



Park House Primary School  
Rupert Street, Lower Pilsley,  
Chesterfield, Derbyshire,  
S45 8DB



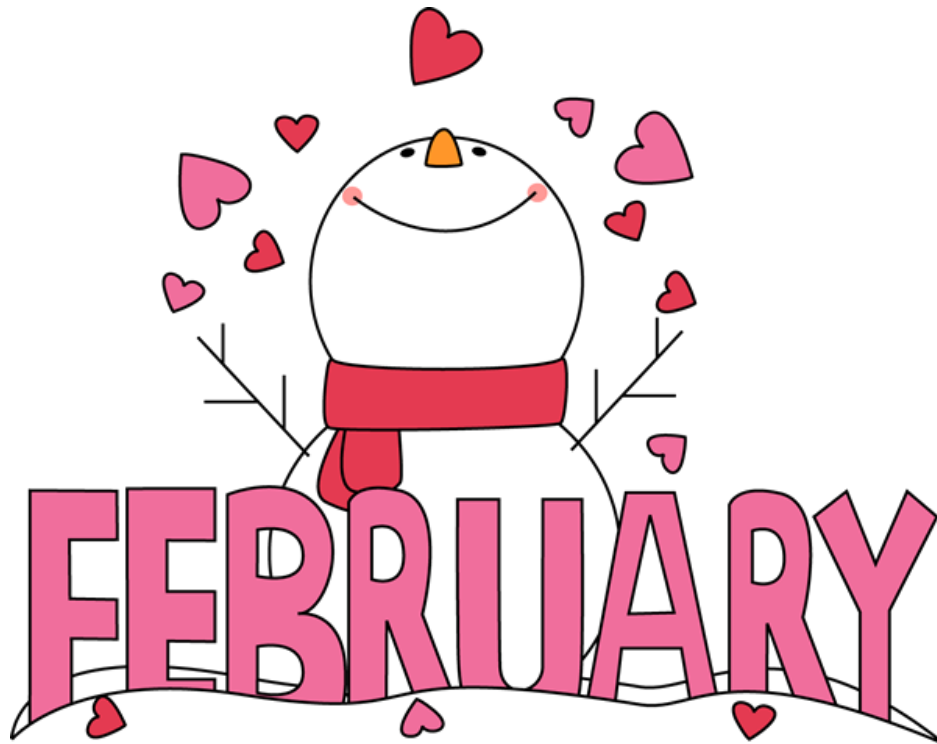
Tel/Fax: 01246 851185  
Headteacher: Mrs S Kavanagh



@parkhouse1889

# January/February 2024

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy start back following the Christmas break. Mr Mackay the 'Animal Man' visited Reception, Year 1 and Year 3. Our pupils have loved meeting different animals from slow worms and a tekren, to an owl and a scorpion. Year 5 have had a lovely trip to the National Space Centre, where the rover instructor has said we have many budding programmers! Year 3 have taken part in an invasion game event with Qualitas. We have some more exciting events coming up this term with Year 5's residential to Lea Green, Year 6 have been invited to Tupton Hall to see their performance of Bugsy Malone and later in the term they are going to see the Boy at the Back of the Class at the Lyceum in

Sheffield. Reception have their visit to Matlock Farm Park and we also have the Qualitas dance festival, netball and football tournament's coming up. Thank you to the parents and volunteers who have joined us on these trips.

Please note that there has been a change to year groups undertaking the dance festival and it will be Reception and Year 2.

We have been pleased to see many of our pupils coming back to school ready to learn. Please can you help with this by ensuring they have their named PE kit in school and ensuring they keep their toys at home with them. We have noticed an increase in toys being brought in from home, we'd hate for them to lose them.

The week before half term brings our next set of parents evenings. **You should have received a message from the ParentsEvening app to login to book your appointment.** Where you have siblings in school, please do not book back to back appointments (unless they are in the same class), in case of delays. If you do not receive the parents evening link to book by Tuesday 30th January please get in touch with the office. During the parents evenings we will be running the book fair again, this is card/contactless payments only please.

Drop of and collection from school.

Just a reminder that pupils should be dropped off and collected from school by an adult or someone they are familiar with over the age of 16 years please. Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6, with written permission to walk home, are exempt from this. This is a safeguarding and safety measure, we would hate for something to happen to your child when the road is so busy outside school. We have had a number of cases of this recently. If you are unable to collect your child for any reason, please ring the office and we can see how we can help you.

We have some intermittent reports that the answerphone/ telephones aren't working. We have been looking into this but cannot find the cause. We only have two phone lines and can only assume that these were engaged at the time of the problems. If you are unable to leave a message then please send the office a dojo message.

Kindest regards

Mrs Kavanagh







NSPCC Day 2nd February





On Friday 2nd February we are raising money for the NSPCC by dressing up as a TTRockstar, Numbot or a number. Donations can be made via ParentPay.

There are some class and school challenges going on to win your class a non-uniform day. Please see Mrs Cook's dojo post for more information.

## STEM Week



Every year we celebrate science in school and previously have had science days. Each year we have a different theme and this year it is Time.

This year we would like to do this a little differently and promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) by running some workshops for our pupils to attend.

There is a survey below for any families (parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles) who work in these areas that might be interested in supporting us by running a workshop.

<https://forms.office.com/e/LuNQLDHq12>

Numbots/TTRockstars Survey



The Governors have asked us to look into the uptake of Numbots and TTRockstars to identify if there are any barriers to accessing the apps.

Please can you complete the short survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/tMjJKXuTb>

## Yr 6 SATS end of Key Stage 2 meeting



We know that the prospect of SATs, especially in Yr 6, can cause undue stress and worry for pupils and their families.

To help explain what the End of KS2 assessments (SATs) that all children in Year 6 will be expected to sit in May 2024 are; how we support our pupils and what you can do at home; we are holding a meeting for Yr6 parents at **4pm on Tuesday 27th February in the school hall.**

For any parents unable to make the meeting please let Mrs Key know and we will make sure that you have all the information.

Please don't let your child worry, reassure them that these tests are used to check schools have taught what they should do and identify any gaps where learning hasn't stuck.

The learning you do at primary school prepares you for your time at secondary school. For example, reading is not taught after you leave Year 6. If we can provide you with the skills to access your learning in Year 7, then you will have a great start to the next chapter in your life. These tests do not define who you are and what you can become, they don't show how amazing you are at dancing, performing, sports and how caring you are to your friends.

Friends of Park House Disco



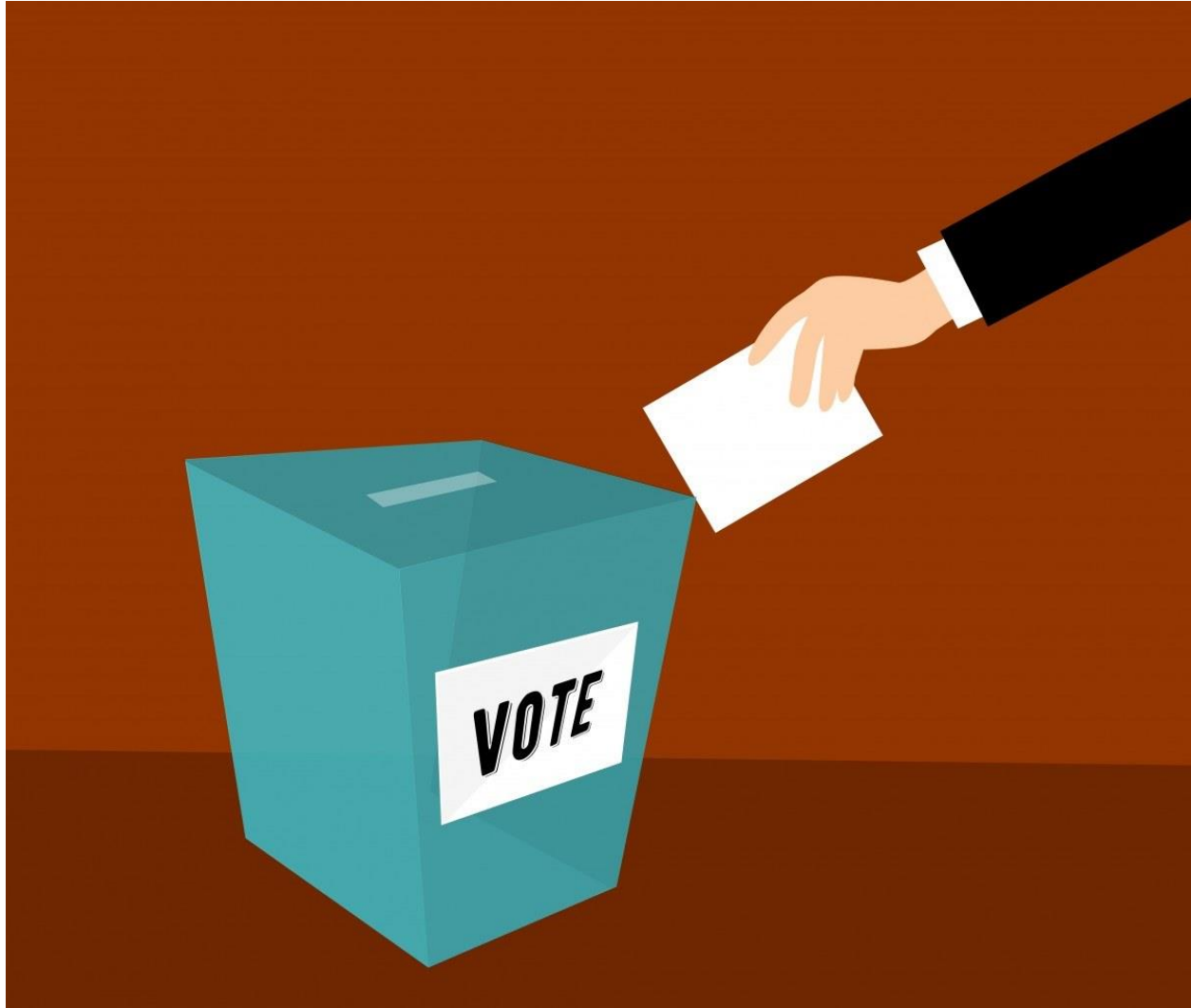


The Friends of Park House are hoping to hold their next disco after half term. **We are in need of helpers.**

If you are able to help out with preparations behind the scenes or even on the day, please either let Mrs Kavanagh or the Friends of Park House know.

Following the disco the next event will be their chocolate raffle. There will be a non-uniform day in exchange for a donation of chocolate on Friday 8th March.

## Polling Station Update



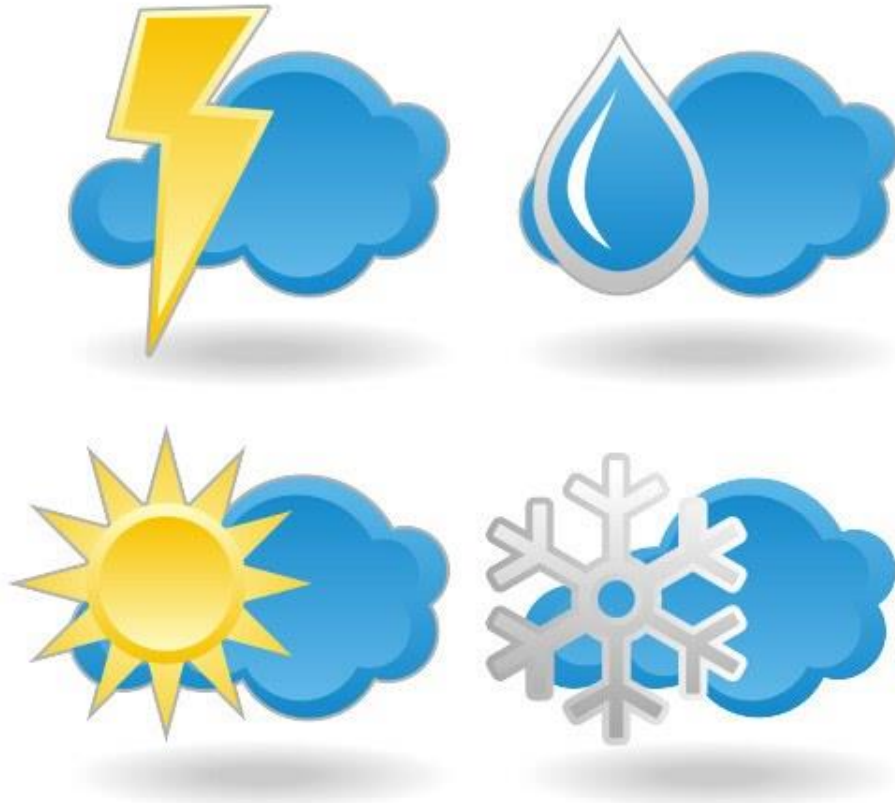
Last term we shared the details of how to contribute to a review of polling stations, this was undertaken by North East Derbyshire County Council (NEDCC).

We have got further than we have previously, in trying to remove Park House Primary School from being used as a polling station. We echo the feelings parents have over the disruption this causes to our pupils and also to working families. NEDCC have agreed to consider another venue, however this will be dependent upon their successful extension being agreed and completed. This is unlikely to be this year.

We have not been informed officially yet of the outcome of this review but it is looking **very likely we will be used as a polling station on Thursday 2nd May 2024** and also possibly for the General Election which is due to take place in the Autumn. At the time of the request for submissions to this review, we had not been informed we would be used as a polling station this academic year.

Once we have received the formal confirmation that we will be used we will let parents know, but in the meantime we wanted to give as much notice as possible that school most likely will need to close to be used as a polling station in May.

## Weather and Uniform



**Please, please, please can you ensure uniform is clearly named**, we have an increasing amount of lost property we have been unable to reunite to it's owner.

We are approaching the time of year when the weather fluctuates. Please ensure your child/ren have appropriate clothing for the weather e.g. rain coats, snow boots/wellies.

If we have snow or rain your child/ren can bring a change of shoes or come wearing wellies and have a change of shoes. We do ask that if they bring umbrellas or wellies these are named.

**Should we receive any inclement weather which may cause disruption to school being open such as heavy snow, we will inform you as soon as possible via ClassDojo, local radio and the Derbyshire County Council website..**

Please ensure clothes for sports clubs are appropriate for the weather too.

Please remember that jewellery outside of a watch and earrings are prohibited in school. Hair that touches the shoulders should be tied up.

## Key Dates For Your Diary



### **2023/2024 Academic year Inset days will be:**

- Monday 4th September - Completed
  - Tuesday 5th September - Completed
  - Friday 22nd December - Completed
  - Friday 24th May
  - Wednesday 26th June

### **Term Dates 2023/2024**

#### **Spring Term**

##### **8.1.24 School Back**

8.1.24 Yr 4 Swimming

18.1.24 The Animal Man visiting Reception, Year 1 and Year 3

24.1.24 Yr 5 Trip to the National Space Centre

25.1.24 Yr 3 Qualitas invasion games event

2.2.24 NSPCC - dress up as a Numbot , TTRockstar or number for £1

W/C 5.2.24 Safer Internet Week

W/C 12.2.24 Parents Evening and book fair

12.2.24 Last Yr 4 Swimming Session

12.2.24 Yr2 trip to Cromford Mill

**16.02.24 last day of half term**

**26.02.24 School starts back**

26.2.24 Yr 3 Swimming starts

1.3.24 Disco TBC

1.3.24 Qualitas Netball Tournament

5.3.24 Yr 5 Lea Green parents meeting 3.40pm in the hall

7.3.24 Yr 6 Sheffield Lyceum trip (pm)

8.3.24 Non-uniform day for chocolate donations for Friends of Park House chocolate raffle.

W/C 11.3.24 Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) week

14.3.24 Qualitas Dance Festival **Yr 2 and Reception**

22.3.24 Qualitas Yr 5/6 Football Team Tournament

25.3.24 Reception Trip to Matlock Farm Park

26.3.24 Yr 3 & Yr 4 Easter Concert @ St Mary's Church tbc

27.3.24-28.3.24 Yr 5 Residential Trip to Lea Green

**28.03.24 Last day of term**

**Summer Term**

**15.4.24 School starts back**

16.4.24 Yr 1 Trip to Sudbury Children's Museum

25.4.24 Yr 4 Tag Rugby Event TBC

**2.5.24 Polling Station - School Closed**

**6.5.24 Bank Holiday - School Closed**

W/C 13.5.24 End of KS2 Assessments (SATs)

**23.5.24 last day of half term**

**24.5.24 Inset day**

**27.5.24 Bank Holiday - School Closed**

**3.6.24 School starts back**

3.6.24 Yr 1 Gymnastics Event TBC

During June will be the Phonics Screening Check in Yr 1 and the Multiplication Check in Yr 4.

20.6.24 Yr 6 Tupton Transition Day

**26.6.24 Inset day**

27.6.24 Yr 6 Tupton Transition Day

4.7.24 Yr 6 Tupton Transition Day

11.7.24 Yr 6 Tupton Transition Day

**23.7.24 Last day of term**