

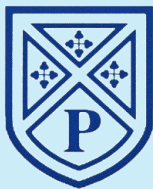
*Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.*

December 2024



## Parkside Middle School Christmas 2024 Newsletter

As we approach the end of a busy term, we would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support and involvement in the wide range of events we have hosted this term. From our Thrive afternoons and information evenings to coffee mornings, the Christmas show, and parents' evenings, your engagement has been truly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you in the new year and wish you a joyful and restful holiday season.



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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:



Poppy R    Aubree C    Keira S    Noah L    Eli D    Lily B    Alice B    Oliver B

Ethan K    Ella M    Archie B    Mae L    Niva A    Gracie E-H    Toby S    Holly W

Naz O    Kayla H    Summer D    Connor K    George D    Jamie M    Caileb E-Y    Emran A

Eleanor F    Blake J    Keyara P    Mila W    Amelia T    Freyja E-J    Morgan W    Melody D

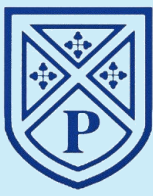
Ellis M    Cameron A    Keelan T    Harry S    Jack C    Hayden E    Noah R    Jax G-R

Sol C    Rupert C    Joshua H    Reuben D-T



## BOOK PRESENTATION WINNERS

	Best Book	Most Improved	Best Book	Most Improved	Best Book	Most Improved	Best Book	Most Improved
	Year 5		Year 6		Year 7		Year 8	
<b>English</b>	Ted B	Jake B	Mia M	Eliza A	Mia F		Seth P	
<b>Maths</b>	Eleanor F		Charlie-Mai Y	Rebekah B	Harley-Mae S	Divine M	Kenzo P	Lewis S
<b>Science</b>	Alana A	Joseph R	Martha H	Elodie H	Tilly P	Riley W	Eleanor H	Henry V
<b>History</b>	Ruby G		Sohan D		Darcey D	Jessica D	Tommy A	Sam B
<b>Geography</b>	Joseph W		Daniel C-F		Phoebe B		Mia M-S	Emran A
<b>RE</b>	Harlow G	Othniel M	Evie-May P	Nilia K	Phoebe G	Sam A		
<b>French</b>	Yaroslava H	Ben D	Ava S	Nilia K	Holly S	Will M	Poppy R	Oliver W
<b>DT</b>	Ayva M	Lilly-May G			Daisy R		Rory D	
<b>Art</b>	Scarlett D	Toby S	Daisy P	Tia T	Poppy A	Naz O	Ali Y	Honey C
<b>RLM</b>	Evie C	Oliver R	Nicole O					



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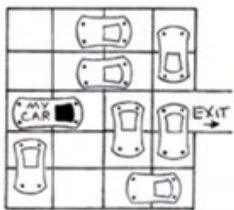
### KEY STAGE 2 AUTHOR VISIT

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November, Key Stage 2 pupils had a virtual visit from the author Jamie Smith. During his visit, he shared his career journey since leaving high school. Additionally, he talked about his new book "Where Giants Walk" and the inspiration he got for the setting and characters. The following week, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Jamie came in to school and took part in a question and answer event with a selection of our Year 5 and 6 pupils. The pupils were fantastic and asked many insightful questions. Jamie said that he thoroughly enjoyed visiting the school and loved the pupils enthusiasm for reading and writing stories.



### 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: Alfie H, Susanna N, Tegan S, Sohan D, Chase F-P.

Silver Award: Jacob B, Freya B, Joseph R, Shahraan Q, Marley L.

Gold Award: Toby R, Boe W, Seren M.

### CRYPTO LIBRARY CODEBREAKER!

At the beginning of this term, we introduced our Crypto Library code breaker where students had to successfully complete an Accelerated Reader quiz for a chance to crack the code. Congratulations to Summer who was thrilled to be the first to solve the puzzle and claim her prize, which included a book voucher.



Our Book Fair took place a few weeks ago and a big thank you to all those who supported the Fair. It was a great success, and we have been able to buy extra books to restock our library.

If you find any library books from school, please could they be returned in the new year and any donations are most welcome. Happy reading over the holidays!



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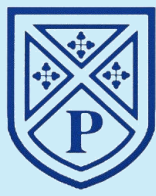
## YEAR 5 & 6 TTRS BATTLE OF THE BANDS OCTOBER 2024

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 248 pupils from KS2 taking part in the battles and 334,120 correct times table questions answered throughout the battle! The winning bands were Maroon 5 Squared, Red Hot Chilli Numbers, Panic! At the Division, Number Souls, Black Add Peas and Rocktagons. See below for the full results and highest earners in each band (Rock Star avatar names!) The next battles commence in the Spring Term... **ENGLAND ROCKS COMING SOON!**



Battle 1	<b>Maroon 5 Squared</b> 95,240 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Jordan Reed M. Cyrus	<b>Pump up the Volume</b> 22,495 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Cheese Gracie M. Big
Battle 2	<b>Arctic Money</b> 11,594 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Ted Nolan River Stipe	<b>Red Hot Chilli Numbers</b> 13,393 <b>Highest Earners:</b> General Ghattoblaster Noor Palmer
Battle 3	<b>Panic! At the Division</b> 27,610 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Joel Wood Sergeant Rocky McRock-face	<b>Maths Potato</b> 26,829 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Smokey Sweet Iggy Yow
Battle 4	<b>Sausage and Math</b> 39,422 <b>Highest Earners:</b> KT Snare Joel Sweet	<b>Number Souls</b> 42,943 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Rocky Ness Ren Tuber
Battle 5	<b>Black Add Peas</b> 29,412 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Tom Waronker Suz Glasshouse	<b>Little Mixed Numbers</b> 16,764 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Thunder Correll Aaden Reynolds
Battle 6	<b>21 Pie Charts</b> 2,002 <b>Highest Earners:</b> Sky Cohen Von Baker	<b>Rocktagons</b> 6,064 <b>Highest Earners:</b> K. Moon King Harnell
Battle 7	<b>Class Average Correct</b> Year 5 954	<b>Class Average Correct</b> Year 6 1,237

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!



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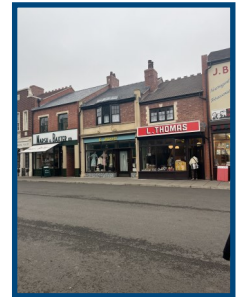
## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we had a fabulous evening showcasing the amazing musical talent at Parkside in the Christmas Concert. Around 80 students performed to families with classic carols and Christmas songs featuring throughout the evening. Alongside musical performances from a range of musicians, we had dance performances, poems and a drama based on Twas the Night Before Christmas. Musicians of all abilities were on stage with solos on the piano, clarinet and cornet and group performances from the cornets, ukuleles, woodwind and guitars. Drummers and guitarists also performed their Christmas favourites, and our singers shared some beautiful renditions. Our singers came together for a medley of songs from The Polar Express before the finale including all of our performers and staff of I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday. Mrs Williams and Miss Gilyead were so proud of all of the performers and can't wait to start rehearsals again for the Spring Concert in the new year!



## BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

On our recent Year 6 trip to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, we had the chance to step back in time and explore life during the Industrial Revolution. This living museum is a fantastic place to learn about the history of the Black Country, one of the UK's most important industrial regions, and how people lived and worked in the 19th century. Our visit included two main activities: the Mining Experience and the Victorian School Lesson. The pupils embraced everything the museum had to offer and were a credit to Parkside.



## YEAR 7 & 8 CINEMA TRIP

What a fantastic time was had by Key Stage 3 on their reward trip to the cinema. We visited the Odeon at Merry Hill to see Moana 2 (Y8) and Wicked (Y7). The pupils were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the time with their friends....and the snacks! Year 7 treated us to a brilliant rendition of 'Defying Gravity' joining in alongside the main character! A lovely way to end the term!



## YEAR 5 PANTO

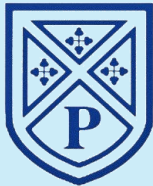
On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, Year 5 pupils had a fabulous time at the Bromsgrove Baptist Church where they watched A Christmas Carol Pantomime. They were all well behaved and represented the school well.

## MUSIC TRANSITION MORNING

As part of our transition events (and the first of many) Year 4 pupils from local first schools joined the current Year 5's for a music morning on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The event involved singing and learning actions to songs together and we also were treated to range of fantastic solo and ensemble performances from KS3 Parkside pupils. By the end of the morning, pupils were enthusiastically singing in 3-part rounds and raising the roof with their beautiful singing voices. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## YEAR 5 REWARD

During our last week of term, the Year 5 pupils enjoyed a reward morning. Pupils had the opportunity to make Christmas cards, decorate baubles, sing and dance in the karaoke room and play board games and laptops. It was a lovely celebration for the pupils who are consistently demonstrating the Parkside Standard and a fantastic way to recognise how well the pupils have settled in to their first full term in Year 5.



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## SANTA DASH

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, all pupils from across the school participated in a Santa Dash. This event also acted as a House Competition, the winner being the house who completed the most laps of the course. There were also some different challenges for them to do on the way and some amazing festive fancy dress on show from teachers and pupils! The Santa Dash was organised and delivered by the newly appointed House Captains and the Sports Leaders who did a great job on the day. Everyone showed amazing effort during the event and the winning house was Gloucester! The Santa Dash was also a fundraising event and we managed to raise an amazing amount of £3500 which is an incredible effort! A very big well done to Darcey in Year 7 who raised £155!



**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Gloucester with 742 laps**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Worcester with 719 laps**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Malvern with 685 laps**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place: Hereford with 603 laps**





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## **SPORTS FIXTURES**

### **YEAR 8 FOOTBALL VS RIDGEWAY (1ST ROUND OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CUP)**

The Year 8 football team travelled to Ridgeway in Redditch for the first round of the Worcestershire County Cup. The boys played brilliantly away from home with goals from Sonny B and Jack C. The boys won the game 3-1 and the player of the match was Hayden E. The boys will progress onto the next round where they will play Nunnery Wood High School.

### **YEAR 6 FOOTBALL VS HOLY REDEEMER (1ST ROUND OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CUP)**

The Year 6 boys football team beat Holy Redeemer in the first round of the Worcestershire County Cup. There were some amazing performances from all the boys, with special mentions going to Harry H and Goalkeeper Edward P who made some incredible saves. The boys will move onto the next round of the competition with a game coming in the new year.

### **YEAR 8 RUGBY VS ST JOHNS AND ASTON FIELDS**

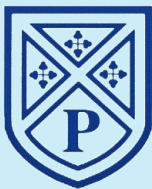
The Year 8 rugby team renewed their rivalry with both Aston Fields and St Johns in a rugby tournament hosted at Parkside. The games were both tightly contested, losing 4-2 to AFMS, player of the match was Caileb E-Y. In the next game, Parkside beat St Johns 4-2, with Hayden E picking up player of the match.

## **SPORTS FESTIVAL**

A group of enthusiastic pupils from Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 recently had a fantastic time participating in a sports festival hosted by North Sports Leaders at the Ryland Centre. The event featured a carousel of exciting stations, each designed to test different skill sets. The pupils had the chance to try their hands at a range of activities, including bowling, tennis, basketball throw, table cricket, hoop bowl, boccia, and the cup challenge. Each station provided a unique challenge, allowing students to showcase their abilities and work together as a team.

The atmosphere was electric as both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 pupils competed against each other, earning points for their teams as they moved from one station to the next. The friendly competition added an extra layer of excitement, with everyone eager to improve their scores and battle it out at each station. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, not only for the chance to develop their skills but also for the fun of competing alongside their classmates. All pupils really enjoyed this experience, highlighting teamwork, sportsmanship, and the joy of physical activity.





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## SPORTS FIXTURES

### YEAR 6 KIDDIE HARRIERS NLT TOURNAMENT

The Year 6 girls' team had an outstanding performance at the Kidderminster Harriers NLT Tournament, securing their place as group winners in their group with a series of impressive results. They started strong with a comfortable 5-0 victory against Bart's, followed by a hard-fought 0-0 draw against a tough Holy Trinity side. In their next match, they battled past Franche with a narrow 1-0 win, which proved to be a challenging test. They wrapped up their group stage with a dominant 6-0 victory over Cookley, ensuring they finished second in their group and advanced to the knockout rounds.



In the semi-finals, the girls faced Lickeyhills, where a crucial 1-0 victory secured their place in the final. It was a tense and well-played match, and the girls showed remarkable resilience and teamwork throughout. In the final, they faced Holy Trinity once more, and this time, they triumphed 2-0, with Bessie F scoring a stunning screamer to seal the win. The whole team demonstrated excellent skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament, with every player contributing to their success.

Bessie F was rightfully named Player of the Tournament for Year 6, while Leni M earned the accolade for Year 5. However, the victory was very much a team effort, with all the girls playing a massive role in the team's achievements. Their commitment and hard work throughout the tournament earned them all well-deserved gold medals, and they should all be incredibly proud of their accomplishments.

### PARKSIDE VS ALVECHURCH (WRITTEN BY MAISIE D AND MILLIE C)

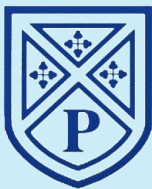
It was a cold Wednesday afternoon and Parkside went against a difficult and very competitive team; Alvechurch. They arrived at 3:00 pm and saw their rivals warming up, so their team captain Chloe M began to get her team in the right frame of mind by warming up our team too. As they walked on the pitch, they had some words of encouragement and the whistle blew. It was a tough first half as the rival team were extremely competitive and strong. The first goal was scored by Alvechurch which gave them a head start. Soon after, there was a great pass from Chloe M to Lizzie J which resulted in a goal and tensions rose as it was now a level playing field at 1-1. Adele F, the goalkeeper, did some incredible saves which managed to keep the score down to a degree, but the defensive line wasn't strong enough as number 12 on the opposite team was able to sneak past and score a goal. Team spirits remained high and all players fought for the full 60 minutes despite it being a tough defeat. Aila H and Chloe M did some great passes and through balls to Lillie -Mae, W who shot, and even though it was on target, couldn't quite get enough power to put her shots in the back of the net. Other opportunities from forwards were missed and it resulted in the final score being 6-1.

### KS3 BADMINTON

On the 4<sup>th</sup> December 8 pupils from Year 8 took part in the district badminton competition held at Bromsgrove School. The pupils played against lots of different schools including AFMS, St Johns, South Bromsgrove High School, North Bromsgrove High School as well as Bromsgrove School. There were some amazing performances from all the pupils against some challenging opponents. Both the KS3 Boys and KS3 girls teams finished in 4<sup>th</sup> position.







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## **SPORTS FIXTURES**

### **U13 COUNTY CUP VS BREDON HILL ACADEMY (WRITTEN BY LIZZIE J AND DARCEY D)**

As the coach pulled into Bredon Hill Academy adrenaline was high and nerves kicked in and hearts were pounding. We stepped onto the pitch, spirits high raring to go. The whistle blew and the pressure was on. It was a 50/50 first 10 minutes, our wingers racing up and down the line. Balls flying in from corners then it was Darcey D who kick started the scoreline with a 1-0 lead from just outside the box. It was chance after chance for Parkside dominating the first half. Then it was Aubree C with a cracking shot out of nowhere from the halfway line pass the defenders, pass the goalie and hit the back of the net. The three whistles went for halftime...



Sweat dripping from our forehead, Bredon academy coming out strong but we fought as hard as we could tackle being made but an unlucky save made the score 2-1. Quick changes being made while defenders determination carried us through. Our only Year 6, Boe W, winning free kicks and challenging tackles. Lizzie J putting through balls in for both our highly skilled set of twins who were turning the defenders for fun. Layla P making unbelievable saves stopping them making it 2-2. It was a nervous last 10 minutes knowing if they were to score it will go on the penalties. We were all relieved when the whistle blew, we had fought hard for this win.

### **KS3 RUGBY VS ST BEDES**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December Mr Spalding took KS3 pupils over to St Bedes for a Rugby fixture. The Year 8 team had an amazing victory, winning their game 60-0. Player of the match was Dexter Y for some incredible leadership and assists for many tries. The Year 7 team lost narrowly to St Bedes 15-5. Players of the match were Connor B, Sam A and Harry H. Well done to all the lads who were involved in the fixture, you were all a real credit to the school.



### **DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY AT BROMSGROVE SCHOOL**

After competing in PE lessons at the start of the half term, 40 pupils from across the school represented Parkside Middle School at the District Cross Country event held at Bromsgrove School on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The following pupils qualified for the next round, which will be in the new year:

Naomi M

Sapphire O

Chalise O

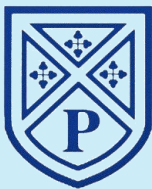
Oliver B

Lucas T

Ollie N

Jack C





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## **SPORTS FIXTURES**

### **MATCH REPORT – PARKSIDE A TEAM VS ALVECHURCH A TEAM (WRITTEN BY FREYA B AND ERIN B)**

One cold evening two great teams went head-to-head fighting for the win. The game started off with both teams playing it safe, very defensively and strong. Our winner Darcey D ran the ball up on several occasions but unfortunately, despite many great crosses, none of the forwards could get the ball in the back of the net. At one point we were caught on a back foot when Alvechurch struck a powerful shot towards the bottom right corner, but nothing was getting past Layla P who made an incredible dive and kept it out of the net. Our CDM Amelie F was a great shield to our defence, passing through balls to our forwards Erin B and Freya B. Many good balls were distributed but before we could pull the trigger Alvechurch were already defending our attacks. We were running all over the pitch clearing and striking the ball and fighting hard, battling for the win. Our super defence would not let anything get past them, they were like a brick wall. We were getting really nervous, and our fitness was put to the test, we knew it would be difficult to keep up the intensity. Time flashed before our eyes, the half time whistle had just been blew. We were all out of breath as we had just played a long half running up and down the pitch. During our half time break we were all given some coaching pointers from Miss Wallis as well as each other on how to improve and up our game. It was agreed we needed to test their keeper more and take all shooting opportunities. We knew this would be really hard as Alvechurch had a super strong defence. As the second half commenced we quickly ran the ball up into their box but Alvechurch cleared it to the half way line. Our defender Elissa M quickly passed the ball up the line to Freya B, giving her an opportunity to get a shot away. She struck the ball from near the corner flag but unfortunately it just pipped the post. Then our luck finally came when Adele F passed the ball to Erin B, and she struck the ball in the bottom right as the keeper failed to get her hands on the ball.

### **PE, FOOTBALL AND SPORT ASSEMBLY WITH FORMER PREMIER LEAGUE MANAGER PHIL BROWN**

Following the success of our Year 6 pupils at the Kidderminster Harriers NLT Tournaments, we were visited by former Premier League Manager Phil Brown. Phil Brown had an illustrious playing career and now manages Kidderminster Harriers, where the tournaments were held, and has previously managed Hull City in the Premier League. It was great to have his presence in assembly and was great to hear from such an experienced person from the field of professional football.



### **DANCE TEACHER**

Across the school the pupils have really benefitted from the expertise, enthusiasm and passion for dance of Natalie Morrison from Short Stepperz Dance who has taught dance across the key stages. There has been some outstanding work from the pupils who have showed amazing effort and attitude during her dance lessons. The classes who have not yet had dance will have their lessons in the new year.



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## ATTENDANCE

**MOMENTS  
MATTER.  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

As we approach the end of our first full 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.

[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.

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

WhatsApp

Contact Form

Absence Form

01527 873660



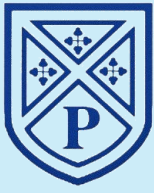
Our School

Year Groups

Our Curriculum

Parents/Carers

New Pupils



## Illness-related absence

We continue to have a high level of absence due to illness. Our attendance team monitor attendance on a regular basis and 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. Without this evidence the absence will be unauthorised.

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.

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)

## Handi App

The HANDi App is designed to help parents and carers know what to do when their child is unwell - whether that's looking after them at home, taking them to see a GP, using the NHS 111 service, or visiting an urgent care service. It has been developed and approved by local NHS paediatricians and other healthcare professionals.

If your child is unwell, HANDi will ask you questions about your child's condition to help you decide the best course of action - and with all the advice on HANDi developed and approved by NHS paediatricians and other healthcare professionals, you can rest assured that you're getting the best possible advice.

You can find out more here and download [HANDi App :: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System](#) for free on iOS or Android devices



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## **PARKING/ROAD SAFETY**

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. 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.

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



## **STAFF NEWS**

As this half term comes to an end we would like to wish farewell to Mr Swaffield and Miss Rathmill who have moved on to pastures new. We would like to welcome our new teachers Mrs Hill & Mr Smith and our new LSA's Mrs Medicott and Miss Bennett.

## **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

### SPRING TERM 2024

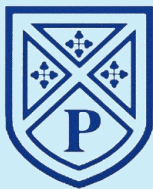
Monday 6th January	School closed - TE day
Tuesday 7th January	School reopens
Wednesday 8th January	5JB Swimming
Tuesday 14th January	Young Voices performance
Monday 27th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
Friday 14th February	School closes for half term
Monday 24th February	School reopens

### 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.	

We have a chess club that will be starting in the New Year, however we are short of a couple of chess board sets. If any one has some they would like to donate we would be extremely grateful!



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## GCHQ CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Over the last few weeks some of the children have tried to crack the GCHQ Christmas Card Challenge. We hope you have a bit of fun seeing how well you can do!

**The GCHQ Christmas Challenge**

**Worksheet**

The worksheet area is a large white rounded rectangle on a light blue background. At the bottom of the page, there is a row of five black silhouettes: four reindeer running and one Santa Claus in a sleigh. The background also features faint green patterns.

**The GCHQ Christmas Challenge**

Each of the seven puzzles below will lead you to the name of a UK landmark.

Use the names of these landmarks, and the front cover of the card, to discover what people across all of our GCHQ locations will be this Christmas.

**1**

What does this say?



**2**

What are you left with once you've removed the award, carrier, character, programme, route, and safety guide?

Black	Brick	Badge
Pink	Cross	Bag
Blue	Panther	Code
Brown	Paper	Hood
Green	Peter	Road
Yellow	Pool	Show
Red	Riding	Tower

**3**

Complete the sequences:

TROIS, DEUX, \_\_\_  
 II, III, \_\_\_, V  
 OD, \_\_\_, IM  
 QG, RH, \_\_\_  
 QW, ER, \_\_\_  
 JOAN, \_\_\_, ARC  
 DLA, NOD, \_\_\_, DLO  
 GRE, AT, \_\_\_, TA, IN  
 KNO, WLE, \_\_\_

**7**

PERHAPS READING the start of this substitution cipher will help you solve it.

ISKGWIM KSWEBDU BN DFN LBIGSKSE BM IKBCWKBOX W QSWEBDU BDEBLWNBFD NF XFO  
 MFQPBUD NGBM WECBNNSEQX ESPBFOM BDBNBWQOX ODKSWEWAQS CSMMWUS.

**4**

Solve the clues. Only write in each square the single letter, if any, which appears in both the across answer and the down answer.

	Indian butter (4)	___ Voldemort, or ___ Asriel (4)	Football anti-racism campaign (4, 2, 3)	Woodwind reed instrument (7)
Material that jeans are made from (5)				
Slang word for food (from a pub?) (4)				
Latin dance (3-3-3)				
Life ____, free ____, or hair ___ (5)				

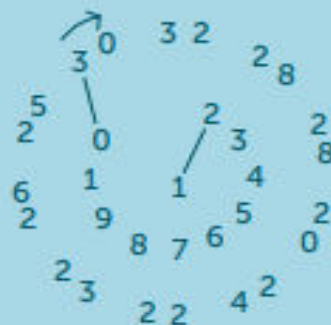
**5**

Replace the words in brackets:

An American (soldier) named Joe said that avoiding a huge colony of (insects) was the (basis) of him losing his (path).

**6**

We wrote the numbers 1-20 in order below, but made some mistakes. Calculate how far off we were.



Follow us or scan the QR code to find the answers soon.

[www.gchq.gov.uk/xmas2024](http://www.gchq.gov.uk/xmas2024)



X Instagram LinkedIn  
 @GCHQ



The GCHQ Christmas Challenge



1, 2, 3, 4



11, 7, 5, 2



6, 14, 8, 10



20, 19, 11, 15



18, 4, 6, 11



16, 4, 5, 6



4, 9, 2, 6

## Hints

- 1 Maybe one of your PALs can help you with the fourth picture.
- 2 What Code do you follow to Cross the road safely? Which show features a panther?
- 3 Not all of the sequences read forwards.
- 4 The letter in the top left box is E, as that is the only letter in both GHEE and DENIM.
- 5 What sort of insects live in colonies? Was not knowing that the CAUSE of you needing a hint for this puzzle?
- 6 Write out the numbers 1-20, and then write the numbers in the question underneath them. What are the numerical differences?
- 7 The first two words in are 'PERHAPS READING'. Use this to work out which letters represent A, D, E, G, H, I, N, P, R and S. These will help you find out how the MESSAGE is CIPHERED.





Christmas 2024  
**Holiday Camp**  
For 8 - 13 years

**Camp Dates:**

**Mon 23rd Dec 2024**

**Fri 27th Dec 2024**

**Mon 30th Dec 2024**

**Thurs 2nd Jan 2025**

**Fri 3rd Jan 2025**

**9:30am-3:30pm**



Come and enjoy activities such as:  
baking/cooking, sport,  
arts & crafts, gaming, music,  
Christmas and new year's  
themed activities and much more

**Location: Bromsgrove Baptist Church, New Road, Bromsgrove, B60 2JD**

**Prices: £15 per day, £60 for all 5 days (getting one day for free).**

*Free places for free school meal eligible children will be available*

**To book, please email Dan Owen on [do@thehubbromsgrove.org](mailto:do@thehubbromsgrove.org)**



**Bromsgrove  
District Council**  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)