

Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

April 2025



Parkside Middle School

As we reach the end of another busy half term, we're excited to share all the wonderful things we've been up to! From exciting trips and creative projects to brilliant achievements in and out of the classroom, it's been a term full of learning, laughter, and growth.



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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:

Nevaeh T	Alex P	Holly T	Evie B	Marin A	Ruby G	Christiana H
Ayva M	Isla S	Suzie N	Lilly-May G	Seren C	Imogen S	Joshua C
Benji S	Sol C	Tadisa T	Dexter Y	Franklin R	Annabel C	Croyde O'N
Emran A	Betsy P	Aidan M	Blake M	Eleanor S	Seren M	Caileb-Ellis Y
Oliver L	Eli D	Holly S	Harlow G	Jacob T	Suzie N	Freyja E-F
Eli F	Darci H	Teddy W	Archie M	Lexi P	Megan J	Rebekah B
Adele F	Alice V	Jamie M	Theo P	Amilie-Lou C		



SPRING CONCERT

On Tuesday 8th April, over 60 students took part in the school's Spring Concert. The concert commemorated both the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camps and Karl Jenkins' 80th birthday. Jenkins has written a series of beautiful musical scores especially those that focus on war and army themes which the pupils performed. For many students it was the very first time they had ever performed, and they were amazing!



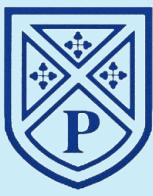
A special shout out to the Drumming Club and the Dance Club that only started practising in January for their first ever concert, and to the soloists, duets and readers who had such courage to perform in front of a very appreciative audience. We cannot wait for the Summer Concert!

HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Year 7 students were treated to a fantastic reward trip to Hollywood Bowl this week in recognition of their hard work, positive attitude and excellent behaviour throughout the term. Spirits were high as the students enjoyed a fun-filled day of strikes, spares, and friendly competition on the lanes. Laughter echoed through the venue as classmates cheered each other on and celebrated their well-earned success.



A big thank you to the staff who helped organise and supervise the trip — and well done to all of Year 7 for making it such a memorable outing. Keep up the great work!

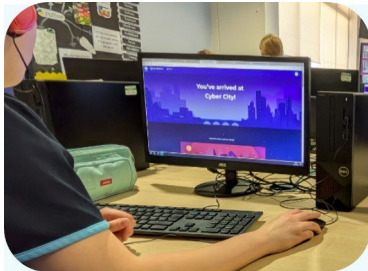


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CYBER EXPLORERS CUP 2025

As part of an initiative led by the UK Government, Cyber Explorers is a free platform that teaches 11-14-year-olds cyber-security skills and introduces them to careers in the field. As part of this learning programme, Parkside entered four teams into the Cyber Explorers Cup 2025 which took place on the 4th April, offering a fun, interactive competition for students across the UK.

The online tasks really push pupils to think on their feet and put their critical thinking skills to the test. The one-hour long competition encourages pupils work together supporting each other to tackle the challenges step-by-step, as each victory unlocks new puzzles and security tasks, pushing skills to the limit.



FARADAY CHALLENGE

Parkside hosted a Faraday Challenge Competition this term, which is 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 middle 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 learnt how to make a working prototype and budget for the materials. They worked well together in their teams, behaved exceptionally well and really enjoyed the experience.



THE TEMPEST AT THE ARTRIX

Our trip to see *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare at the Artrix Theatre was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us present. The portrayal of the characters was excellent and the mood that the music provided was very atmospheric. As director, John Edward-Bick, did a wonderful job of choreographing the scenes to their fullest extent. Throughout the three and a half hours of the duration of the production, the story was told in way that reflected the original text of Shakespeare whilst also being contemporary, which was shown during the portrayal of major character by an ex-Parkside pupil. Overall, the play was a very enjoyable and, I believe that I speak for the whole group here, we would not hesitate to see another similar play if we were provided with the opportunity.



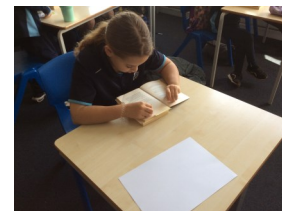
William D - 8VSa



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WORLD BOOK DAY

On World Book Day, our Year 5 pupils took part in a fantastic National Literacy Trust Live Webinar! They had the incredible opportunity to meet a variety of authors and Premier League football stars, who shared their love for reading and talked about some of their favourite books. It was amazing to see how passion for reading can cross all sorts of boundaries!



After the webinar, the fun didn't stop there. The pupils got a chance to share the stories they love with one another, creating a vibrant atmosphere of enthusiasm and creativity. They also explored a selection of books that they might not have encountered in the school library, sparking new interests and adventures. To top it all off, on Friday, Key Stage 2 decorated potatoes to look like their favourite book characters! They demonstrated team work and resilience and thoroughly enjoyed crafting. What a delightful way to celebrate World Book Day 2025.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY TRIP

A group of fifteen 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 (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 puzzles like 'Towers of Hanoi'. All the pupils were enthused by the trip and we hope it has helped 'inspire their futures'.

'Overall, it was an amazing experience, and we had so much fun and learnt so much about maths and different careers you can get using maths! The campus was beautiful and was massive!' Freya and Kiera.

'It was a really good trip!' Louis.

FROM SEWAGE TO SUSTAINABILITY: YEAR 7 BIORESOURCES WORKSHOP

We were thrilled to welcome a visitor from Severn Trent on Thursday 13th March, who led an engaging workshop for 30 Year 7 pupils. The session began with informative videos showing how water travels to our homes. The Bioresources team then explained Severn Trent's eco-friendly practices, highlighting their efforts to protect the environment. To wrap up the workshop, pupils participated in a fun quiz to test their understanding of the topic. It was an exciting and educational experience that inspired students to learn more about sustainability and the important role water plays in our daily lives.

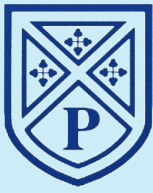
STEM SPACE EVENT

On Tuesday 4th March, to celebrate Mars Day (which ties in beautifully with our Science Space topic), Year 5 pupils embarked on an exhilarating virtual journey to the Moon and Mars! During this fantastic event, they were introduced to Luna, the lively space dog, who guided them through the wonders of space exploration.

Pupils excitedly used their handbooks to vote for the spacecraft they wanted to travel in, sparking lively discussions about space travel. They also delved into the fascinating history of space exploration and learned about the possible future astronauts who might one day take on the cosmos.

By the end, it was clear that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt truly inspired about the possibilities of space travel!





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SPORTS FIXTURES

YEAR 5 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Our Year 5s recently took part in their first competitive sports tournament, and their performance was nothing short of spectacular. Since September, they have been training tirelessly for this moment, and it was clear from the very first whistle that their hard work had paid off. Over the course of 6 matches, they scored a total of 45 goals in just 42 minutes of play, an average of more than a goal per minute! This incredible feat helped them secure victory in every match, only conceding one goal throughout the entire tournament.



Our Year 5s were crowned district champions, with each player receiving a gold medal that was truly well deserved. A special mention goes to Zeke, who was named Player of the Tournament and to Bella earned the title of Opposition Player of the Tournament for their impressive performances against all the teams. It was a day to remember.

YEAR 6 DISTRICT NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Parkside School hosted this year's Year 6 District Netball Tournament, welcoming seven schools for an exciting day of competition. Our team secured victories against Witton, RGS Dodderhill, Aston Fields and Westacre. Despite losing two matches to St John's and Alvechurch, Parkside finished in an impressive 3rd place overall. For some of our pupils, this was their first experience of competitive netball, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly.



A huge thank you goes to our incredible Sports Leaders, who were instrumental in ensuring that the tournament ran smoothly. Their hard work behind the scenes helped create a fantastic experience for all players, teachers and spectators.

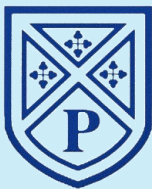
YEAR 5 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT AT BROMSGROVE HOCKEY CLUB

On Wednesday 12th March, Mr Spalding took a group of Year 5 pupils to a Hockey Tournament at Bromsgrove Hockey Club. there were some brilliant performances from all the pupils who showed great skill, determination and resilience. Player of the tournament was Zeke, who showed a really positive attitude and some great leadership qualities. Well done to all the pupils who were involved.



YEAR 7 GIRLS NETBALL

Parkside Year 7 Girls' netball team were impressive at the District Netball tournament held at St. John's Middle School, finishing second in their group after securing victories against Aston Fields (3-0) and Catshill (4-1) but faced a tough challenge against Westacre, resulting in a 1-4 loss. The team then secured a well-deserved bronze medal in the tournament following a convincing 6-2 victory in the third-place playoff against Alvechurch, an incredible achievement for a talented and hardworking squad!



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SPORTS FIXTURES



GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL SUPPORTED BY SPORTS LEADERS

On Wednesday 19th March, all the Sports Leaders from Year 8 supported the running of a gymnastics festival for first school pupils. This was a real test of their leadership, organisation and ability to act as a role model for younger pupils. All of the Sports Leaders showed an amazing attitude and made sure the festival ran smoothly. The schools involved were: St Andrew's, Lickey End, Blackwell, Dodford, Fininstall and Meadows. All commented how well our leaders did.

YEAR 6 BOYS FOOTBALL VS BREDON HILL

On Thursday 20th March the year 6 boys football team had a cup quarter final against Bredon Hill. The boys did so well to get this far in the competition. Unfortunately, the boys lost 6-1, but showed great heart and effort in defeat. Luke F 6CWi was player of the match who showed great skill and ability. Bredon Hill were a very strong side and performed very well on the day. Parkside will be entered into the cup next year, so there is a chance to go one step further ten

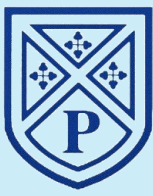
KS3 RUGBY TOURNAMENT VS AFMS AND ST JOHNS

On Monday 24th March, the Year 7 and Year 8 boys rugby teams both took part in a triangular tournament against Aston Fields Middle School and St John's Middle School. It was amazing to see how much all the rugby players have improved from the start of the year, many of them hadn't played rugby before starting this year. All games were tightly contested and there were some amazing performances on show from all the boys. Although rugby club has now come to an end, I hope that all the boys have enjoyed their rugby at Parkside and will continue to play outside school. If anyone is interested in starting rugby then please see Mr Spalding.

YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL VS BLESSED EDWARDS, WORCESTER

On Wednesday 26th March, Mr Spalding took the Year 8 boys football team to Blessed Edwards School in Worcester for the last round of the EFSA cup. The boys performed brilliantly despite losing the game. There were strong performances from Billy and Oli. The boys have progressed to the last 16 and will play against St Bedes in a straight knockout game after Easter.





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SPORTS FIXTURES

YEAR 8 NETBALL

The Year 8 Netball team achieved an impressive 2nd place finish in the District Netball competition, earning silver medals for their outstanding performance. They won every match they played, showcasing their skill, teamwork, and determination. The only setback came in a hard-fought draw against Alvechurch, which ultimately secured their position as runners-up in the district. Their consistency and resilience throughout the competition were commendable, and their achievement of finishing second is a testament to their dedication and effort.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS TOURNAMENT

The Year 6 team played three challenging matches against Hereford, Leamington, and Warwick in their recent competition which was held at Rushall Olympic Football Club. Despite their best efforts, they drew all three games, showcasing great skill and determination throughout each match. Unfortunately, these draws meant they didn't qualify for the final, but they still earned a respectable 3rd place overall. Their hard work and perseverance were evident, and while they didn't make it to the final, their performance was impressive and demonstrated the potential for future success. Player of the tournament : Boe W



PUPILS REPRESENT DISTRICT IN PANATHLON EVENT

Following on from their Gold Medal success in the District Panathlon event in February Parkside pupils from Key Stage 2 represented North Worcestershire in the Primary Panathlon finals.

Despite facing tough competition, our pupils finished a very creditable fourth just four points behind the eventual winners. Congratulations to all the pupils for their outstanding efforts.



1/4 FINAL VS WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our U11 girls recently participated in a thrilling quarter-final football match against Witton School in Droitwich. It was an action-packed game, with an incredible 12 goals scored in just 50 minutes! Bessie F was in outstanding form, netting four goals and earning the well-deserved title of Player of the Match. Meanwhile, Grace A put on a fantastic display in goal, making some outstanding second-half saves that impressed the opposition so much that she was voted their Player of the Match. Despite a valiant effort from the whole team, Parkside unfortunately lost 7-5. It was a true goal fest and an exciting spectacle for all who watched— Well done to the team for their hard-fought performance!





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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.

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 congratulate Mrs Williams-Sharpe on the arrival of her baby boy!



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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SAFETY CONCERNS REGARDING BIKES AND SCOOTERS

It has come to our attention that a number of pupils have been causing disruption while riding their bikes and scooters around the school grounds. The language used has been reported as inappropriate and many students are not paying attention to their own safety or the safety of others, particularly the younger children at Meadows.

We take these concerns seriously and if this behaviour continues, we may have to consider further measures, including the potential banning of scooters. We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of respectful behaviour and safety with your children.

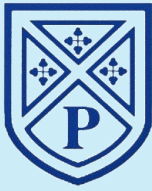
Thank you for your understanding.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER TERM 2025

Monday 28th April	School reopens—Y6 Revision Week
Monday 5th May	School closed for May Day—Year 6 Revision Week
Monday 12th May	SATS Week
Tuesday 20th May	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 23rd May	Year 6 Habberley Trail
Friday 23rd May	School closes for half term
Monday 2nd June	School closed - TE day
Tuesday 3rd June	School reopens
Thursday 5th June	Year 8 Individual/Year Group Photographs
Monday 9th June	Year 5/7 GL Testing Week
Friday 13th June	Year 5 Group photos
Monday 16th June	Year 8 GL Testing Week
Friday 18th July	School closes for Summer holidays
Monday 21st July	School closed - TE day

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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DONATIONS PLEA!

Having a clear out? Spring clean?

We would love you to donate unwanted items that could be used in school.

We are currently on the look out for:



- Old CD's and/or DVD's
- Adult size denim jeans
- Measuring jugs
- Newspapers/magazines
- Wool/yarn
- Scrap fabric
- Timber (logs)
- Army rope
- Tarpaulin
- Watering cans
- Vegetable seedlings

If you wish to donate any of the above items or you think you have something we might be interested in, please contact Mrs Ford via the school office to arrange drop off or collection



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ATTENDANCE

**MOMENTS
MATTER.
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

As we approach the end of this 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.

[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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://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