

*Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.*

February 2026



## Parkside Middle School February Half-term Newsletter

### **PARKSIDE WRITING OSCARS**

The Parkside Writing Oscars returned in true red-carpet style this week – and what a celebration it was.

Staff arrived in sparkly outfits, special guest announcers revealed the winners, and the hall buzzed with excitement. Most importantly, the quality of writing across the school was exceptional. From persuasive speeches to chilling horror pieces, our pupils demonstrated real creativity, craft and ambition.

Congratulations to our winners:

- Most Improved – Emily D (6GS)
- Writing to Persuade – Morgan W (8LF)
- Writing to Explain – Maverick S (7LG)
- Best Play Script – Immy P, Eden C and Isabelle T (6RR)
- Writing to Entertain – Oscar J (7LG)
- Writing to Scare – BL (7JM)
- Writing to Inform – Ciaran R (5SN)
- Best Essay – Willow H (8CW)
- Best Staff Writer – Miss Lewis
- Best Overall – Will Mallin (8AH)





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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 K-S	Isobella V	Benji D	Esme H	Ellis L	Immy G	Alex B	Suzie N
Sennen O	Aidan W	Lottie H	Eleanor S	Callum D	Isabella W	Freya-Rose C	Mia H
Lottie P	Jamin R	Keyara P	Olivia D	Emilia F	Mia H	Christiana H	Evie B
Logan E-J	Izzy W	Daniel C-F	Aiden L	Grace A	Ivy C	Yaroslava H	Jacob B
Leya L	Zak A						

### ACHIEVEMENT POINT REVIEW

As we wrap up this half term, we are delighted to share this half term’s amazing achievement point total 30,775.



Our total for this year so far is 127,093!

This is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and collaboration of our entire school community. A heart-felt congratulations to everyone at Parkside — well done!

A special well done to Shahnoor Q who topped the leaderboard with 134 achievement points this term! This is an amazing accomplishment.

### TUBS TO PUBS RECYCLING SCHEME

Since Christmas, we have been collecting empty sweet tubs to support Macmillan Cancer, turning something simple into a meaningful way to give back. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed, we managed to collect an amazing 50 tubs. It has been wonderful to see our community come together for such an important cause.



Recently, Mrs Cowan kindly dropped off all 50 tubs at the Hungry Horse in Bromsgrove, where they will now go on to support Macmillan’s fundraising efforts. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved and grateful to everyone who took part.

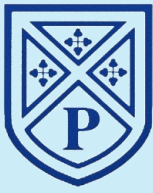
Supporting Macmillan means helping people affected by cancer receive the care and guidance they need. We are so pleased with our efforts that we have decided to make this an annual tradition and look forward to collecting even more tubs next Christmas

### POPPY APEAL

In November, our school community came together to support the annual Poppy Appeal. Through the sale of poppies and a range of related merchandise, pupils helped raise a fantastic **£100.82** for this important cause.



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed!



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## ONLINE SAFETY

### **New kids online safety website launched as part of government campaign.**

We need your help in keeping children safe online. The government are launching a new website on the 16th February 2026 to support families and encourage regular conversations about what they're seeing online, asking simple questions, like "who shared this" and "why?". Based on parents/carers main concerns and needs, it provides:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

The site will also signpost parents/carers to trusted resources from charities and third parties, where you can access other forms of support (like speaking to an expert).

The website will continue to grow and be developed this year, supporting the [Online Safety Act - GOV.UK](#) and wider government aims.

Link below:

[Online content](#)

## BARCLAYS EQUAL ACCESS TO FOOTBALL FOR GIRLS AWARD

The Barclays Equal Access to Football for Girls Award is part of the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships programme (run with The FA) recognises schools that are actively increasing opportunities for girls to play football, both in PE and through clubs/competitions. We are proud to announce that our school **has been awarded the Barclays Equal Access to Football for Girls Award.**

This award recognises our commitment to providing equal opportunities for girls to take part in football. We achieved this by offering equal access to football in PE lessons, running regular girls' football clubs, and providing opportunities for pupils to take part in matches, leagues and festivals.

This success reflects the hard work of our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils, and we look forward to continuing to grow girls' football at our school.



## STAFF CHANGES

We would like to share that our Assistant Headteacher, **Mrs Rea has now begun her maternity leave.** We wish her all the very best during this exciting time, and she will be greatly missed by both students and staff.

We are pleased to confirm that **Miss Doherty will be taking on the role of Head of Year 8** after half term. We know she will do a fantastic job supporting our students and leading the year group.



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## A CHRISTMAS CAROL PERFORMANCE

On 14 January, Year 7 were treated to a fantastic and high energy musical performance of *A Christmas Carol*. The production was filled with lively songs, polished acting, and engaging storytelling, but one of the most memorable moments came in the form of an unexpected — yet thoroughly entertaining — dance off between Mrs Rea and Mr Agnew. Their spirited performance had pupils cheering and added a fun, modern twist to the classic Dickens tale.



Throughout the term, pupils have been studying the work of Charles Dickens in their English lessons, exploring themes, characters, and the historical context of *A Christmas Carol*. This live performance provided a perfect culmination to their learning, allowing them to see the text brought vividly to life on stage. The combination of music, drama, and humour not only reinforced their understanding of the story but also helped create a lasting impression, making the experience both educational and memorable.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2026



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1

Our Head Boys and Head Girls went to represent Parkside Middle School for the Holocaust Memorial Day. Our Head Girls have written their experience of that day.

“On the 27th January, we went to the old Parkside building for Holocaust Memorial Day. We were explained about the tragic events that occurred throughout this time period throughout History and World War One.

There were many performances such as songs, prayers, speeches and lighting of candles to show respect to those who passed.

He even made paper chains with messages which were joined with other schools to show peace and stop the events happening in our future”

## YEAR 5 TAKE ON THE PRIMARY STEM CHALLENGE

Our Year 5 pupils took part in the Primary STEM Challenge with STEM Works.

Thirty pupils were set a real-world engineering task: to design and build a brand-new ride for West Midlands Safari Park using K’NEX. The design challenged them to create a ride that could carry eight people, included moving parts and animal themed!

The children planned, built, tested and refined their ideas before presenting their finished rides to the group. The variety and creativity of designs was extremely impressive.

Throughout the workshop, pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication, as well as important personal skills such as resilience when designs didn’t work first time, and respect for one another’s ideas.

It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience that brought STEM subjects to life and inspired our pupils to think like real engineers and designers. Good job Year 5!





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## YEAR 5 LIBRARY VISIT

Year 5 pupils enjoyed a fantastic visit to our local library this week, where they learned all about how to make the most of this wonderful community resource. The librarian gave the children a warm welcome and talked to them about how to find books they would enjoy reading. Pupils explored different sections of the library and learned how books are organised, making it easier to discover new stories and non-fiction texts.

They were also shown how to scan books out using the self-service system, giving them the confidence to borrow books independently.

The visit was both informative and inspiring, encouraging a love of reading and showing pupils how the library can support their interests. A big thank you to the librarian for such an engaging and enjoyable session.



## WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT!

Pupils at Parkside have come together in a heartfelt show of support for a young girl receiving palliative care for cancer, creating 750 handmade birthday cards to help make her special wish come true.

Amelia Kolpa, from Rowley Regis in the Black Country, has been bravely battling neuroblastoma and has been in and out of hospital since she was just two and a half years old. As she prepares to celebrate her eighth birthday on 3 March, Amelia is hoping to break the UK record for the most birthday cards received, with an ambitious target of 8,000 cards.

After her family issued a public appeal, Parkside pupils eagerly got involved, spending time designing colourful, thoughtful messages to help brighten Amelia's day and contribute to the nationwide effort to make her birthday one to remember.



## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Tickets are available for our upcoming school production of High School Musical!

Our talented students have been working incredibly hard on rehearsals, and we can't wait for you to see their singing, acting and dancing on stage. It promises to be a fun, energetic show that the whole family will enjoy.

Performances are on Monday the 2nd, Tuesday 3rd March and Wednesday 4th March at 6pm.

Tickets are £6 per ticket including refreshments and are available on ParentPay.

We would love to see as many families as possible there to support our wonderful cast and crew.

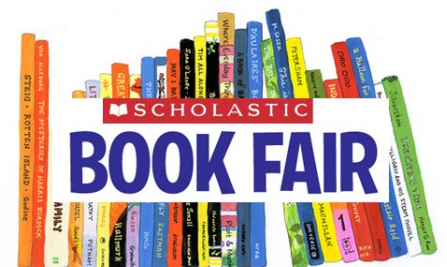
We look forward to seeing you at the show!



## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We will be holding a Scholastic book fair, from **20<sup>th</sup> March to 27<sup>th</sup> March**. Pupils can either bring in cash/card or you can pay online to buy some of those favourite books that they love to read!

Just a reminder that every book you buy earns Free books for our school library.





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## SPORT FIXTURES

### U13 COUNTY CUP

Our U13 girls competed at home against Churchill Middle School, producing a very promising performance throughout the match. The girls made a very strong start! Dominating possession in the first half. Excellent link-up play between Aila, Darcey and Indya created numerous shooting opportunities, consistently testing the Churchill goalkeeper and keeping the opposition under pressure!



A strong and organised defensive line meant Churchill rarely entered our half, allowing the team to build confidently from the back. The effective connection between defence and midfield enabled Lizzie J to deliver perfectly weighted through balls into the attacking areas, creating opportunity after opportunity for our forwards.

Although the finishing didn't fall our way, a big congratulations to Darcey for earning the oppositions Player of the Match award!

Special thanks go to our Year 7 players, who helped strengthen the squad.

Although we dominated possession and created plenty of chances, we were unable to convert them into goals. The match unfortunately finished 1-0. Our goalkeeper was rarely tested, which is a testament to the solid defensive performances from Chloe, Phoebe and Boe. Rounding off an encouraging team display to build on going forward. Well done team!

### U11 COUNTY CUP



It was an exciting and competitive fixture as we faced RGS Worcester in the U11 County Cup. Many of the opposition players also play alongside our girls in teams outside of school, so we were well aware of their ability and the match was played with high intensity from the start. The teams were very evenly matched, with the score remaining 0–0 at half time.

An early second-half goal from Brooke broke the deadlock, as she struck a fantastic long-range shot that sailed past the goalkeeper into the bottom corner to give us a 1–0 lead. Tactical changes and substitutions brought fresh energy and legs, helping the team maintain a strong tempo.

RGS showed great determination to respond, equalizing with a powerful strike that flew past three defenders into the top left corner. Our second goal came from an excellent passage of play, with Jess battling well to win the ball and feeding Brooke, who then assisted Harriett for a beautifully placed finish into the bottom left corner. It was a great display of teamwork.

Defensively, Khaleesi was outstanding, acting like a human shield at the back and providing a solid foundation for the team with numerous essential clearances under pressure.

A special mention also goes to Grace for her strong performance against a tough opponent, and to Summer, who made a wonderful debut for the team. Good job everyone!



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## KS2 ATHLETICS EVENT

Our Key Stage 2 girls recently entered the Sportshall Athletics competition held at North Bromsgrove High School, where they delivered an excellent all-round performance and achieved **overall silver place**. The team particularly excelled in the field events, with Naomi M achieving top-two finishes in both the long jump and vertical jump. Across the track events, the girls consistently placed within the top three, demonstrating great speed, determination and teamwork throughout the competition.



A special mention goes to Marley, our only Year 5 competitor, who achieved an impressive second place in speed bounce and played a key role in helping our relay teams secure strong placings. A brilliant effort was shown by all team members, including Neiva R, Evie C, Lilly S, Isabell H and Brooke R, whose commitment and enthusiasm contributed to a fantastic team result.

## KS3 ATHLETICS EVENT



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Spalding and Mr Willets took a group of pupils from KS3 to North Bromsgrove High School for the annual Indoor Athletic Championships. There, were lots of local schools in attendance including: Aston Fields, Witton, St Johns and Alvechurch.

Parkside was represented by a team of sixteen Year 7's and sixteen Year 8 pupils. There were some great performances from all the pupils across a variety of events and everyone represented the school amazingly.

## YEAR 6 FOOTBALL VS OLDBURY PARK

The Year 6 boys football team travelled to Oldbury Park School in Worcester. The boys put in a great performance running out 3-1 winners. Goals were scored by Jake B, Jaxon B and goalkeeper Logan D.

Player of the match was awarded to Zeke AW for a true captain's performance.

The boys have progressed to the quarter final stages of the competition and will play against local rivals St John's for a spot in the semi finals.



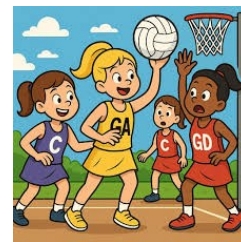


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## YEAR 7 NETBALL VS DODDERHILL

Year 7 celebrated a fantastic 12–0 victory against Dodderhill School, Droitwich, with a confident and well-controlled netball performance.

The team made a strong start and were led superbly by captain Alissia L, who set the tone throughout the match and was also deservedly voted Opposition Player of the Match. Alongside Ella, Alissia's excellent defending ensured the opposition shooters were kept well away from the ball. Great link-up play through the centre court, led by Centre Boe W and Lauren M, resulted in numerous effective passes into the shooting circle and plenty of scoring opportunities. A special mention goes to goal scorers, who all contributed to an outstanding team success.



## YEAR 8 NETBALL VS DODDERHILL



Year 8 secured a well-earned 9–3 victory against Dodderhill School, Droitwich, in an exciting and hard-fought netball match.

Dodderhill started very strongly and were switched on from the off, quickly taking a 2–0 lead. Parkside responded brilliantly by upping their game, with Leyla L and another pupil making some excellent interceptions to win back possession. Georgia and Darcey played key roles in feeding accurate balls into the shooting circle, creating numerous scoring opportunities. A special mention goes to Izzy P, who worked tirelessly throughout the match linking attack and defence, and was deservedly voted Opposition Player of the Match. Dodderhill's PE teacher also praised the excellent play within Parkside's attacking half, particularly the strong link-up between the shooters.

## KS2/KS3 PANATHLON

Our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 athletes recently visited the Ryland Centre to take part in a Panathlon event. The competition featured a wide range of inclusive and engaging challenges, including target throwing, bowling and accuracy-based activities. Pupils also demonstrated their coordination and agility skills through events such as speed bounce and by navigating a tennis ball through cone gates using a racket.

Additional activities included long jump, curling and Boccia. Students rotated around each station, working collaboratively as a team to score as many points as possible within a seven-minute time limit at each activity. All points were then combined to determine the overall results.

Competing against Rigby Hall, St John's and Aston Fields, our team performed exceptionally well and were awarded the silver medal, finishing in an impressive second place overall.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and showed excellent teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day.



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## **ATTENDANCE - EVERY LESSON COUNTS!**

At Parkside, we are committed to ensuring that every student receives the best possible education – and that starts with good attendance and punctuality.



### **Absence Due to Illness**

We continue to see an increase in coughs, colds and viruses such as COVID. Just a reminder that students no longer need to test for COVID or isolate; therefore, if students are feeling well enough to attend and their symptoms can be managed with over-the-counter medications, then we expect to see them in school. We follow a 48hr return policy for sickness and diarrhoea unless this is a one-off episode and then children may return after 24 hours.

### **Medical Appointments**

Where possible, please arrange appointments outside of school hours. If that isn't possible, we kindly ask that appointments are scheduled to avoid registration times. Please be aware that we cannot authorise full-day absences for routine appointments without extenuating circumstances or evidence.

### **Absences Due to Period Pain**

We understand that some students may experience discomfort during their period, but we encourage families to support their children in managing these symptoms in school using pain relief or other suitable measures.

Students should come to school prepared with a 'leak kit' (e.g. sanitary products, wipes, clean underwear), and we also have free sanitary products available in school, in the first aid room.

If your child is experiencing more complex issues or seeking medical advice that may affect their attendance, please provide medical or supporting evidence to help us better support their needs.

### **Punctuality**

We've seen an increase in lateness to school. While we understand that Bromsgrove traffic can sometimes cause delays, we ask that parents call ahead to inform the school if your child is running late and encourage children to allow extra time in the mornings to ensure a prompt start to the school day.

After half term we will be implementing detentions for persistent lateness; those children that are late two or more times in a week will be issued an after-school detention.

### **Internal Truancy at Registration**

We are also seeing a rise in cases where students are on site but not attending registration. This causes delays and complications for our attendance team who are trying to ensure every child is safe and accounted for.

Please speak to your child about the importance of going straight to registration on arrival. Registration is a vital safeguarding process, and not being registered can result in texts home and confusion about a student's whereabouts.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office and speak with Miss Sparkes, who is always happy to offer guidance and support.



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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**

Asthma Action Plan – If your child suffers with Asthma please can you return the Asthma Action Plan we sent out at the start of term. Thank you to everyone who has already done this. Please ensure your child's inhaler is in school and in date.



Medication – if your child requires prescribed medication in school we need a consent form signed and medication sent into school in full packaging.

## **LUNCHTIME**

Lunchtime meals are now £2.73, 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.

## **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 The Nest 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 2026**

Monday 23rd February	School reopens
Wednesday 25th February	5SN starts swimming
Monday 2nd March	Production Afternoon Performance
Tuesday 3rd March	Production Evening Performance
Wednesday 4th March	Production Evening Performance
Tuesday 17th March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 19th March	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th March	Parents' Evening
Friday 27th March	School closes for Easter holidays

### **EQUIPMENT LIST**

During 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.	

### **Parent Carer Needs Assessment Survey**

If you are caring for a disabled child up to the age of 16 years old, we want to understand your experience of requesting a Parent Carer Needs Assessment. Your responses will help highlight what is working well and where improvements may be needed.

[Parent Carer Needs Assessment \(PCNA\) Survey](#)



# FEBRUARY FOOTBALL CAMP

2026

17<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY!

**SIGN UP HERE!**



**TIMES**

Tues, Weds, Thurs 9-3 ●

**COSTS**

£84 for all 3 days ●

Single full day £30 ●

£5 for both early drop off 8.00am & late pick up 4pm ●

Multi day discounts available ●

Discounted rates for siblings ●

Discounted rates for Inkberrow players (JPP/junior teams) ●

**ACTIVITIES**

Each day has a focused football theme, based on ball mastery, technical skills and mini games. All sessions led by our wonderful UEFA qualified coaching team.

**WHERE**

At our brand new 3G facility at Inkberrow Football Club.

**CONTACT**

headcoach.inkberrowfc@gmail.com

