

*Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.*

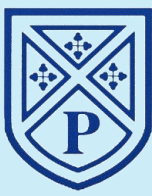
May 2025



## Parkside Middle School

As we reach the end of another 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.

Looking ahead, the final half-term of the school year promises to be full of exciting events and unforgettable experiences. With trips, sports days, performances and end-of-year celebrations on the horizon, we're gearing up for a truly memorable end to the academic year.



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## YEAR 5 – CLAY IN A DAY!

Year 5 enjoyed a creative and hands-on experience during their “Clay in a Day” workshop. Pupils learned how to make coil clay pots, starting with designing their piece before carefully building it coil by coil.

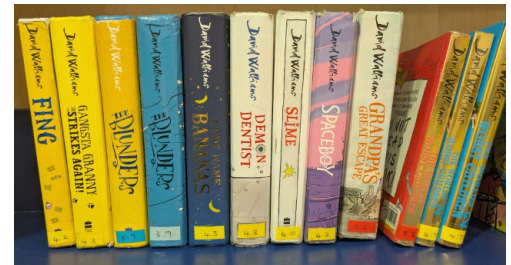
The day was a brilliant opportunity to demonstrate the Parkside Standard of resilience and teamwork. Pupils showed determination as they tackled challenges and helped one another throughout the process.

After completing their pots, they reflected on their work, evaluating what went well and how they could improve. The final results were fantastic—each pot unique and thoughtfully made.

Well done, Year 5 artists!

## DAVID WALLIAMS—VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May Year 5 took part in a virtual book launch with David Walliams. He was super engaging and fun, the children really enjoyed themselves and were inspired to pen their own stories! He talked about his collection of books, how he finds ideas for his stories and even read some of his stories too.



Here is what some children had to say:

Eden *'I love the book Gangster Granny'*

Harriet *'I like David Walliams and thought it was a great opportunity to hear what he had to say'*

Eve *'I enjoyed listening to him, talk about his new book and read from old ones'*

## YEAR 5 THRIVE

5HG and 5JP teamed together for Thrive over two weeks to showcase their talents! Both classes were working on sharing their interests and listening to others. We had a fantastic range of talents including singing, gymnastics, rugby skills, comedy, musical instruments and much more! We were lucky enough to have a sunny day to perform our talents outside and the children engaged so well, Mrs Mancini came to see some of their wonderful performances. They should be really proud of themselves. Well done!

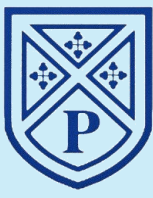


## YEAR 6 KS2 TESTING

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils for their maturity, positive attitude and resilience during the recent SATs week. As always, we just asked the pupils to try their very best and walk out of the tests proud of what they had achieved - well done Year 6, you all did this and were a credit to the school and yourselves! We would also like to say how impressed we were with Years 5, 7 and 8 who supported the Year 6 pupils throughout the week showing empathy and consideration when moving around the building, reinforcing our Parkside Values.

## YEAR 6 REWARD RAFFLE - THANK YOU!

As part of our run up to SATs, the Year 6 pupils earn raffle tickets which are posted and drawn after SATs. The pupils received some great prizes as well as a 'sweet treat'. In particular, we would like to say thank you Aztec Adventure for donating a £50 voucher and Bromsgrove Sport and Leisure Centre for donating 10 free family swim passes.



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## YEAR 6—HABBERLEY TRAIL

The Year 6 school trip to Habberley Trail was the perfect way to celebrate the end of SATs and reward all the hard work the students had put in throughout the year. It was a day of relaxation and fun, a chance to bond with classmates and teachers while celebrating their achievements in a memorable way. We want to congratulate all of Year 6!

## YEAR 8 MATHS LEADERS

A massive thank you and well done to our amazing Year 8 Maths Leaders, who worked with some of the Year 6 pupils during the Spring term. You showed maturity, commitment, patience, empathy and brilliant teaching skills! The Year 6 pupils were very grateful for your help, support and encouragement. We hope you all gained from the experience too!

## INSPIRING FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS AT PARKSIDE

This half-term, we were delighted to welcome two representatives from *Women Who* into school to speak with a group of our Key Stage 3 pupils. The visitors delivered an engaging and inspiring session focused on entrepreneurship, sharing their personal career journeys and offering valuable insights into what it takes to set up and run a successful business.

The talk highlighted the many benefits of becoming a business owner, including independence, creativity, and the ability to make a positive impact. Pupils were encouraged to think about their own aspirations and how the skills they develop at school—such as problem-solving, communication, and leadership—are not only transferable but highly sought after in the world of business.

Throughout the session, pupils made thoughtful links between the qualities discussed and our Parkside Values: *kindness, resilience, and teamworking*. These values were clearly reflected in the stories and advice shared by our visitors, and it was fantastic to see pupils recognising how their everyday efforts in school lay strong foundations for future success.

We are grateful to *Women Who* for their time and inspiration, and we look forward to continuing to support our pupils in developing the confidence and skills to pursue their ambitions—whatever path they choose.

## A CREATIVE DAY AT BROMSGROVE PREP!

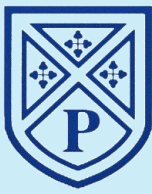
On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Mrs. Greensill, Mrs. Cheuk and a group of Parkside students spent a fantastic afternoon at Bromsgrove Prep School, where they took part in a collaborative art session with the talented and award-winning illustrator, Mark Lippett.

The focus of the day was bees – Pupils learned how to capture the delicate textures and details of these fascinating creatures using fine liner pens and ink techniques. It was a brilliant opportunity to observe closely, work creatively, and learn new artistic skills.

The results were truly impressive. Our students produced some outstanding pieces and represented Parkside beautifully throughout the visit. They even went home with some fun goodie bags as a bonus!

We are incredibly proud of Year 8 – both for their artwork and their exemplary behaviour. We hope you enjoy viewing their creations as much as we enjoyed making them!





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## LIBRARY

A big thank you to all those that donated towards and supported our second-hand book sale which took place several weeks ago. We raised over £100 pounds that has been spent on new books for the library that are popular with the pupils.

At the same time we also had our 'Design a Book Token' competition where we received some really creative designs. Congratulations go to Max from 6BA who was the winner.

If you are doing a clear out of books this half term, any donations would be appreciated.



## IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE AT THE LEICESTER TIGERS CHALLENGE!

A huge congratulations to Harry S, Harry H, Oscar M, and Sam W, who proudly represented our school at the Leicester Tigers Challenge held at Butlins Minehead.

The boys showcased incredible teamwork and determination, playing 12 matches against teams from all over England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Their outstanding efforts led to an impressive record—winning 7 games, drawing 1, and giving it their all in each and every match.



A highlight of the weekend was the awards ceremony, where they were honoured on stage by none other than England Rugby World Cup winner Lewis Moody—a moment they will surely remember for years to come.

Well done to the team for their dedication and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of you all!

## OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA

This academic year, Mrs Ford—supported by a team of enthusiastic pupils—has worked hard to transform a section of the school field into a brand-new outdoor classroom. What was once an overgrown wooded area is now a dedicated learning space designed to connect pupils with nature and enhance their educational experience.

The outdoor classroom will offer exciting opportunities for hands-on, experiential learning and we are delighted to announce that it will officially open for use after the half-term break. Pupils will soon be enjoying both THRIVE sessions and curriculum-based lessons in this inspiring outdoor setting.

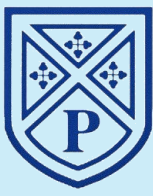
This new space is part of our ongoing commitment to wellbeing, creativity, and active learning. It's a place where children can explore, reflect, collaborate, and thrive. A huge thank you to Mrs Ford and all the pupils involved for their vision and effort in bringing this wonderful project to life!



## SENSORY GARDEN

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming addition of a sensory garden to our outdoor learning area! This thoughtfully designed space will provide a rich, immersive environment for our students to explore, learn, and connect with nature and also support them with their mental health and wellbeing.





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## SPORTS FIXTURE RESULTS

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @ Parkside**

Year 8 Football vs St Johns

Result: Lost 5-2

Player of the match: Kian F



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

KS3 Rugby vs Alvechurch

Results:

Parkside 1 vs Alvechurch 1: Won 5-2

Parkside 2 vs Alvechurch 2: Won 4-0

Parkside 1 vs Alvechurch 2: Won 3-2

Parkside 2 vs Alvechurch 1: Won 3-2

Players of the tournament: Henry S and Sam A



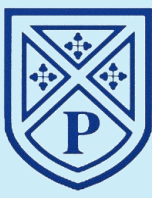
**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Year 8 Football vs St Bedes

Result: Lost 1-0

Player of the match: Billy B-J





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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 wish farewell to Miss Lynn who will be leaving for pastures new. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Taylor on the arrival of her baby girl!



## **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.

We are looking for parents to join our Governing Body.

This is a great opportunity for you to gain further insight into the School, and your contribution would be invaluable.

The role is voluntary and is for a four year term.

Around eight meetings take place each year.

If you are interested, please e-mail [clerktogovernors@parkside.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@parkside.worcs.sch.uk)



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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 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
Monday 9th June	Year 6 Height and Weight Measurements
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

## **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.	



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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 ▾

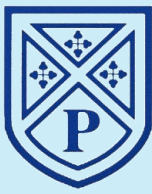
Year Groups ▾

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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-keep-child-at-home/)

## **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