challenge all year groups.

Simply follow the prompts and draw something new every day.

A sheet with the calendar and prompts are available in the Art room - feel free to join in!

Small prizes for effort are given out from the Art Department

[Inktober](#)

[RULES & PROMPTS](#) / [FAQ](#) / [HOW TO INK](#) / [TOOLS](#) / [MERCH](#) / [PARTNERS](#) / [CONTACT](#)



THE INKTOBER CHALLENGE!

[Jake Parker](#) created Inktober in 2009 as a challenge to improve his inking skills and develop positive drawing habits. It has since grown into a worldwide endeavor with thousands of artists taking on the challenge every year.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

31 DAYS
31 DRAWINGS

ONE DRAWING A WEEK
ALL YEAR LONG