

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

This half term is just flying by!

We would like to remind Year 6 Parents / Carers that the online form for secondary school applications is now open.

Please ensure you have completed and submitted the application form by the **closing date of 31st October 2024.**



Important information from Somerset Council:

If your child is due to transfer to secondary school next September, please be aware that places in Taunton and Wellington are limited due to a high birth rate. It is really important that you apply on time (deadline 31st October 2025) and choose 3 preferences of school. We also **strongly recommend** you include your catchment school as one of your preferences.

If you do not include your catchment school among your preferences and are refused your preferred schools, we cannot guarantee your child a place in the local area. Your child may then be offered a place at a school further away with no entitlement to travel assistance.

Guidance on the application process can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/secondary-admissions-guide/>

The online application form can be found at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/>

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

Kilve Residential – Year 4

Last week, our Year 4 children enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to Kilve Court! They enthusiastically took part in a wide variety of activities, including abseiling, mountain biking, buggy building and many more exciting challenges.

One of the highlights of the trip was gathering around the campfire in the evening. The children enjoyed toasting marshmallows, watching magic and singing songs together.

Throughout the trip, the children showed incredible perseverance, teamwork, communication, and resilience—often stepping outside their comfort zones and supporting each other along the way. We are so proud of every single one of them!

To see more photos and videos from the trip, please visit the school website. A huge thank you to all the staff who gave up their time to make this such a memorable experience for the children.



UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

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Wessex Water – Year 5

Last week, as part of their Geography topic Year 5 visited Ashford Water Treatment Centre in Cannington, Bridgwater.

The children spent their day learning about rivers and discovering that the flow of water helps to shape the course of the river as it continues its journey. They visited a working factory and discovered how water is treated so that it is fit for consumption in our homes.

Heron and Swan class also spent time looking at the environment around the centre, which has an enormous reservoir and is the habitat for many birds and animals. Year 5 also saw a pair of adult swans and their babies (cygnets) and one lucky group also spotted a heron – what luck!

The rivers around the site were very low because of the lack of rain that we have had over the summer and the guides explained how climate change is having an impact on our rivers. However, the children loved getting in the river to do some pond dipping and discovered many creatures live in the water too.

A fantastic day was had by all!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Apple FM – Year 3

Our Year 3 children had a very exciting morning this week when they visited by the team at Apple FM and had the opportunity to record sound bites for Apple FM's upcoming Christmas pantomime!

The children were absolute naturals behind the mic, bringing energy, creativity, and fantastic expression to their recordings. It was a brilliant chance for them to learn about voice acting and they loved every second!

We can't wait to hear them featured in the pantomime on Apple FM this festive season. Be sure to tune in and support our talented young voices! Huge thank you to Andy Spragg and the team at Apple FM for choosing Parkfield to help them this year!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Invasion Games Festival – Year 3

Earlier this month, Year 3 really enjoyed taking part in the sports festival at Castle School.

The children were put into groups with other schools and were able to take part in a variety of activities such as basketball, netball, tag rugby, football and Frisbee.

The children loved trying new sports and showed resilience throughout the morning. Well done Year 3!

UNCRC Article 29 (Right for education to develop a child's abilities)



Multi Skills Festival – Year 2

On Wednesday 24th September, Year 2 walked to Castle School for a sports festival.

The festival was run by children from Castle School and there were lots of energetic activities for the children to enjoy. There were team games, parachute activities, an obstacle course, ball games and throwing activities.



Other schools from around Taunton were also at the festival, so it was great to meet and play with other children. Everybody really enjoyed themselves!

UNCRC Article 29 (Right for education to develop a child's abilities)

Fairtrade Visit – Eco Committee / Student Council

We were delighted to welcome Sue Errington - a special guest speaker to our school who shared the fascinating journey of Fairtrade tea—from leaf to cup—and the inspiring work of Fairtrade cooperatives around the world. Pupils learned how Fairtrade supports farmers, protects the environment, and promotes ethical trade.



During the session, pupils explored:

- The tea-making process and its global connections.
- The importance of Fairtrade principles in building a fairer, more sustainable world.
- How our school can take action through the Eco Committee and School Council.
- Opportunities to partner with our local council and MP to strengthen our sustainability efforts and make a positive impact in our community.

It was a powerful and engaging experience that encouraged pupils to think globally and act locally as changemakers for a greener future.

UNCRC Article 29 (Education must develop the child's respect for the environment)

School Meals

We are pleased to confirm that bookings for our new menu are now open from 3rd November 2025 until April 2026, including a fabulous Christmas dinner on Wednesday 17th December 2025.

We'd like to confirm that school meals for the new menu will be priced at £2.50 per day.

We fully understand the financial challenges that many families face, and we have worked hard over the years to keep our fees as low as possible – we have not increased our prices for a considerable time. However, due to the continued rise in operating costs, we now find it necessary to make an adjustment to our pricing. This change will allow us to maintain the high standard of ingredients and meals that your children enjoy and deserve. We are grateful for your understanding and continued support.

Please ensure you book school meals for your children **at least** two weeks in advance to ensure meals are secured prior to booking closing. A reminder that all meal bookings should be 'checked out' even if you are entitled to Universal / Free School Meals at no cost.

Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest Festivals will soon be upon us! Please find the dates that this event will be taking place for key stage below:

KS2 – Tuesday 7th October, 9:15am – 9:45am

KS1 – Wednesday 8th October, 9.15am – 9.45am

EYFS – Thursday 9th October, 2.45pm – 3.30pm (Family Learning Workshop)

We will once again be collecting non-perishable items this year to support the Taunton Food Bank. Most donations are keenly received however, we have been advised that the following items are in desperate need:

- **PASTA SAUCES**
- **TINNED FRUIT**
- **TINNED MEALS (MEAT & VEGETARIAN)**
- **CUP A SOUP**
- **SAVOURY SNACKS**

Please note that the Food Bank can only give out items that are non-perishable, sealed and in date.

For further information on the Food Bank see the website below:

<https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

UNCRC Article 31 (Right to take part in artistic and cultural activities)

Out of School Achievements – Tennis

Sophie T in Year 5 won her first ever gold medal in tennis recently, winning her last ever 'orange ball' tournament in Taunton, against girls from five counties in total!

Sophie seemed unstoppable, qualifying comfortably from the group stages and then easily winning both her semi-final (7-1 7-1) and final (7-4 7-5) in straight sets. Well done, Sophie!



Out of School Achievements – Dance



Adele D (Year 3) has recently participated in dance competitions with the MAD Dance community.

She has performed in several different dance styles like ballroom dancing, free style and has achieved several awards. Well done, Adele!

UNCRC Article 15 (Right to join groups and organisations)

Out of School Achievements – Grown-ups too!

A dedicated group of our Parkfield dads ran the Taunton 10k last weekend to help raise money for the school PTFA!

So far, they have raised an amazing £225, but there's still time to donate – see the QR code below!

🎙️ “And now... over to Taunton for the Parkfield Dads' 10k Match Report!” 🎙️



Welcome to Super Sunday (well... Super Sunday Jog) where the mighty Dads of Parkfield lined up for the Taunton 10k. Lycra stretched, shoelaces double-knotted, and egos on the line. Let's see how the action unfolded:

Alastair Temblett-Young – 49:02

Straight out the blocks like Mo Farah on double espresso! Alastair didn't just run, he flew. Word is he thought the race was only 5k and couldn't quite believe he had to keep going. Still, a blistering time and the first dad across the line – Parkfield's very own pace-setter.

Steve Low – 53:32

Smooth as silk. Steve ran the whole race with a grin, overtaking people while chatting like he was on the school gate at 3:15. If calm and collected were an Olympic sport, he'd have gold.

Ian Taylor – 53:56

Mr Reliable! Ian's pacing was so precise he could've been powered by a metronome. Not the flashiest runner, but the kind you'd trust to hold your pint while you're in the loo.

Stu Boston – 54:52

Usually found at the darts board, Stu swapped trebles for trainers and proved he can hit a bullseye on the road too. Strong finish – although rumours suggest he was working out his “170 checkout” for most of the race.

Shane Williams – 58:45

The veteran of the team – and the only man to check if there was a beer tent at every kilometre marker. A textbook example of how to pace a run... and how to make it look like a casual stroll to the bar.

Paul Sidhu – 59:40

A nail-biting finish as Paul played chicken with the one-hour mark. At 9k it looked touch and go, but then came a sprint that would've made Usain Bolt raise an eyebrow. Either that, or someone shouted “last orders!” at the finish line.

A great effort chaps! You can still donate to recognise their achievements using the QR code here:



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3rd October 2025

House Points

House points are given out to reinforce and reflect the school values that the children are demonstrating at the time. Every two weeks the house points are collected and there is a running total of each houses total score. The winning house each term will receive a prize!

Well done Mars – our current winners! The winning value is RESPECT – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

MARS 729	MERCURY 575	PLUTO 575	VENUS 629
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Key Dates

October 2025	
Mon 6 th – Tues 7 th	Year 6 Bikeability Course – Group 4
Tues 7 th	KS2 (Y3 / Y4 / Y5 / Y6) – Harvest Festival (9.15am – 9.45am)
Weds 8 th	Falcon Class – Trip to Hinkley Point
Weds 8 th	KS1 (Y1 / Y2) – Harvest Festival (9.15am – 9.45am)
Thurs 9 th	Reception – Harvest Festival Family Learning (2.45pm – 3.30pm)
Thurs 9 th	Year 2 – Geography Walk to Vivary Park – 1:30pm – 3:15pm
Fri 10 th	Non School Uniform Day & School Disco (PTFA)
Tues 14 th	Swan Class – Trip to Avalon Marshes
Fri 17 th	Tempest Photographs – Individuals
Tues 21 st	Heron Class – Trip to Avalon Marshes
Tues 21 st	Year 1 – Grace Darling Workshop
Tues 21 st / Weds 22 nd	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Thurs 23 rd	Year 3 – Trip to Taunton Museum
Thurs 23 rd	Year 2 – Florence Nightingale Workshop
Fri 24 th	INSET Day
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st	HALF TERM
November 2025	
Mon 3 rd	Back to School
Tues 4 th – Thurs 6 th	Book Fair
Fri 7 th	Tempest Photographs – Families & Siblings
Mon 10 th – Fri 14 th	Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Week)
Tues 11 th	Year 6 – Remembrance Service (10.30am – 11.10am)
Thurs 13 th – Fri 14 th	Anti-Bullying Workshops
Thurs 13 th	Pembrokeshire Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Mon 17 th	Road Safety Workshop
Fri 21 st	Children in Need Day
Fri 21 st	Flu Vaccinations
Fri 21 st	Non-Uniform Day for PTFA Christmas Fayre donations (Bottles & chocolates)
Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th	Faith Week
Tues 25 th	Kilve Residential Meeting for Year 3 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Fri 28 th	PTFA Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)

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Parkfield Press

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We will endeavour to stick to the proposed dates and times. However, there could be times when events/dates will need to be changed. If this does happen, we will give you as much notice as possible.

Thank you for continued help and support.



Gareth Jones
Headteacher



Felicitas Per Ardua
Success and Happiness Through Hardwork



Contact Details

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/parkfieldschooltaunton>

We are very grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the

The Howards Family Charitable Partnerships Programme



Thank you, Howards (Citroen/Honda/Hyundai/MG/Peugeot/Suzuki) Taunton

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STIKINS – Parkfield PTFA
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 ChatHealth

 Somerset Council

- Parent advice & support
- Healthy lifestyles
- School transitioning
- Emotional health



is your child 5-19 and are you looking for confidential help and support?

A safe and easy way to contact your School Nursing Team

Just send a text
07480 635 515



Disclaimer: This is not an emergency service; it operates Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and is only available by using a UK mobile number. Your messages are stored on our secure system and can be seen by the School Nursing Team who run our Chat-Health Service. Although this is a confidential service, in the event of an safeguarding issue the School Nurse has a duty of care to act on this and may escalate the concern.

Improving LIVES

There aren't any places at my preferred school, what can I do now?

I'VE MOVED INTO THE AREA AND NEED HELP FINDING A SCHOOL FOR MY CHILD.

CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, AND CAN I LODGE MORE THAN ONE APPEAL?

IS THERE ANYONE THAT CAN SUPPORT ME PREPARING FOR MY APPEAL?

CHOICE ADVICE

Somerset Choice Advice is a free and impartial service which supports families with advice and practical support through the school admission and appeals processes. This service exists to ensure that parents can play an active and informed role in securing a school place for their child

Call us on **01823 356 903**

Fill in our online form www.somerset.gov.uk/choice-advice

Contact us via email choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk or scan the QR code



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A PACKED LUNCH
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Based on over 20,000 reviews

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