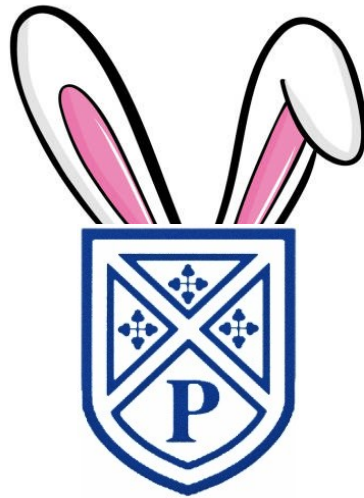


Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

March 2026



Parkside Middle School



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

PRIDE OF PARKSIDE

Congratulations to the pupils who have earned a Pride of Parkside certificate this half term. These pupils are:



Isabelle T	Katie P	Zachary L	Grace H-R	Jack D	Harvey R	Amelia W	William B
Noah P	Tyler H	Jake B	Ayva M	Eleanor S	Ollie P	Sienna B	Alex B
MW	Joshua H	Bobby G	Noah L	Connor B	CD	Charlie H	Amelia W
Phoebe P	Jessica T	Tilly P	Brooke R	JC	Holly S		

ACHIEVEMENT POINT REVIEW

As we wrap up this half term, we are delighted to share this half term’s amazing achievement point total 20,049. Our total for this year so far is 156,724!

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

A special well done to Anna D who topped the leaderboard with 184 achievement points this term! This is an amazing accomplishment.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION

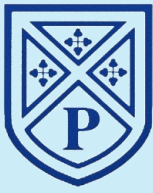
Our recent school production of *High School Musical* was a fantastic success, showcasing the energy, talent, and teamwork of our students. Across three performances, we were delighted to welcome audiences of over 500 people, as well as our KS2 students, who thoroughly enjoyed the show.



The production featured an incredible cast of 40 students, supported by a hard-working backstage crew who ensured everything ran smoothly. From the lively opening of “Start of Something New” to the infectious energy of “We’re All in This Together,” the cast captivated audiences throughout. Standout moments also included the humour and confidence of “Stick to the Status Quo” and the heartfelt performances in “Breaking Free.”

A huge thank you goes to all the staff involved for their dedication, encouragement, and many hours of preparation behind the scenes. This production was a true team effort, and we are immensely proud of everyone who contributed to making it such a memorable experience.





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YEAR 7 ORACY AFTERNOON

This week, Year 7 pupils from schools across the trust came together for an exciting oracy afternoon led by Dr Lance Hanson. The session gave pupils the opportunity to explore ideas around politics, democracy and debate, while developing their confidence in speaking, listening and responding to others.



Throughout the afternoon, pupils engaged thoughtfully with a range of topical issues and began preparing for the upcoming Trust Oracy Symposium. It was fantastic to see pupils from different schools working together so positively, showing maturity, curiosity and a real willingness to share their views. They spoke with confidence and enthusiasm, while also listening respectfully to the opinions of others.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR LIBRARY BOOKS...

We're very proud to have a lovely, large selection of books available for everyone to enjoy. To help keep our library looking its best, we kindly ask that if you notice a book becoming old, worn, or starting to tear, please bring it straight to Mrs Vincent.

She's always happy to repair books—but only if they're brought to her before they reach the point of no return!

Your help means we can keep our collection in great condition for all readers.

Thank you for taking care of our books!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair took place over this past week.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the fair. Parkside will receive a percentage of the sales, which will go towards replenishing our library shelves of books requested by our pupils.

PARKSIDE SOCIAL MEDIA

We are pleased to say we have launched Parkside's Instagram account! Our username is ***Parkside_MS***.

The purpose of this account is to celebrate the achievements of our pupils, share highlights from school life, and keep our community updated with events, activities, and positive news from across the school.

The account will be carefully managed by school staff, and all content will follow our social media, safeguarding, online safety, and data protection policies. We will never share pupils' full names alongside their images, and no personal or sensitive information will ever be posted.





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WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday, 5th March, Parkside celebrated the National Year of Reading through our World Book Day celebrations.

Pupils and staff made a fantastic effort to dress up as their favourite characters, prompting discussion and 'book chat' throughout the day. KS2 pupils decorated their character spoons with their most beloved and iconic characters, and the whole school took part in the mystery of T'Readers! By solving a range of riddles and clues to identify the reading 'Faithful's', pupils were finally able to identify that Mrs Persich was the traitorous 'T'Reader' at the end of the day! She has since made up for not reading on World Book Day and has read several books after being inspired by the pupils' costumes.



Thank you to all staff and pupils for making the day such a success.

KS2 EASTER CARD COMPETITION

Our KS2 pupils have been busy putting their creativity to the test in this year's Design and Technology House Competition. Their challenge was to design an original Easter card, combining imaginative artwork with thoughtful design skills. The standard of entries was incredibly high, with pupils showcasing everything from intricate illustrations to clever pop-up mechanisms and colourful spring-themed designs.



Well done to all who took part—your enthusiasm and talent made the competition a real celebration of creativity. Congratulations to our winning designers and to everyone who represented their house with pride!

YEAR 7 ICE SKATING TRIP



On Wednesday and Thursday this week, Year 7 and 8 pupils visited Planet Ice Ice Skating Rink in Solihull as a reward trip for their behaviour over the Spring Term. The children and staff had a great time and there was lots of brilliant skating on show, both pupils and staff alike! The staff at the rink commented how polite the children were, both on the ice and in the café, stating that we were one of the politest schools they had ever had! The children were a pleasure to be around. They showed great resilience in getting back up after falls! For many pupils it was their first time skating and despite hesitation at the start, they persevered and managed to get all the way around by the end!

A fun day had by all. Thank you to all the pupils and staff who attended!



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BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2026!

This term, we had our interhouse competition for Science which linked with celebrations of *British Science Week*. The theme was **Curiosity**. Pupils across the school took part in hands-on engineering challenges that tested their creativity and problem-solving skills. Our KS2 students designed and built their own bird nests, exploring how animals use materials to create strong and safe structures. Meanwhile, KS3 pupils applied their engineering know-how to construct working wind turbines, learning about renewable energy and design efficiency. It was a fantastic week filled with exploration, experimentation, and plenty of curiosity!



YEAR 5 EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA TIMES TABLE COMPETITION

Our Year 5 pupils competed in the egg-stravaganza times table competition. The winners of this competition were 5JB and 5OL. They demonstrated outstanding speed, accuracy, and teamwork throughout the challenge, and their enthusiasm really shone through. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to showcase their growing confidence with multiplication facts, and both classes should feel incredibly proud of their achievement.

YEAR 5 LIVE MATHS LESSON

Year 5 recently took part in a live, interactive maths lesson designed to strengthen their understanding of multiplicative word problems.

During this session, pupils were able to engage with real-time examples, discuss strategies, and apply their reasoning skills to a series of problem-solving tasks. The live format created an exciting atmosphere that encouraged collaboration and deepened their learning experience.

SPORT FOR CHAMPIONS

We are excited to inform you that on Friday, 24th April 2026, Parkside are hosting an inspirational workshop and assembly with GB 2026 Winter Olympics athlete, Leon Greenwood. In collaboration with Sports for Champions UK, we are asking pupils to collect sponsorship for this event. Our pupils are invited to join a sponsored fitness circuit led by the professional athlete, who will educate, enable, and inspire them to be the champions of tomorrow. The event will also allow our pupils to demonstrate our school values of 'Teamwork' and 'Resilience'.



A reminder to keep collecting your sponsors ahead of our visit from Olympic athlete Leon Greenwood on 24th April.

All sponsor forms must be returned to school by Friday 17th April - regardless of how much sponsorship money has been raised.

Thank you in advance for your support.



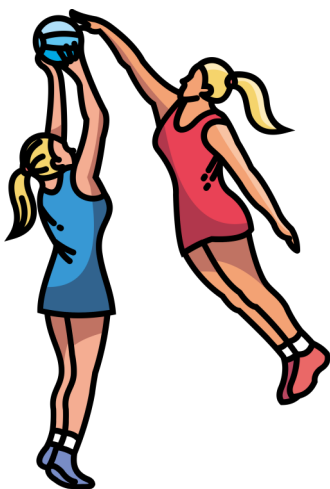
SPORT FIXTURES

Year 8 were crowned District Netball Champions after an outstanding tournament hosted here at Parkside Middle School. They began their campaign with a tough battle against Alvechurch Middle School, securing a 7–4 victory in a closely contested match where they held their nerve to maintain a three-goal lead. The next game against Catshill Middle School saw the team confidently rotate their squad and make excellent use of substitutes, resulting in a strong 5–1 win. Their third match proved to be the toughest test against Aston Fields Middle School, who made some superb interceptions and put us on the back foot early, taking a 1–0 lead. However, the girls showed incredible resilience and determination to fight back and secure a thrilling 4–3 victory — a performance to be truly proud of.



Building on that momentum, the team faced St John's Middle School and, with the advantage of three very talented shooters rotating seamlessly, earned a comfortable 5–1 win. The final match against Droitwich High School was incredibly tense, with the opposition moving the ball at lightning speed down the court. In another nail-biting finish, Year 8 held their composure to win 4–3 and seal the title. A special mention goes to Izzy P, who was deservedly named Player of the Tournament. Chloe M and Leyla L were a formidable defensive duo, consistently winning back possession, while the shooters linked up brilliantly throughout. An exceptional team performance and a fantastic achievement for Year 8!

Year 8 County Netball Tournament



Our Year 8 netball team proudly progressed to the County Netball Tournament, which was held at RGS Worcester. The girls showed fantastic determination and teamwork throughout the day, competing against some very strong opposition. Our first match was a tough test against RGS School, who were clinical in front of goal and rarely missed a shot, resulting in a 9–4 loss. We then faced Hanley Castle High School and, despite working tirelessly, were beaten 8–3. Hanley were particularly strong at intercepting and breaking down our possession, making it difficult for us to build momentum.

The team responded brilliantly in their final game against Stourport High School, securing an impressive 9–4 victory. The match was evenly contested, with the score tied at 4–4 at half time. After the break, fresh legs were brought on through well-timed substitutions, and every player stepped up to make a difference. The renewed energy and determination across the court helped the girls pull away in the second half and seal a well-deserved win. We are incredibly proud of their resilience, teamwork and positive attitude throughout the tournament.



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Year 6 District Netball Tournament

Parkside's Year 6 netball team recently took part in the District Netball Tournament held at Alvechurch School, and what a fantastic performance it was. The team played with great determination and teamwork throughout the day, scoring an impressive total of 42 goals while conceding only 6. This strong defensive record was a real testament to Leni and Evie, who were outstanding at the back and worked brilliantly together to keep opposition teams from scoring.

The team enjoyed a series of excellent results, beating Alvechurch 8–1, Dodderhill 7–0, AFMS 5–2 and Catshill 7–0. They finished the tournament on a real high with a superb 12–0 win against Westacre. The only narrow defeat came against St John's, losing 3–2 in a closely contested match. The team showed great resilience and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

It was also the first time Elyssa and Izzy had represented the school in a tournament, and they both did a fantastic job contributing to the team's success. Zeke's fitness was outstanding as he played at centre in all seven games, tirelessly running throughout the day and showcasing incredible stamina and commitment.

A special mention must go to Zac L, who was voted Players' Player of the Tournament by his teammates, and to Zeke A-W who was awarded Coach's Player for his excellent performance and attitude throughout the competition. Well done to the whole team for representing Parkside so brilliantly.



Year 6 Boys Football vs St John's Middle School

In the quarter-final of the ESFA Cup, the Year 6 boys produced one of their strongest performances of the season, securing an impressive 3–0 victory over St John's Middle School. From the first whistle, the team showed real intent, working hard off the ball, linking up confidently in possession and demonstrating excellent composure in front of goal.

All three goals were the result of well-constructed moves that highlighted the boys' teamwork and determination to progress further in the competition. Player of the Match was deservedly awarded to **Jake B.**



Year 5 Boys Football vs St John's Middle School

The Year 5 boys enjoyed a busy afternoon of football as they played three consecutive fixtures against St John's Middle School. Across all games, the boys displayed fantastic energy and enthusiasm, adapting quickly to different challenges and showing great resilience when matches became competitive. There were some outstanding individual moments, but what stood out most was the team spirit, communication, and willingness to support one another. It was also brilliant to see our **Year 8 Sports Leaders** taking full responsibility for officiating and coaching the matches. They showed maturity, confidence, and professionalism, and their involvement ensured the afternoon ran smoothly while giving younger pupils a positive footballing experience.



KS3 Boys Rugby vs Aston Fields Middle School and St John's Middle School

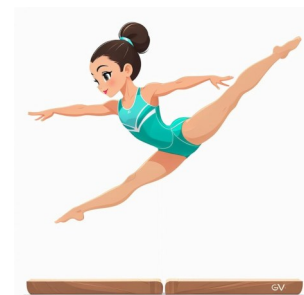


Parkside hosted a triangular rugby tournament involving teams from Parkside, Aston Fields Middle School and St John's Middle School. This event has become a regular feature in our sporting calendar, and each time the boys continue to show noticeable development. The KS3 squad demonstrated real progression in their handling, tackling, and tactical understanding, resulting in some closely fought contests throughout the afternoon. The commitment

shown by the players was clear, with the boys working exceptionally hard in both attack and defence. Rugby continues to grow in popularity across the school, and it has been fantastic to see so many pupils engaging with the sport. Although this marked the final appearance for our Year 8 players, we hope they continue to pursue rugby outside of school, as many have shown real promise.

First School Gymnastics Festival

The First School Gymnastics Festival provided a brilliant opportunity for our Year 8 Sports Leaders to step into mentoring and event-support roles. Throughout the day, they welcomed visiting schools, guided younger pupils around the different activities, and ensured every participant could use the equipment safely and confidently. Their enthusiasm, patience, and professionalism were repeatedly praised by teachers and event organisers, who commented on how well they represented Parkside Middle School. The Sports Leaders demonstrated true role-model behaviour, helping the younger children feel comfortable, motivated, and proud of their achievements. It was a thoroughly successful event, and the pupils involved should feel very proud of the experience they helped deliver.



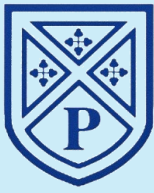
Year 8 Boys Football vs St John's Middle School

The Year 8 boys returned to action with a highly anticipated local derby against St John's Middle School. Both the A and B teams gave excellent accounts of themselves, showcasing determination, teamwork, and technical ability.

- **A Team vs St Johns A:** The A team produced a competitive and end-to-end game that finished in a well-earned 2–2 draw. The boys showed great character to stay in the match and create chances throughout. **Player of the Match: Noah MB**, who impressed with his composure and consistency.
- **B Team vs St Johns B:** The B team battled hard and secured a fantastic 2–1 win, demonstrating real teamwork and a strong defensive effort in the closing stages. **Player of the Match: Jimmy W**, whose tireless work rate and positive attitude proved crucial.



A huge thank you must go to **Mr Duggal** for his ongoing support and commitment to the Year 8 squad this season.



Year 5 Primary Panathlon Finals

A group of Year 5 pupils travelled to Perdisswell Leisure Centre for the Worcestershire Panathlon Finals, having earned their place by winning a qualifying event last half term. Representing the school at county level is a significant achievement, and the pupils rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and determination. Competing against schools from across Worcestershire, they demonstrated confidence, teamwork, and strong sporting values, supporting each other through every event. Mrs Jakeman and Mrs Vincent were incredibly proud of how well they represented Parkside, both in their performance and their attitude throughout the day.



Year 7 Boys Football vs Alvechurch Middle School

The Year 7 boys delivered an exciting away performance against Alvechurch Middle School, securing a thrilling 6–4 victory. The match was full of attacking football, with the team linking up well and showing great creativity in the final third. The standout moment of the afternoon came from **Harry H**, who scored an incredible five goals and was rightly named **Player of the Match**. His movement, finishing, and work rate were exceptional, but the whole squad contributed to a memorable and entertaining display. The boys should be proud of their performance and resilience in what was a fast-paced game.



Year 6 Mixed Hockey Tournament



A group of Year 6 pupils travelled to Bromsgrove Hockey Club for a mixed tournament involving several local schools. Throughout the event, the team demonstrated strong teamwork, quick decision-making, and a willingness to challenge themselves against experienced opposition. Parkside finished in **4th place**, which was a fantastic achievement given the high standard of competition. Many pupils displayed impressive stick-skills, positional understanding, and determination, showing real potential in the sport. It was a valuable learning experience and a thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved.

Year 7 Boys Football vs St John's Middle School

Two Year 7 teams took on St John's Middle School in another busy afternoon of football.

- **A Team:** The A team produced a highly competitive match that ended in an exciting 5–5 draw. The boys showed great resilience to keep themselves in the game and continued to create chances throughout. **Player of the Match: Luke F**, who offered creativity, composure, and consistent quality.
- **B Team:** The B team worked incredibly hard despite a challenging match that ended in a 6–1 defeat. They continued to battle throughout and showed excellent attitude and sportsmanship. **Player of the Match: Josh B**, recognised for his determination and effort across the pitch.





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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.

Please park with consideration at all times around the school site and neighbouring roads and reframe from blocking any private driveways.

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

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13th April	School reopens
Tuesday 14th April	Year 8 HPV Vaccines
Wednesday 29th April	5JB Swimming
Monday 4th May	School closed for May Day
Monday 11th May	SATs Week
Friday 22nd May	School closes for half term

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.	