



Park House Primary School
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October Newsletter 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start to the school year! It has been lovely to welcome our new friends in Reception and in Key Stage 2.

We have already started interschool sports events with Year 3 attending a Benchball festival and Year 2 attending a Fundamentals event. Later this week our Football team will be taking part in the first of two tournaments across the Tupton Qualitas Cluster. Year 3 have also been exploring the Stone Age with a

visit to Brackenhurst near Southwell and Year 4 will be visiting Perlethorpe to learn more about the Vikings.

Ofsted and the curriculum:

September saw the publication of the Ofsted report from the inspection that took place in July. We are very proud of the outcome and are grateful for the support we receive from our school community. I mentioned that we would go through some of the changes we have made to the curriculum. We have divided each half term for every year group into an enquiry area, where the foci will be Geography, History or Science. We start with an overarching enquiry question which is further broken down into about 6 'Big Questions'. Each question is used to identify the key knowledge we wish our pupils to recall and revisit for that enquiry area. We will be revisiting these questions throughout the academic year to help our pupils have the opportunity to revisit this learning to help ensure that it sticks. We are also breaking down the key vocabulary per year group to ensure that this can also be revisited. You can see an example of this here on our website:

[History | Park House Primary School](#)

Absence and Attendance:

Whilst our whole school attendance figures are within the expected levels by the Government, we have noticed an increase in the number of families taking holidays during term time. Schools cannot authorise holidays without evidence of exceptional circumstances. You can find out more here: [Attendance and School Forms | Park House Primary School](#). Letters confirming the outcome of the request are sent to both parents. Sadly, the number of unauthorised or suspected holidays have resulted in a higher number of fines being issued to our families by Derbyshire County Council.

We know that this can also seem at odds to when pupils are unwell, but there are some nasty colds and bugs flying around. If your child is unwell please follow the recommended absence guidance e.g. for tummy bugs they should stay off for 48 hours from the last bout of illness.

Breakfast and Afterschool Club:

We are pleased to announce that we have retained our Food Hygiene rating of 5. Our club is getting busy and is almost at capacity, please remember to book on in advance to ensure you secure your place.

Reception and Year 7 places for September 2024:

If your child was born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 and is in their last year of primary school you should apply for their secondary school place by 31 October 2023.

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.

You can find additional information here:

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

Parents Evening:

We will be holding parents evening the week commencing 23rd October. Later this week you will receive a message to enable you to book a slot with your child's class teacher. Please do not book consecutive slots with different teachers as if the sessions run late it will affect your next appointment. If you are unable to make any of the available slots, please contact your child's teacher directly to see if they can fit you in at a mutually convenient time.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Kavanagh

Little Wandle Parent Drop In Sessions



This September we started using the Little Wandle Phonics scheme.

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

We thought that you might find a parent drop in session helpful to see how phonics is taught and have the opportunity to ask any questions.

There will be a drop in session for **Reception parents (in the Year 1 classroom) date to be confirmed** and one for **Year 1 (in the Year 1 classroom) on Thursday 12th October** from 3.45pm to 4.30pm.

Parents can find out more about Little Wandle here:

[For parents - Letters and Sounds \(littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk\)](http://littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)

Friends of Park House



Friends of Park House would like to invite you to join them for their first meeting of this academic year. It will be held in the outdoor classroom on Wednesday 18th October at 2.20pm.

They will be planning the forthcoming disco and other fund raising events. If you are able to attend, please just come along and join us. The next meeting will be held outside of school hours.

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

Uniform



PE Kits

Please remember that we need PE kits kept in school each week. 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

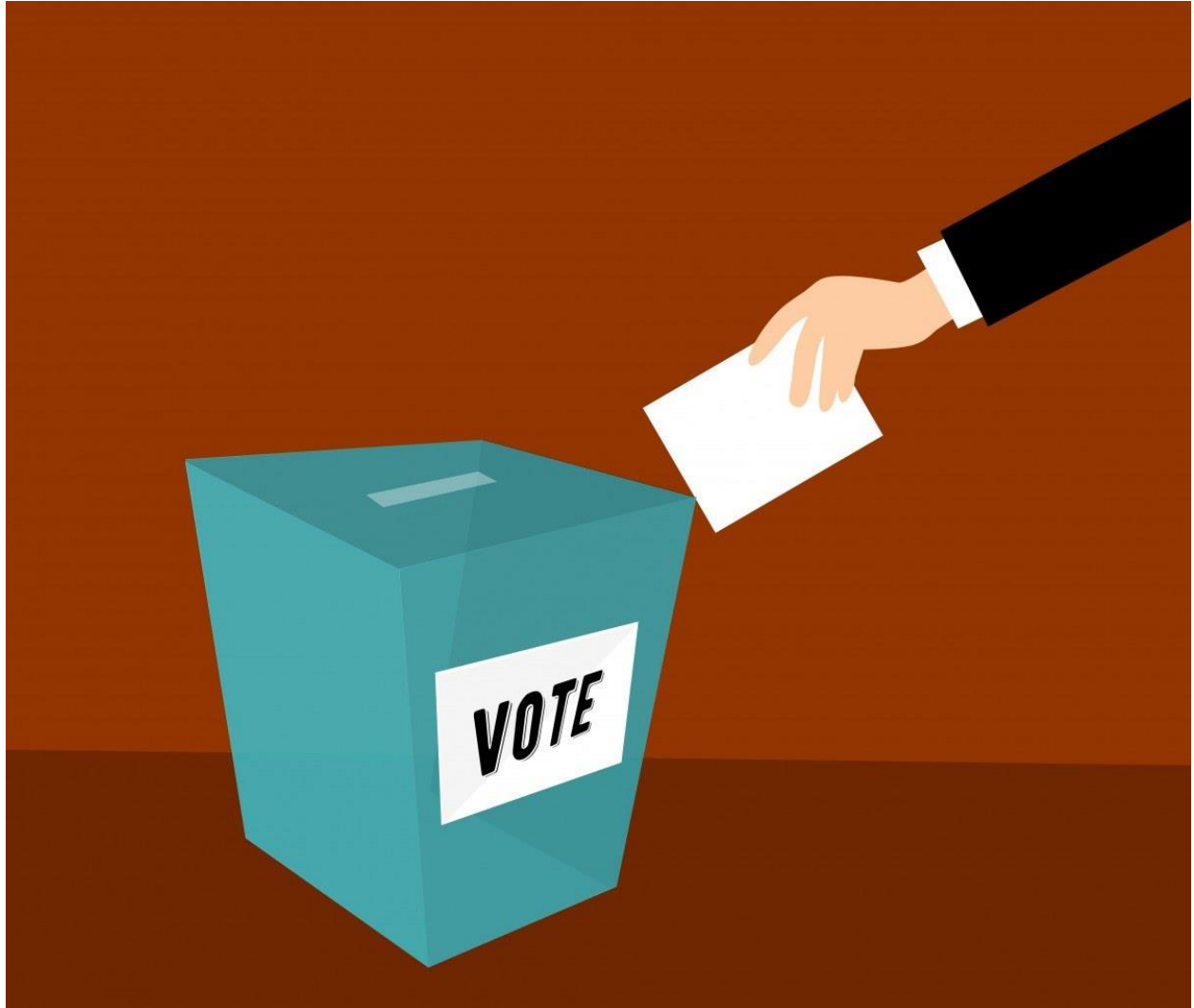
Please name all belongings, from bags, water bottles, to jumpers and PE kits. Parents are welcome to come into school to check for lost property, at any point in the school year! This can be found at the end of the corridor near the baking kitchen. We already have a growing selection.

Jewellery and Hair

Just a reminder that stud earrings are permitted however these should be removed or taped for PE. Watches which have pedometers such as variations on fitbits which do not send or receive messages are allowed but school does not accept liability for the loss or damage of these style watches. Smart watches which connect to a phone or receive calls/texts are not permitted. If your child's watch causes distraction to their learning, these will be asked to be kept at home. No watches that can take photos are allowed for safeguarding reasons.

Hair that touches the shoulders should also be tied up please.

Parent Governor Vacancies



We are pleased to announce that Ruth Coulson and Terri Faulkner applied for the Parent Governor vacancies, with there being two places available they have both been appointed.

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

4.9.23 Inset Day

5.9.23 Inset Day

6.9.23 School opens to pupils

21.9.23 Y2 Qualitas Fundamentals event

28.9.23 Y3 Qualitas Benchball Festival

29.9.23 Cauliflower Cards to be returned to school

5.10.23 Italian Day Lunch

6.10.23 Football Team (Y5/6) Tournament 1

9.10.23 School Photographer (siblings outside of school welcome 8.30am-9am in the hall)

9.10.23 Safer Neighbour Hood Team workshop Y5

12.10.23 Y1 Phonics Parents Drop In (Year 1 classroom)

13.10.23 Safer Neighbour Hood Team workshop Y6

W/C 16.10.23 Travel Smart week

17.10.23 Y6 Dukes Barn Parents meeting (Year 6 classroom) afterschool

18.10.23 Friends of Park House meeting 2.20pm (outdoor classroom)

19.10.23 Y4 Qualitas Fencing Event

W/C 23.10.23 Parents Evening & Book Fair

25.10.23 Y3/4 Football Tournament

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