



Park House Primary School  
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# September Newsletter 2024

## Welcome Back - September 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable break over the summer, and that you have made some lovely memories.

**A big welcome** to our new and returning families. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead. Our Reception pupils will be joining us part time for a few days this week and I know that our older pupils will look after them as they get used to coming to 'big' school.

Another welcome is to our new members of staff Mrs Sherwood, Miss Holmes and Miss Burr. who are joining us this September. We are looking forward to Mrs Hopkins joining us following her maternity leave and she will be popping in from time to time to see her class and prepare for her return. Mrs Watkinson will be going on her maternity leave shortly, so you may see her and bump about for a few weeks.

This newsletter is full of information and reminders to help you with the return to school. We look forward to sharing achievements and events in future newsletters.

## **Performances**

We have added some provisional dates below for the Christmas Nativity and Carol Concerts, we are awaiting confirmation of times and that the dates can go ahead from St Mary's Church. Please note that pupils in years 3 to 6 (KS2) will walk up and down to church prior to the carol concert for rehearsals. Therefore, it will be paramount they have suitable school shoes for walking and coats for the weather.

## **Uniform**

We end up with lots of lost property and most of it doesn't have names in. Please can you name items of clothing such as jumpers, trousers, skirts, PE kits and shoes. This will help us to reunite your child with their clothes.

## **PE kits**

Please ensure your child **brings their named PE kit into school on the first day back**, this can be left on their peg until half term. If any PE kits become soiled we will let you know. PE kits being in school all the time gives your child a change of clothes if needed and allows us to adapt to the weather and move PE lessons if needed. Please note that PE tops should be house team colour t-shirts (no crop tops or football kits allowed) and pupils should have unbranded trainers for outside. PE in the hall will be in bare feet unless plimsols/pumps are provided. Earrings must be removed or taped over for PE and only studs should be worn. We have a small selection of

## **Jewellery**

A reminder that jewellery in school is limited to stud earrings and watches. Please do not allow your child to bring bracelets, necklaces or rings to school, as they will be asked to remove these and the jewellery will be sent home. Smart watches that connect to phones are not allowed in school, however pedometer style watches if small are allowed, but they must not be connected to phones or receive messages.

## **Walking to and from school**

Only Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are allowed to walk to and from school without someone over the age of 16 years. We will require written consent for this, letters were sent home at the end of last academic year. Without written consent, we will contact you to collect your child. If you need to send a sibling or family member to collect your child, please ensure they are over 16 years of age.

## **Homework**

**Optional homework grids** will be included with your curriculum flyer that will come home in the next few weeks. This will give you some information about what your child will be learning this half term. Optional homework gives pupils the opportunity to earn extra dojo points and learning

characteristic awards by undertaking tasks outside of the curriculum such as baking, star gazing and riding bikes.

**Reading** - we ask that as a minimum pupils read three times a week, this can be recorded in the reading diaries which will come home. Please do make sure that water bottles are not put with reading books and they get spoilt and we will charge for replacements where this happens repeatedly.

**TTRockstars/Numbots** - your child will have a login for Numbots or TTRockstars, please support them to complete these at least three times a week. We have found that the regular revisiting of multiplication and number bonds really does help pupils with their maths skills in school.

Dojo points are given for each time your child reads or completes TTRockstars/Numbots. Some classes may send some phonics or additional maths to support topics they are teaching.

### **Snacks and drinks**

We have pupils with some medical conditions and food allergies, morning snack break is fruit/vegetables only. Please can afternoon snacks be named and these must not be shared with other pupils. A reminder that these should also be healthy in nature some examples are fruit, vegetables, malt loaf, cheese, yogurts like Frubes. Please no sweets, chocolate, biscuits or crisps (including food like mini cheddars). Pupils in Reception to Year 2 will be provided with a fruit snack in the mornings, as this may not arrive until next week, please send them with a piece of fruit on Thursday and Friday.

Water bottles should be named and only contain water, only pupils with medical conditions are able to bring alternative drinks, we will check for prescription information.

Finally, this year we are looking to enhance playtimes outside of sporting activities. Fundraising completed by the Friends of Park House and other grant sources are helping us to provide a range of alternative activities. Keep an eye out as you see some of these arrive over the next term.

We look forward to seeing you all later this week.

Kindest regards

Mrs Kavanagh

## Sports Teams



We have some school sports team selection events coming up for a Yr 3/4 boys football team, Yr 3/4 girls football team, Yr5/6 football team (mixed) and a Yr5/6 netball team. The netball team selection will take place after half term.

Due to limited attendance at the football clubs last year when they were held on a Thursday, these are moving back to a Monday night. Mrs Watkinson met with some parents in the Summer Term to discuss how best we can run our football try-outs. Places on the school teams are limited and we will never be able to meet everyone's availability or offer places to everyone. We have taken onboard views shared with us about the day the club runs and how we can make team selection as fair as possible.

Teams will be selected based on team spirit/sportsmanship, skills and attendance at the try-outs. The selection will be undertaken by Qualitas Coaches who remain independent from school staff and those successful will be announced in an assembly once all try-outs are complete. There is an expectation that those chosen for the teams will attend the weekly football club on a Monday, so they can train together as a team and pupils need to be displaying positive behaviour in school.

Therefore we are running the following:

On **Monday 9th September 3.30pm-4.30pm** there will be try-outs for the two **Yr 3/4 football teams**. Those wishing to try-out for the team will need to sign up on ParentPay, there will be no charge for the try-outs.

On **Monday 16th September 3.30pm-4.30pm** there will be try-outs for the **Yr5/6 football team**, priority is given to Yr 6 pupils as it is their last opportunity to represent the school on this team. Those wishing to try-out for the team will need to sign up on ParentPay, there will be no charge for the try-outs.

The Football Club following the two try-outs will be charged at £2 per pupil per week, those families in receipt of free school meal status are eligible for free places on sports clubs.

**Pupils will need to have PE kits, shin pads and football boots for try-outs and the football club.**

**YR 3/4 FOOTBALL TEAM TRYOUTS**

**OPEN TO YEAR 3 & 4  
NO COST TO TRYOUT**

**MONDAY 9TH  
SEPTEMBER 3.30PM-  
4.30PM OPEN TRYOUTS  
FOR YEAR 3/4  
FOOTBALL TEAM**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A BOYS  
TEAM AND A GIRLS TEAM**

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF SELECTED FOR THE TEAM, ATTENDANCE AT THE FOOTBALL  
CLUB EVERY MONDAY AFTERSCHOOL IS REQUIRED



OPEN TO YEAR 5 & 6  
NO COST TO TRYOUT

YR 5/6 FOOTBALL TEAM TRYOUTS



MONDAY 16TH  
SEPTEMBER 3.30PM-  
4.30PM OPEN TRYOUTS  
FOR YEAR 5/6  
FOOTBALL TEAM

TEAM PLACES WILL BE PRIORITISED  
FOR THOSE IN YEAR 6

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF SELECTED FOR THE TEAM, ATTENDANCE AT THE FOOTBALL  
CLUB EVERY MONDAY AFTERSCHOOL IS REQUIRED

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
SPORTS  
CLUBS**

9/9/24 - 17/10/24  
3.30PM-4.30PM

**#1** Monday - Football  
Year 3 to Year 6

**#2** Tuesday - Gymnastics  
Year 2 to Year 6

**#3** Wednesday - NO CLUBS

**#4** Thursday - Kwik Cricket  
Year 3 to Year 6

**#5** Friday - NO CLUBS

Clubs are £2 per session, book via ParentPay  
(free for pupils in receipt of FSM)

Afterschool sports clubs running this half term will be football, gymnastics and kwik cricket.

The cost is £2 per session per pupil, places are free for pupils in receipt of free school meal status and is included in the cost for pupils attending a full wraparound care afterschool club.

We often run a waiting list for places and therefore if pupils miss two clubs in a row, their places may be withdrawn and those on the waiting list invited to attend.

Please note that the first two weeks of the football club are now football try-outs and places need to be booked so we know who is attending the try-outs, but there is no charge for this. Only Yr 3 and Yr 4 should attend on the 9th September and only Yr 5 and Yr 6 should attend on the 16th September.

If your child is attending clubs, please can you ensure they are aware they are attending and that they also wish to attend. They will need to have sports clothes (PE kit) to change into at afternoon playtime.

## School Timings



Just a reminder for our new families joining us about the timings of the school day.

**Drop off** for pupils is between 8.40am and 8.50am with registration being at 8.55am. If you arrive after 8.55am, your child may receive a late mark. Please come through the main silver gates.

### **Morning playtime**

- 10.15am-10.30am

### **Lunch time**

- 12noon -1.00pm followed by registration and assembly at 1.10pm

### **Afternoon playtime**

- 2.20pm-2.30pm

### **End of the day**

- Reception classes (after their transition days) will finish at 3.25pm and pupils should be collected from the Reception garden ramp.
- The rest of the school will finish at 3.30pm and can be collected from the main playground.

Reception playtimes will be a little different as they access continuous provision (free play) inside and outside throughout the day.

### **Snack**

Pupils in Reception to Year 2 are offered a fruit snack in the mornings. The rest of school are welcome to also bring a fruit snack in the morning.

**Afternoon break**, we again allow pupil's to bring a **healthy snack such as fruit**, malt loaf bars, fruit winder type snacks. Please do not send chocolate, sweets or crisps. These will be sent home with your child.

*We also have pupils in school with medical conditions and **severe nut allergies**, so we do ask that you **avoid nut based products**, to help keep them safe both at snack and lunch times. One of the medical conditions is called **Prader Willi Syndrome** and it is very important that this pupil is not given certain foods. Therefore, all snacks coming into school will need to be named and for certain year groups collected in. Please talk to your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other pupils.*

## Parking Around School



Parking around school always causes congestion and contention with local residents. Please do not block drive ways/dropped curbs, please do not mount curbs and **please park legally and respectfully.**

The local safer neighbourhood team are doing random checks around schools and will issue tickets for illegal parked vehicles. School doors open 15 minutes before registration to help allow families to stagger their arrivals, but if you can walk, please do.

Rob does an amazing job in keeping us safe on the crossing, so please do help him by keeping visibility clear when parking and also please use his crossing. He loves seeing all the happy faces coming to school!

Please also remember that dogs should not be coming on to school grounds and this includes the drive way.



- *ClassDojo messages to staff* will not be checked during teaching times or on a daily basis. We do urge messages to go via the school office as we would hate to miss a message on Dojo. The exception to this is the school office who check the messages in the morning and in the afternoon.
- Staff may not respond to ClassDojo messages immediately as they are teaching in class, they will not be responding outside of office working hours such as after 5.30pm or at weekends. We will respond at our earliest opportunity.

We have been made aware that on occasion sending information out via technology may come with glitches or key information may get missed. We will ensure that a paper copy of important information such as trips, relationship and sex education letters and the half termly curriculum overview is sent home as well as going out on dojo.

### **ClassDojo Etiquette:**

ClassDojo does have a social media feel to it, however it is still a formal communication channel between home and school. It has been lovely to hear when something special has happened outside of school. When sending messages via Dojo, please consider the intention of the message to the recipient. On occasion the more informal messages can come across in a different manner than is intended. However, where messages are rude or abusive we will provide a warning that your access to Dojo may be revoked. By agreeing to use ClassDojo you are agreeing to our published protocols and etiquette set out here [covid-19-teams-classdojo-protocol-expectations-and-etiquette-2020.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/covid-19-teams-classdojo-protocol-expectations-and-etiquette-2020.pdf)

If you are wishing to submit a complaint, this should not be through ClassDojo and should follow the school complaints procedure.

## Attendance and Exceptional Leave Requests



A reminder that the Government have tightened rules regarding attendance in school and **unless applications for leave are supported with evidence of exceptional circumstances, all leave will be unauthorised.**

The main changes that are coming in is that more than one unauthorised absence taken in a 36 month period will put families at risk of fines and court action by Derbyshire County Council and the amount fines are will be rising. Schools do not receive any money from fines and we follow the guidance and policy as set by Derbyshire County Council.

Holidays are an important aspect to family life and offer valuable education about different cultures and countries. We value and are grateful for your honesty over absences. Please do not ask your child/ren to not tell us about holidays or lie about their absence from school. Not only does this confuse and put pupils in a difficult position, it also prevents them from sharing about the positive experience they have had (most are very excited). Where we suspect an absence has been incorrectly reported to us, and/or a holiday is suspected, then it will be recorded as unauthorised.

The new policy regarding attendance, is going to Governors this September and once ratified will be available on our website and also copies can be requested from the school office. This policy is based on a Derbyshire County Council policy and our cluster of schools have liaised over the personalisation of the policies to fit our communities.

## Key Dates For Your Diary



### 2024/25 Term Dates

#### Autumn Term

- **4 September 2024 to 25 October 2024 (38 days)**
- **4 November 2024 to 20 December 2024 (35 days)**

4.9.24 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

5.9.24 Start of term for pupils.

**9.9.24 Yr 3 and Yr 4 Football Team try-outs 3.30pm-4.30pm**

12.9.24 Full Governors Meeting (FGB)

**16.9.24 Yr 5 and Yr 6 Football Team try-outs 3.30pm-4.30pm**

18.9.24 Yr 2 Qualitas Multi-skills event

23.9.24 Yr 3 Trip to Brackenhurst

1.10.24 NSPCC workshops for Yr 2, Yr 5 and Yr 6.

2.10.24 Yr 3 Qualitas Bench Ball event

2.10.24 Yr 2 and Yr 6 Fire Safety Workshops

**9.10.24 School Photographer - individual pupils and siblings**

15.10.24 Crack Pot Assembly

16.10.24 Yr 4 Qualitas Fencing event

22.10.24-24.10.24 Parents Evening (signing up will take place during the w/c 7.10.24)

**25.10.24 Break up for half term.**

**4.11.24 School reopens**

**8.11.24 Disco (tbc)**

14.11.24 Full Governors Meeting (FGB)

21.11.24 Yr 1 Qualitas Gymnastics event

2.12.24 Yr 3 swimming starts (every Monday until 3.3.25)

15.11.24 Children in Need - Mad Hair Day for a £1 donation.

21.11.24 Yr 1 Qualitas Gymnastics event

**10.12.24 Rec/KS1 Nativity time tbc**

11.12.24 Yr 5 Qualitas Dodgeball event

**11.12.25 Rec/KS1 Nativity time tbc.**

13.12.24 Panto

**17.12.24 KS2 Carol Concert times tbc**

**20.12.24 Last day of term - break up for Christmas holidays.**

### **Spring Term**

- **6 January 2025 to 14 February 2025(30 days)**
- **24 February 2025 to 4 April 2025 (30 days)**

6.1.25 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

7.1.25 School reopens

**14.2.25 last day of half term**

**4.4.25 last day of term - break up for Easter holidays**

### **Summer Term**

- **22 April 2025 to 23 May 2025 (5 May 2025 is a bank holiday) (23 days)**
- **2 June 2025 to 24 July 2025 (39 days)**

23.5.25 last day of half term

2.6.25 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

25.6.25 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

**23.7.25 Last day of term - break up for summer holidays.**

24.7.25 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

**2024/25 Inset days:**

- Wednesday 4th September 2024
- Monday 6th January 2025
- Friday 2nd June 2025
- Wednesday 25th June 2025
- Thursday 24th July 2025