



Parklands Primary School Newsletter



2024 - Spring 1

Once again, we come to the end of another busy half-term which has been full of exciting opportunities for our pupils to enjoy. We are proud of our children who are making great progress in their learning journeys and who are working extremely hard to achieve their very best.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will see the amount of opportunities that pupils across the school have enjoyed, including trips, workshops and theme days, as well as important up and coming events. I would like to say a big thank you to the Friends of Parklands for all of their hard work and support in organising additional, successful events for our pupils. We hope that our pupils and families have a safe and happy half-term break, and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 26th February.

Mr Stevens, Headteacher

Parent View

Parents and carers can give their views on our school at any time of the school year, and at the time of a school inspection, using an online questionnaire called Parent View.

To access Parent View, please visit our school website. You will find Parent view under the 'Parent' tab. Alternatively click on the link below.

<https://parklands.havering.sch.uk/parents/parent-view>

We would love to have your feedback on how we are doing.



- 26/02/2024 Children return to school
- 29/02/2024 Dolphins trip to Wellgate Farm
- 29/02/2024 9-11 Parent Gym
- 01/03/2024 Year 5 Prime VR geography workshops
- 07/03/2024 Turtles visit to Wellgate Farm
- 07/03/2024 9-11 Parent Gym
- 07/03/2024 Year 2 Sports Hall Athletics event
- 08/03/2024 Parklands World Book Day
- 08/03/2024 Fire Brigade visiting Nursery
- w/c 11/03/2024 Big Walk and Wheel
- 12/03/2024 Police visiting Nursery
- 14/03/2024 Seahorses visit Wellgate Farm
- 18/03/2024 2pm Rocksteady Concert KS2 Hall
- 19/03/2024 Year 3 to 6 Table Tennis event
- 20/03/2024 2pm Rocksteady Concert KS2 Hall
- 21/03/2024 Starfish visit to Wellgate Farm
- 21/03/2024 Year 1 Sports Hall Athletics event
- 22/03/2024 Reception and KS1 Books for Breakfast
- 26/03/2024 & 27/03/2024 Parents' Evenings
- 27/03/2024 Children break up for Easter
- 28/03/2024 INSET Day



Books for Breakfast

We really enjoyed inviting our family members into school for Books for Breakfast on the 16th February. We read a variety of different types of books and loved discussing what we read.



Our next books for breakfast for is Friday 22nd March 2024. We hope you see you there!



Attendance

We would like to remind parents that school starts at 8:45am for reception to year 6 children, and 8.30am and 12.30pm for nursery children. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time to start their school day. Children arriving late is disruptive, not only to the class, but also to your child's learning.

Please ensure that in future your child arrives in time for school every day.

The classes with the best attendance this half term are:

- Reception: Starfish
- Year 1: Otters
- Year 2: Woodpeckers
- Year 3: 3ID
- Year 4: 4DD
- Year 5: 5LS
- Year 6: 6SM

Parklands School Values

Our school community is built upon the foundations of our five school values: building resilience, loving learning, inspiring success, respect for all and making memories. We believe in fostering an environment where every child feels inspired to reach their full potential.

Resilience is a quality that we hold dear at Parklands. We encourage our pupils to embrace challenges, learn from their mistakes, and to never give up. By nurturing their resilience, we are equipping them with the tools to overcome obstacles and thrive in all areas of life.

Loving learning is at the heart of our school. We strive to ignite a passion for knowledge within our students, making their educational journey an exciting and fulfilling one. Through engaging lessons, interactive activities, and a supportive learning environment, we aim to instil a lifelong love for learning in each and every child.

Inspiring success is a shared goal for all of us at Parklands. We believe that success comes in many forms, and we celebrate the achievements of our pupils in every aspect of their lives. Whether it's academic progress, sporting achievements, or personal growth, we are dedicated to empowering our pupils to reach for the stars.

Respect for all is a fundamental value that underpins our school community. We teach our pupils to treat others with kindness, empathy, and understanding. By fostering an inclusive and respectful environment, we are preparing our pupils to become compassionate and responsible citizens of the future.

Finally, making memories is something we hold dear at Parklands. From school trips and special events, to everyday moments in the classroom, we believe in creating lasting memories that our pupils will cherish for years to come. These memories are not only about the experiences themselves, but also about the friendships and connections that are formed along the way.





Duxford

As part of their topic, year 4 visited the Duxford Imperial War Museum, where they experienced real life artefacts from the Second World War. They had the opportunity to discover the place where Battle of Britain history was made. Sitting in the cockpit of a Spitfire and getting close to a Hurricane were some of the many intriguing elements of the trip for year 4, along with visiting the operations room, in which the children were able to experience the atmosphere inside this critical room, where the station's pilots were directed into combat during the time of the Second World War. We had so much fun and most definitely were making memories on this trip!



Stay, Play & Learn

Reception children invited their adults to take part in Stay, Play & Learn sessions this half term. The purpose of the sessions are to further extend an understanding of your child's learning in school. The children enjoyed showing their adults a typical morning or afternoon in reception. The adults took part in a focus activity with their child and then explored the learning environments both inside and out. Thank you to everyone who attended. We will be offering these sessions again in the summer term.



Eco Days

We kicked-started this term with two Eco Days and with an amazing assembly delivered by our Pupil Council and Eco Warriors.

Last term, the Pupil Council felt it was important to address the issues around climate change. They created a committee of Eco Warriors from year 1 to year 6. After a lengthy review carried out by our Eco Warriors, they decided we needed to concentrate on the following areas: litter, energy and outdoor spaces.

During our Eco Days, staff planned and delivered creative cross-curricular lessons linked to climate change. EYFS and Key Stage 1 concentrated on litter and Key Stage 2 concentrated on energy.

The pupils were challenged to find solutions to these issues, and they were extremely creative in presenting their ideas back to the school through sharing assemblies.

After sorting, logging and analysing recycled materials, year 1 created models using these items and made paper; year 2 created leaflets and created collages using recycled materials; year 3 developed posters persuading us to use less energy; year 4 carried out a survey at home about recycled rubbish and converted these into graphs to show the impact of recycling; year 5 created a whole year group collage for reducing energy; and, finally, year 6 pupils scripted and filmed a news clip about the effects of climate change.





Young Voices

On Monday 15th January, Parklands' Choir performed at the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena in London. Since September, we have been busy learning songs, dance routines and even British Sign Language for the performance, which takes place every year at arenas all over the country.



On the morning of the concert, we arrived at school dressed in our official Young Voices 2024 t-shirts and travelled to Greenwich by train. After a quick lunch, we went into the arena and began rehearsals for the show. We were joined by over 8,000 children from other schools who had been learning the same songs as us. There was a conductor, a live band and dancers to help us with our performance. There were even some special guest singers. Our favourite was MC Grammar – we got to be his backing singers!



At 6pm, the arena started to fill with our audience: thousands of people began to take their seats for the sell out show! At 7pm, the lights went down and it was time to shine! We had the most amazing time and felt like rock stars!

We're already looking forward to next year's show!



Science Workshops

Our year 5 pupils had an exciting visit this term from pupils and staff at the Royal Liberty School. They led a variety of interesting science activities, which focused on different strands of science, including biology and physics. They had so much fun and learnt lots of new things.

During these activities, they were able to handle sheep's eyes when learning about how we see and how the eyes work and investigate sheep's lungs when finding out how we breathe and how the lungs function. They also learnt how to perform CPR and practised the life-saving skill. Pupils were shown how fire depletes oxygen and creates a vacuum that can suck an egg into a test tube, as well as testing out how static electricity makes hair stand on end!

Year 5 had so much fun and the pupils and staff at Parklands would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and pupils from Royal Liberty who came together to deliver learning in such a fun, interesting and exciting way!



Road Safety Theatre Group

The recent live presentation of The Riot Act's 'Alex & Jay on the Street' at Parklands was a fantastic event that promoted essential road safety information to our year 5 and 6 pupils.

Aiming to equip our children with the necessary skills to stay safe when traveling on and around roads, the presentation highlighted to pupils the importance of following road rules, being aware of their surroundings, and using pedestrian crossings. The interactive nature of the presentation engaged our students and made learning about road safety both educational and enjoyable.

One of the key messages emphasised during the presentation was the negative impact of excessive traffic and vehicle 'idling' outside of schools. By raising awareness about this issue, we hope to encourage a change in behaviour that benefits not only individuals, but also our communities and the wider environment. It is important for all of us to play our part in reducing unnecessary traffic and promote a safer environment for our children.





E-Safety Assemblies and Workshops

On 6th February, children observed Online Safety Day at Parklands Primary School. To commemorate the occasion, we conducted assemblies for pupils in years 1-4 and organised Online Safety Workshops for those in years 5 and 6, facilitated by an external company.

For years 1 and 2, the focus was on becoming Online Safety Wizards. They embarked on a journey through the enchanting Rainbow Land to Internet World, where they encountered characters such as Don Dragon, Callie Cat, and Ola Owl, each imparting a distinct online safety message. To conclude our assembly, children utilised their 'keyboards of kindness' to send thoughtful messages to individuals they care about. They also learnt a Kindness Spell, A Safe Sharing Spell, and a Speak Up Spell. Back in their classrooms, they created posters reflecting their newfound knowledge. Miss Sussex was so impressed with how much the children had remembered!

The focus for years 3 and 4 was 'One Good Choice'. During the assembly, they learnt a rap to help them embed how to stay safe online: stop, block, and screenshot, then inform a trusted adult. The children discussed identifying trusted individuals in their lives and engaged in several challenges throughout the assembly. Towards the end, they contemplated one good choice they could make online. Upon returning to their classrooms, children pledged to make that choice and thought about its significance. Miss Sussex was very impressed with the children's pledges, and when encountering her around school, they have been sharing the positive online choices they are making.

Workshops for years 5 and 6 focused on various aspects of online safety, with each class having a one-hour session. They delved into the meanings of belief, opinion, and facts, discussing trusted adults and external agencies like Childline. The sessions emphasised the importance of making informed decisions about online content and respecting others' opinions.



Roman Day

Year 3 travelled back into the past this term- all the way back to the Roman era! We had a fully immersive experience and learnt some amazing facts and Latin throughout the day.

We were able to look closely at some Roman artefacts and replica ones to get an insight into what daily life would have been like, such as a strigil which was used for cleansing at the Roman baths by scraping off the dirt. The children learnt how to play traditional Roman board games called Delta, whereby they kept score using Roman numerals and Lvdvs which is like the game noughts and crosses. We also had to work hard in teams to answer quiz questions and re-enacted gladiator fights, chariot racing and were 'trained' as soldiers.

We had an amazing day and thoroughly enjoyed our 'Portals to the Past' visit.





Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week took place from 5th to the 11th February. This year, we focused on the theme "My Voice Matters", celebrating the power of our voices and understanding that each and every one of us have a valuable voice that deserves to be heard as well as the importance of mental wellbeing.

When we felt like our voices mattered, we felt empowered, and when we felt empowered, we were more confident, happier, and healthier.

We listened to each other and we learned all about how we could use our voices to take care of our mental health. We talked about our feelings, learned new ways to express ourselves, and found out how we could support each other.

We made Children's Mental Health Week one to remember! Together, we celebrated the power of our voices and worked towards a happier, healthier future for all.



Nursery Rhyme Dress Up Day

Our Nursery children had so much fun at our Nursery Rhyme Tea Party! We sang nursery rhymes, where we joined in with the actions and we also did lots of dancing! All of the children looked super in their costumes! It was a great day!



Number Day

We are thrilled to share some highlights of our recent Number Day celebration! The school buzzed with excitement as pupils and teachers alike engaged in a day filled with mathematical marvels.

From interactive games and puzzles to creative maths-themed costumes, our students showcased their enthusiasm for numbers in unique and imaginative ways. The classrooms were transformed into learning spaces where mathematical concepts came to life, fostering a love for numbers and problem-solving.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, making it a memorable and enriching experience for our pupils.





Thames Chase Half Term Activities

**Thames Chase
Monster Face Making**



**Friday February 23rd
£6 per child**

Get creative this February half term and join us to make some fantastic faces of menacing monsters!
Suitable for primary school children and older, each child will make, paint and take home their very own monster face, made from all natural materials.
We have three sessions available on Friday 23rd Feb, each lasting one hour
Start times are 10:30am, 11:45am and 1:15pm.

To book: Call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre on 01708 642970

**Thames Chase
February Half Term: Decorate A Crate!**



**Tuesday February 20th
10.30am-11.30am
12 noon - 1pm**

Looking for something different to do this February half term?
Come and decorate your own wooden crate at Thames Chase
You can be as creative as you like and more importantly, what will you keep in yours once you get it home?
Crates are £6 per child, to be paid upon booking
Bookings are non-refundable and parents/carers must accompany their child at all times
This activity is suitable for children aged 3 years and over
Call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre to book: 01708 642970

**Thames Chase
February Half Term: Drop In Crafts**



**Wednesday February 21st
10.30am-12.30pm**

Come along to our drop in children's craft activities this February half term
Children can make and decorate their very own bird headdress, bird wings and bird feeder
We ask for a donation towards materials, which is payable on the day
Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times

This activity is suitable for children aged 3 years and over
No booking required this is a drop in session

Exciting News from Friends of Parklands PTA!

Thanks to your incredible support and enthusiasm, our recent events have raised £3,942.54 for our school!

The Halloween non-uniform day raised £497.45. Our festive Christmas discos raised £3,445.09! Your contributions have made a huge difference, getting us closer to our goal of £5,000 and beyond. But, we're not stopping there! With your continued support, we're setting our sights on achieving charity status, opening doors to even bigger opportunities and partnerships with businesses eager to support our school. Together, we can make it happen!

Upcoming events: Mother's Day/Someone Special Sale; Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle

We would also like to hear from our parents with any fund-raising ideas. Your input is invaluable, so please share your ideas with us. Together, we'll ensure that every penny goes towards creating unforgettable opportunities for our children.

Stay connected with us on:

Instagram @friendsofparklandspta, Facebook @friendsofparklandsprimaryschool and don't hesitate to reach out at friendsofparklandspta@gmail.com with any questions, suggestions, or just to say hello!

Let's keep the momentum going and make this journey even more incredible together!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Friends of Parklands PTA

Shakespeare Workshop

Whilst studying Shakespeare's Macbeth, the children attended a workshop on Monday 12th February, allowing them to experience this play through drama, using the skills and techniques of professional theatre.

Shakespeare's plays were written to be performed; this workshop gave the children first-hand exploration of life as an actor within one of his plays. They developed their collaborative skills and explored the characters, story and themes that we had been studying this half term. They took creative ownership of Macbeth and gained a newfound confidence with Shakespeare that they can carry with them outside of the classroom and in the future.

We started with a short introduction to Shakespeare and his world, then continued with an animated storytelling of Macbeth. The children were encouraged to develop their own responses to the story through character and movement work. Throughout the workshop, we examined the rhythm and imagery of Shakespeare's language and how this would be performed on stage.





Parklands Got Talent

We are delighted to share with you the exciting news of our recent "Parklands Got Talent" event, which took place at the end of the autumn term. This event showcased the incredible talents of our year 5 and 6 students, who demonstrated their skills through a variety of artistic forms.

To qualify for the show, each act had to go through a two-part audition process. The level of talent displayed during these auditions was truly outstanding, making the selection process a difficult one. The chosen acts dedicated themselves to perfecting their performances, rehearsing every week with great determination and dedication.

On the day of the event, our children took to the stage in front of their peers and their proud parents. The atmosphere was electric, and it was truly heart-warming to witness the confidence and poise with which our young performers showcased their talents. From singing and dancing, to magic tricks and comedy routines, the range of acts was both diverse and impressive.

We are immensely proud of every act and individual that took part in "Parklands Got Talent." Their hard work, commitment, and courage deserve our utmost admiration. It was a joy to see our pupils shine and embrace the opportunity to showcase their unique abilities.

The Senior Leadership Team would like to extend their sincere gratitude to our talented students, their parents, and our dedicated staff for making this event possible. Your support and encouragement have undoubtedly played a significant role in the success of "Parklands Got Talent." We firmly believe in nurturing the talents and passions of our students, and events like these provide invaluable opportunities for them to grow and develop. The confidence gained from performing in front of an audience is a skill that will benefit them in all aspects of their lives.

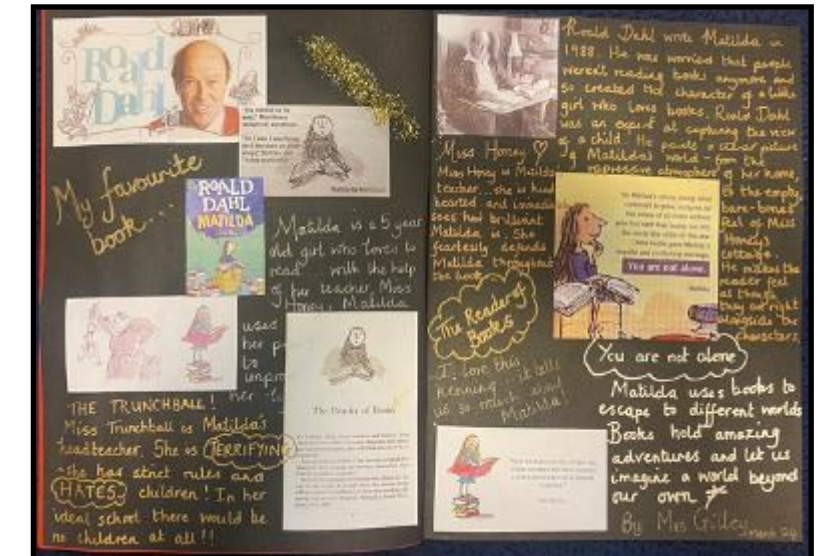
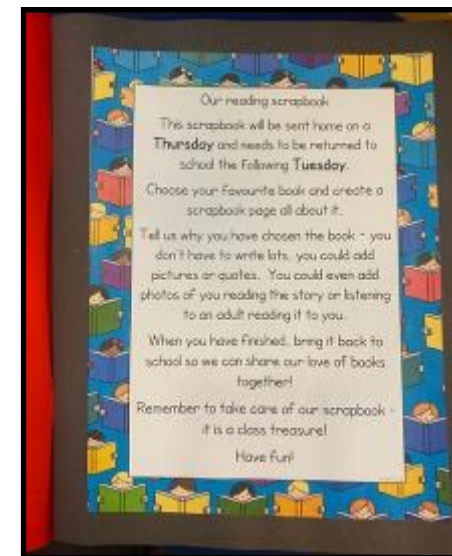


Coming Soon to Your Classroom!

Mrs Gilley is looking forward to launching a new initiative after half term, called the Class Reading Scrapbook. The aim of the project is to promote a love of reading among our pupils and provide them with an opportunity to showcase their favourite books and stories.

From nursery to year 6, every child will get the chance to take a book home over the year and create their own page on a book of their choice. They will be able to include photos, drawings, summaries, or even personal reflections on the story. Once completed, they will bring it back to school and share it with the class, encouraging their fellow classmates to read the same book.

We thank you in advance for supporting this initiative and encouraging your children to develop a life-long love of reading. Together, we can nurture their imaginations and help them embark on countless literary adventures.



Safeguarding at Parklands

At Parklands Primary School, the safety and welfare of our children is at the heart of everything we do.

If you have concerns about a child, please report it to the school straight away. Should you need to speak with someone urgently and school is not open, please contact:

Janette Watmough – 07973783886.

If you think a child is at risk of abuse, you must report this to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

If you have urgent concerns for a child, or suspect that a child has been abused in any way, please call MASH immediately on 01708 433222.

If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (8.30-17.00), contact the MASH Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 01708 433999.

In an emergency, call 999, to report a crime, call 101.