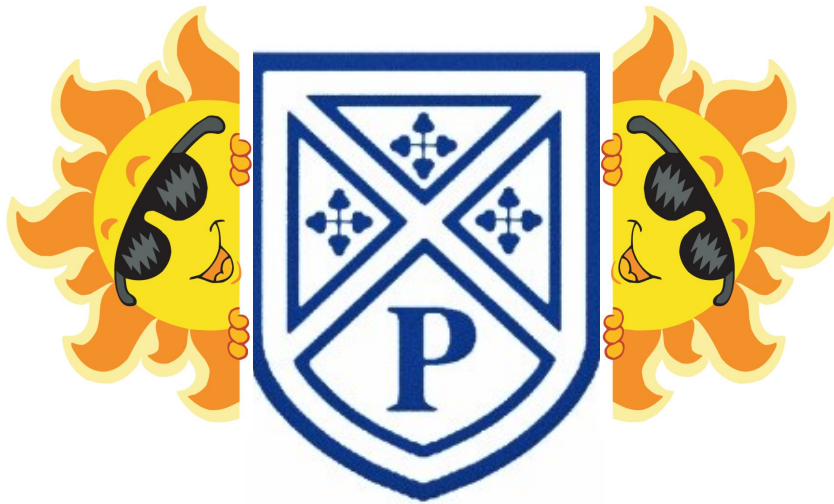


Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

May 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:



Aiden L	Ellianna SW	Isobel K	Georgie G	Archie M	Oliver B	Harry D	Bobbi A
HV	Beatrice DH	Joseph B	Erin L	Daniel CF	Scarlett D	Izzy CJ	Eleanor F
Chase S	Eva O	Dexter L	Lucy A	Evie-May P	DW	Myla W	Kadeen A
Aidan W	Oliver B	Holly S	Thomas C	Willow H	Ella P	Bobby C	ALC

Aila-Honey H

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

As we wrap up this half term, we are delighted to share this half term's amazing achievement point total 31,958.

Our total for this year so far is 189,284!

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 Beatrice DH who topped the leaderboard with 195 achievement points this term! This is an amazing accomplishment.

SPORTS FOR CHAMPIONS 2026

On Friday 24th April, Parkside had an amazing day with the visit of not one, but three fantastic athletes for Sports for Champions. Winter Olympic bobsleigh medalist, Leon Greenwood, visited the school and worked with pupils throughout the day on their own challenge circuits. He brought cricketer Tina Gough and hockey player Betsan Thomas. He spoke to the whole-school in an inspiring and enjoyable assembly, really capturing our value of resilience.

Thank you to our wonderful Sports Leaders and Mr. Spalding for their hard work! We raised a fantastic total of £6039!

This was some of the highest fundraising the company had received, and Leon Greenwood praised the fantastic culture at Parkside, saying:

“You have something really special happening here – keep it up.”

A huge thank you to all of our pupils and families for your amazing fundraising, support and generosity. The money will support us in creating our sensory garden, outdoor learning area and play equipment for our pupils in school.

We are incredibly proud of our school community!

PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL - BROMSGROVE

SPORTS FOR Champions!

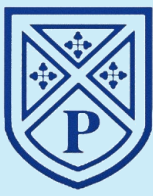
WE RAISED A GRAND TOTAL OF £6039

A huge thank you TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED AND SUPPORTED!

Leon Greenwood commented: *“You have something really special happening here - keep it up.”*

Your generosity helps us continue inspiring and supporting the champions of the future!

Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

YEAR 5 & 6 ART DAY ADVENTURES

The classrooms were buzzing as Year 5 and Year 6 stepped into the role of young artists and environmental storytellers for a special Art Day inspired by Earth Day.

Pupils explored the challenges facing our planet— creating some fantastic research and expressive drawings. From textured mark-making to thoughtful compositions, their work reflected both concern and hope for our environment.

Year 5 embraced the delicate beauty of the seaside, crafting stunning **shell mono prints**—each one a unique impression, capturing the rhythm and patterns of the natural world. Meanwhile, Year 6 sculptors brought the ocean to life, carefully shaping **clay sea turtles**, celebrating these incredible creatures while highlighting the importance of protecting them.



Our results were a gallery of imaginative, meaningful, and beautifully crafted artwork that truly spoke from their hearts

We hope you enjoy exploring their creations as much as we loved watching them come to life!



A huge well done to our talented Year 5 and Year 6 artists!

YEAR 5 ART DAY—CLAY IN A DAY

On Monday 18th May, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a fantastic Art Day focused on the theme *Clay in a Day*. The children spent the day exploring the world of clay, learning new skills and developing their creativity through hands-on activities.

During the morning, pupils researched different clay pots and famous potters, looking closely at a variety of unique creations and styles. They discussed the techniques used by artists and gathered ideas to inspire their own work. Using this research, the children then designed their own coil clay pots, carefully thinking about shape, pattern and detail.



In the afternoon, the classroom became a busy pottery workshop as the

pupils brought their designs to life. Using clay and coil-building techniques, they carefully shaped and constructed their pots, adapting and improving their ideas as they worked.

To finish the day, the children evaluated their creations, reflecting on how their original designs had changed during the making process and considering what had worked well.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with one child commenting:

“I really enjoyed playing with clay.”

Another pupil said:

“It was fun, I was proud of the pot I made.”

Well done to all of Year 5 for their creativity, enthusiasm and excellent artistic skills throughout the day!





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

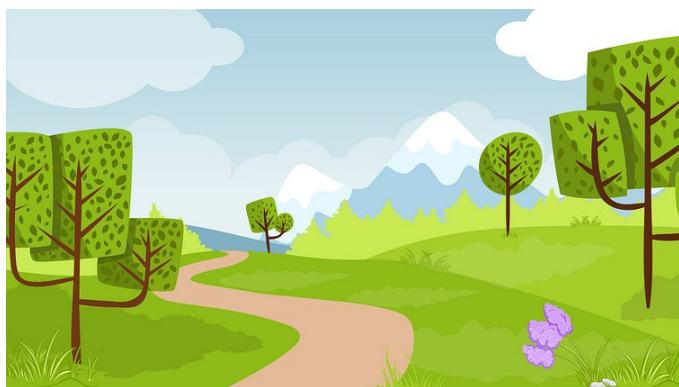
INSPIRING FUTURES

This week's assemblies have really focused on 'inspiring futures'. Our pupils have been very lucky to have Miss Doherty talk to them about her beekeeping and independent honey business that she runs outside of school.

Miss Doherty captured our pupils' interest by telling them all about what it takes to be a beekeeper and brought in some real-life examples for pupils to look at. There was a real 'buzz' about the assembly!



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY– LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



To celebrate Outdoor Classroom Day on Thursday 21st May, teachers were encouraged to plan at least one lesson outside during the week beginning 18th May. It was wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying their learning in the fresh air while developing key skills across the curriculum.

In Maths, 5JP explored the properties of 3D shapes through practical outdoor activities, helping pupils to identify and discuss faces, edges and vertices in a fun and engaging way.

During English lessons, Year 5 pupils took their learning outside to research sloths and discover how they survive in their rainforest habitats. The information gathered will support pupils in writing an exciting non-fiction report.

In RLM, 5JP used measuring equipment to investigate weight and capacity, developing their practical measuring skills through hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

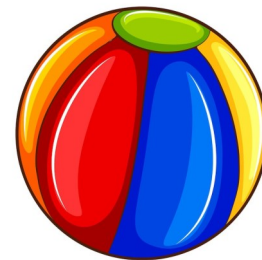
Outdoor Classroom Day was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn in a different environment, encouraging curiosity, teamwork and active learning.

SCHOOL COUNCIL SUCCESS!



We are delighted to share some fantastic news from our School Council. Following their hard work and dedication, they have successfully secured new play equipment for each year group!

This exciting addition has been made possible thanks to the funds raised through the *Sports for Champions* event.





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

YEAR 6 SATS WEEK

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!

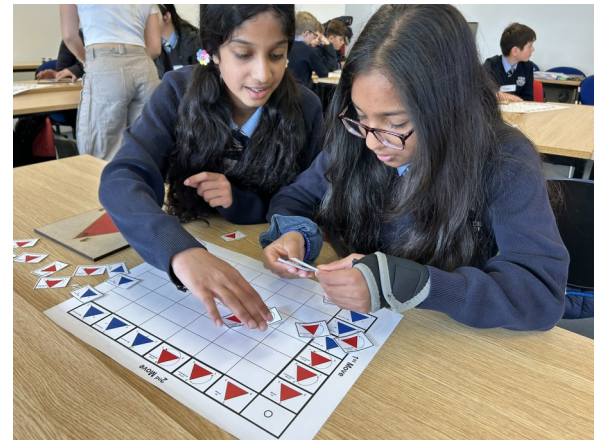
We would also like to say how impressed we were with Years 5, 7 and 8 who supported the Year 6 pupils throughout the week showing empathy and consideration when moving around the building, reinforcing our Parkside Values.



UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK TRIP

Some of our Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting maths trip to the University of Warwick on 14th April 2026, joining pupils from two other middle schools for a day of discovery and challenge. The visit gave students a fantastic opportunity to experience university life while engaging in hands-on mathematical activities. Working alongside undergraduate students, they tackled complex and thought-provoking tasks, including investigations into Möbius strips. The group also took part in a lively and engaging Maths Roadshow, which brought mathematical concepts to life in fun and interactive ways.

One of the highlights of the day was the symmetry triangle challenges, where students tested their problem-solving and teamwork skills. In addition to the academic activities, students were given a tour of the campus, offering a glimpse into university study and accommodation. They particularly enjoyed seeing how students live and learn, leaving many feeling inspired about their own future pathways.



KS3 JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

A group of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge, a national competition that encourages students to think deeply and apply their mathematical reasoning and problem solving skills. The challenge gave pupils a mix of tricky, unfamiliar problems that really made them think, spot patterns, and apply their skills in new ways. It was great to see their resilience and enthusiasm as they worked through the questions.

We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who took part. Representing the school in a national competition is a great achievement, and they should feel very pleased with their efforts and commitment.

We are delighted to announce that 29 pupils achieved Bronze awards, 11 achieved Silver awards and 4 pupils were awarded Gold!

A special mention to Tilly, who has successfully qualified for the next stage of the competition — the Junior Kangaroo. This is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects her dedication and mathematical talent.





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

TRANSITION SPORTS AFTERNOON

We were delighted to host an Olympic Transition Afternoon for pupils from three of our local first schools. The event provided an exciting opportunity for visiting students to experience a range of sports available in middle school, helping to ease their transition and build confidence ahead of the next stage in their education. It was also a wonderful chance for pupils to meet our PE staff, putting friendly faces to names and beginning to form positive relationships.



The afternoon was a great success, with exemplary behaviour demonstrated by all involved. Our sports leaders were outstanding, acting as excellent role models while supporting and guiding the younger pupils. They confidently demonstrated skills and teaching techniques, creating a welcoming and encouraging environment. The event was filled with happy, smiling faces, and we received many positive comments about how smoothly the afternoon ran and how much the pupils enjoyed their experience.

'THIS GIRL CAN' FESTIVAL

Twelve Year 8 pupils recently attended the This Girl Can Festival at David Lloyd, where they had the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting fitness and well-being activities. The pupils sampled three different sessions designed to promote confidence, health, and enjoyment through exercise. Throughout the day, they also took part in discussions around body confidence and barriers to participation in PE and sport, encouraging positive attitudes towards physical activity and lifelong involvement in exercise and wellbeing. Students also enjoyed sampling a selection of fresh fruit smoothies as part of the event.



The first activity, *Spirit in the Mind and Body Studio*, introduced pupils to an ancient form of yoga that helped to calm the mind, build strength, and improve flexibility. They also took part in *Cardio Tennis*, a high-energy workout that combines tennis skills with cardiovascular fitness and endurance training. Finally, pupils enjoyed *Blaze*, an exciting mix of martial arts, cardio, and strength training that challenged them both physically and mentally. The students represented the school brilliantly, embraced every activity with enthusiasm, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

KS3 GIRLS TAG RUGBY EVENT

On Thursday 30th April, Mr. Spalding and a group of 11 year 8 girls travelled to Bromsgrove Rugby Club for a girls only rugby festival. The girls have been giving up their lunchtimes on Wednesdays to practice and shown great commitment to each other and to learning a new sport.

The day included a variety of activities working on rugby skills as well as some competitive games. It was amazing to see so many girls involved in the game of rugby.

Women's rugby is a hugely growing sport right now due to the success of England's Red Roses.





Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

U13 SEMI FINAL COUNTY CUP

Parkside faced King Charles in the semi-final but came up against a very well-drilled side, losing 5–0. Despite the scoreline, Parkside showed determination and worked hard throughout the match.



Chloe M led the defense with composure, while Phoebe H put in several strong tackles to try and hold back the opposition. Going forward, Darcey D was a constant threat down the wing, making multiple driving runs and delivering some excellent through balls.

However, King Charles' High defensive line and consistent clearances made it difficult for Parkside to break through and create clear chances. I am proud of the girls for their resilience and getting to the semi final.

YEAR 7 NETBALL FIXTURE

Year 7 recently travelled to St John's Middle School to take part in the district netball tournament. The team got off to a fantastic start, beating Witton 7–0, with our pupils displaying excellent teamwork and shooting ability. They continued their strong performance with an even more impressive 13–0 win against Waseley.



The girls then secured a thrilling 3–2 victory over Alvechurch, with one of our pupils scoring in the final 50 seconds to seal the win. A tough and closely contested match followed against the hosts, St John's Middle School, where the team narrowly lost 3–2. They then faced a strong Aston Fields side, who performed exceptionally well and secured an 8–2 victory.

Throughout the tournament, the girls showed great determination and teamwork, putting all their training into practice. Their efforts were rewarded with a brilliant 3rd place finish and bronze medals.

BREAKING DADS!

[Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum](#) has just launched two new events for **male parent carers raising neurodivergent young people** and I was hoping you would be able to **let your SEND families know! Perhaps forward this email?**

Breaking Dads! are fully inclusive events, **open to anyone who identifies as male and wants to explore autism.**

These sessions will be led by **late-diagnosed autistic Lee Burden**, a trainer with more than three decades at Autism West Midlands. As a specialist in autism awareness training and behavioural support, Lee has extensive experience in addressing behaviours of concern, equipping families with practical strategies and confidence in their approach. His training is grounded in both professional practice and lived experience. There are 2 dates and locations to choose from:

Breaking Dads! WORCESTER

Monday 1st June, 7.30pm

The Pheasant, 25 New Street, Worcester, WR1 2DP

Book your ticket at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1989096014725?aff=oddttdcreator>

Breaking Dads! BROMSGROVE

Wednesday 24th June 7:00pm

Central Bromsgrove Venue TBC



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

THE BIG FUTURE SURVEY

Under the Children Act 2004, it is my role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and I have done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: The Big Ask and The Big Ambition.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them.

That's why I'm launching my final survey, The Big Future.

YOUR STUDENTS SHOULD COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE: [HTTP://WWW.CHILDRENSCOMMISSIONER.GOV.UK/THEBIGFUTURE](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture).

I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. To do that, I need your help.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I am asking you to share the survey with all the children, parents and carers in your school or college community. Schools and colleges that achieve high participation rates will receive formal recognition for their contribution to amplifying children's voices and encouraging civic engagement, and a summary of their pupils' responses.

To support you to do this, I have created a pack of resources which include an introductory video, a lesson plan, and FAQs, which are available on my website. I would be grateful if you could ensure that every child in your school or college has taken part before the deadline of Friday 23rd October 2026.

I will be publishing my findings next year, and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see, to the problems that they tell me are most important to them.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

DAME RACHEL DE SOUZA

Children's Commissioner



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.



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

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.



Embrace Opportunity. Nurture Success. Inspire Futures.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 1st June	School closed for TE Day
Tuesday 2nd June	School reopens
Thursday 4th June	Year 5 Class & Year 8 Individual/group Photographs
Tuesday 7th July	Inter-house Sports Competition (Sports Day)
Tuesday 7th July	Music Concert
Wednesday 8th July	Reserve Inter-house Sports Competition (Sports Day)
Monday 13th July	Transition Day—Year 8 to High Schools
Wednesday 15th July	Year 8 Presentation Afternoon
Thursday 16th July	Year 8 Treat Day
Friday 17th July	Year 8 Leavers' Assembly
Friday 17th July	School closes for Summer 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.	