



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

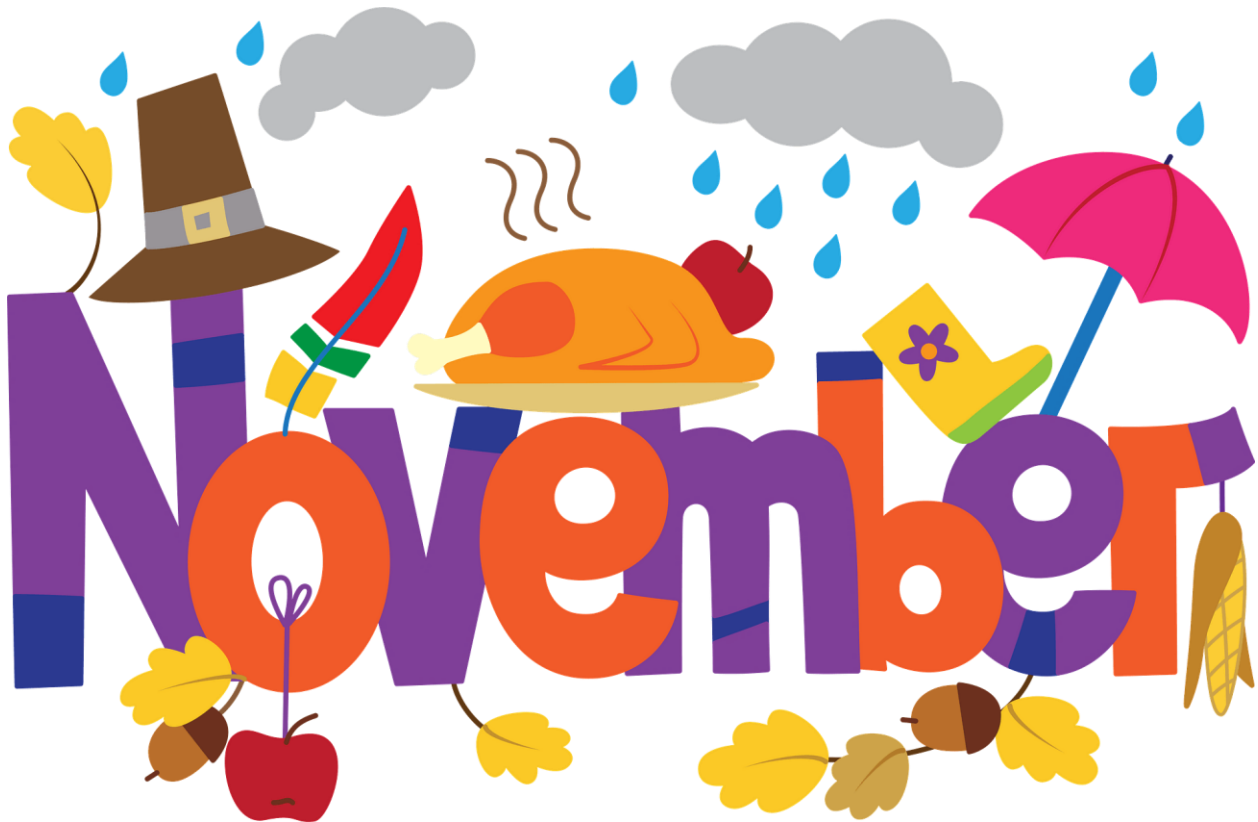


Tel/Fax: 01246 851185
Headteacher: Mrs S Kavanagh



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November Newsletter 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, we hope you have had a lovely half term despite the wet weather!

We are kicking off this term with the Year 4 trip to Perlethorpe and also the Friends of Park House disco on Friday 10th November. Entry is £1 and there will be food, games, stalls and dancing. We welcome any

helpers on the day, if you can support us to run this event, please sign up in the baking kitchen. Without the support of helpers, we are unable to run the events in school. Reception pupils will need an adult to stay with them for the disco.

Later this term will bring our Year 6 residential trip to Duke's Barn and the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church and also our Reception and Key Stage 1 Nativity. Once everyone has their ParentPay logins sorted, we will then set up the booking for tickets. Initially these will be 2 tickets per family and then should spare places be available we will make extra tickets available. The office will inform you when these are available to book.

Last half term, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Mills held a Phonics drop in for families of those in Reception and Year 1. We hope you found it helpful and thank you for joining us

Reception places for September 2024:

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. You should apply for their infant or primary school place by 15 January 2024. You will be able to make your application from 9am on 6 November 2023. We are running tours for prospective families.

You can find additional information on how to apply here:

[Apply for a school place - Derbyshire County Council](#)

ParentPay Logins

Hopefully all families have now received their ParentPay login details and have been able to set up your accounts. If you have any problems then Mrs Parker will be happy to help. Any remaining credit on SchoolMoney should have been refunded to the payment method used originally. Childcare vouchers have been transferred to ParentPay as credit to use.

Just a reminder that all breakfast and afterschool club sessions need to be booked by the end of the week before to ensure staffing levels meet statutory requirements. We strongly urge families to book sessions as far in advance as possible to secure your places.

Welcome to Mrs North

We are pleased to welcome Mrs North to the Park House team. Mrs North will be coming in to meet Year 4 shortly and get to know them before starting with us in January when Mrs Hopkins goes on maternity leave.

Thank you

Mrs Goodwin has decided to step back from breakfast and afterschool club. Mrs Goodwin isn't going far and will continue to be a Teaching Assistant within school. We would like to thank her for her support since we set up the breakfast and afterschool club.

Farewell

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Parker in the office on Friday 1st December. Our congratulations go to Mrs Parker who has secured a promotion at a larger school. We currently have a vacancy advertised for a School Business Officer which can be viewed here:

[School Business Officer \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](http://derbyshire.gov.uk)

Kindest regards,

Mrs Kavanagh

Friends of Park House



Friends of Park House held their AGM last half term and Laura Cressey was voted in as Chair, with Claire Edwards as Vice-Chair.

They have already started to plan some fun events for the academic year and this kicks off with the disco on Friday 10th November.

One of the areas discussed at the AGM was for a survey to be sent out to parents to gather your views on whether you prefer the Summer Fair on a Saturday or would prefer a Friday. The survey can be found [here](#):

<https://forms.office.com/e/g827fPqVv8>

The Friends of Park House provide our Year 6 pupils with a leavers' hoodie. This year they aim to give these out at Easter to enable Year 6 to wear these during the summer term. Shortly a survey will be sent out via ClassDojo on the Year 6 class story to order the correct size for your child.

If you can help at any events or help behind the scenes, please get in touch.

Children in Need



On Friday 17th November we are raising money for Children in Need with 'mad hair' for a £1 donation.

Money can be given to your class teacher on the morning of the 17th November. Let your imagination shine!







Spellings



As you may be aware, we are working with the English Hub to enhance our development of Early Reading. Research supports explicit spelling instruction to develop better readers and has indicated that spelling tests are not the most effective strategy, with children learning spellings by rote purely for a weekly test only for them to then be forgotten and not applied in daily written work.

We have made the decision to move away from weekly spelling tests following recent advice from English consultants at Derbyshire County Council and also the English Hub. This will come into effect when we return after October half term. We recognise that the testing process can cause additional anxiety for some and we hope that this takes the pressure off adults at home feeling like they have to battle away to get their child (or children) to learn spellings.

We will be putting the following things in place to ensure that we continue to teach and monitor spellings thoroughly:

- Prioritising the teaching of spelling in discrete lessons, 2-3 times a week in short burst sessions. At the discretion of the class teacher, daily spelling practice may be required. The time gained from removing spelling tests will enable us to spend more time on direct instruction and plugging any gaps.
- Teachers will focus on teaching specific strategies to support children with their spelling, building on phonic knowledge from earlier school years and also making stronger connections between root words, prefixes and suffixes.
- Targeted phonics support will be available for identified children. This will happen alongside exposure to their age-related spellings.
- Teachers may occasionally use quick low-stakes quizzes or peer testing to help identify spelling misconceptions, tricky spelling patterns etc. which can therefore help them to plan and adapt their teaching accordingly.
- ClassDojo will continue to be used as a reward system but instead of rewarding test scores, teachers will be looking to see which children are applying their spellings in their class work.

We are extremely fortunate to have a wonderful community at Park House and we understand that you are keen to know how best to support your child at home. For those parents who would like to continue spelling practice at home, the statutory word lists for each year group will be available on the school website and you are very welcome to work through these as you wish.

New Menu from 6th November



Discover our new Autumn & Winter menu

Seasonal vegetables or salad served with every meal

Week 1

W/C: 06.11.23 / 27.11.23 / 18.12.23 / 22.01.24 / *12.02.24 / 11.03.24

MONDAY

British chicken in a korma or tikka sauce

Vegetable & chickpea curry

served on a bed of rice with a homemade flatbread

Cook's choice of cookie

TUESDAY

Margarita pizza creamy mozzarella & tomato on a deep pan pizza base

Veggie mince tortilla stack

served with tomato pasta

Chocolate & beetroot brownie

WEDNESDAY

British roast chicken with stuffing & gravy

Butter bean & vegetable bake, with a crispy cheese topping

served with creamy mash potatoes & vegetables

Cornflake bar with a side portion of with fruit

THURSDAY

Big British breakfast including sausage & bacon

Big veggie breakfast; including vegan sausage & mushrooms

served with crispy potatoes, tomatoes & baked beans

Banana muffin

FRIDAY

Breaded fish fingers

Cheese & tomato puff pastry pinwheel

served with chips & garden peas

Fruit crumble with custard

Week 2

W/C: *13.11.23 / 04.12.23 / 08.01.24 / 29.01.24 / 26.02.24 / 18.03.24

MONDAY

Organic British beef meatballs in a tomato sauce

Quorn & vegetable stroganoff

served with pasta & homemade garlic bread

Cook's choice of cookie

TUESDAY

Margarita pizza creamy mozzarella & tomato on a deep pan pizza base

Quorn sausage pattie

served with potato wedges

Oaty flapjack with a side portion of fruit

WEDNESDAY

British roast pork served with, apple sauce & gravy

Cauliflower cheese bake with a crispy crumb topping

served with creamy mash potatoes & vegetables

Sprinkle cake

THURSDAY

Organic British beef casserole, served with a Yorkshire pudding

Vegan sausage roll

served with potatoes & gravy

Chocolate cracknel with a side portion of fruit

FRIDAY

Breaded fish fingers

Crispy veggie fingers

served with chips & baked beans

Apple sponge with custard

Week 3

W/C: 20.11.23 / 11.12.23 / *15.01.24 / 05.02.24 / *04.03.24 / 25.03.24

MONDAY

Spaghetti bolognese made with British beef

Quorn dippers served with pasta in a homemade sauce

served with freshly baked crusty bread

Cook's choice of cookie

TUESDAY

Organic British beef burger in a bun

Vegan burger in a bun

served with potato wedges & coleslaw

Carrot cake muffin

WEDNESDAY

British roast chicken with stuffing & gravy

Warming veggie cottage pie

served with creamy mashed potatoes & vegetables

Jelly & fruit

THURSDAY

Macaroni cheese

Veggie balls in a homemade tomato sauce with pasta

served with freshly baked garlic bread

Chocolate crunch with a side portion of fruit

FRIDAY

Breaded fish fingers

Veggie Sausage

served with chips & garden peas

Bakewell 'No Nut' tart with custard

All desserts are suitable for vegetarians

All schools have the option of either a pasta pot, filled jacket potato or sandwich, please speak to your school for their selection

Yoghurt & fresh fruit available daily



ALLERGY ICONS

* Theme Day weeks

Seafood with this mark comes from an MSC certified sustainable fishery. www.msc.org



Uniform



PE Kits

Please remember that we need PE kits kept in school each week. With the inclement weather setting in, we may have to reschedule PE sessions and it is helpful to have kits available in school. PE kits will be their coloured house T-shirt, black/dark shorts/leggings/joggers, sports shoes. **Football kits, lycra wear etc will not form part of the uniform and will be sent home.**

Names

Please **name all belongings**, from bags, water bottles, to jumpers and PE kits. Parents are welcome to come into school to check for lost property, at any point in the school year! This can be found at the end of the corridor near the baking kitchen. We already have a growing selection.

Key Dates For Your Diary



2023/2024 Academic year Inset days will be:

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

Term Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term

27.10.23 last day of half term

6.11.23 School starts back

9.11.23 Y2 & Y6 Fire Safety Workshops

9.11.23 Y4 Viking Trip to Perlethorpe

9.11.23 Full Governing Body Meeting (FGB)

10.11.23 **Disco** - Friends of Park House (Reception pupils need an adult with them please)

10.11.23 Netball Team Tournament

17.11.23 Mad Hair for Children in Need £1 donation

20.11.23-22.11.23 Y6 Residential to Dukes Barn

23.11.23 Poetry Day

27.11.23 Y4 Swimming starts (every Monday afternoon for 4 weeks)

6.12.23 Christmas Dinner

8.12.23 Panto (in school)

12.12.23 KS1 Nativity (evening performance)

12.12.23 KS2 Carol Concert (to Y3/4 parents at 10am)

13.12.23 KS1 Nativity (afternoon performance)

13.12.23 KS2 Carol Concert (to Y5/6 parents in the evening)

21.12.23 Christmas Party Lunch (if your child does not normally have school dinners but would like to take part, please let the office know)

21.12.23 Christmas Party Days

21.12.23 Last day of term

22.12.23 Inset Day - Christmas Holidays

Spring Term

8.1.24 School Back

16.02.24 last day of half term

26.02.24 School starts back

28.03.24 Last day of term

Summer Term

15.4.24 School starts back

6.5.24 Bank Holiday - School Closed

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

26.6.24 Inset day

23.7.24 Last day of term

School calendar 2023/24



August 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31		1	2	3	4	5	6
32	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
33	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
34	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
35	28	29	30	31			

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35					1	2	3
36	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
37	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
38	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
39	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
39							1
40	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
41	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
42	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
43	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
44	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44			1	2	3	4	5
45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
46	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
47	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
48	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48					1	2	3
49	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
50	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
51	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
52	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
49	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
50	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
51	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
52	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5				1	2	3	4
6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9					1	2	3
10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
13	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
18	29	30					

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18			1	2	3	4	5
19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22					1	2	
23	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
24	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
31	29	30	31				

Denotes Bank holidays
 Denotes School holiday dates
 195 days – including up to 5 days to be taken