

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

As the first half term of the academic year ends, we can look back on the amazing learning and experiences the children have taken part in so far this year: sporting events, school trips, workshops and harvest festivals...just to mention a few.

We are looking forward to another very busy term ahead, filled with opportunity and preparation for our Christmas events which we cannot wait to share with you!

We wish all a wonderful half term break.

Parkfield School



Year 6 Secondary School Applications

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 2025.**

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)

Harvest Events

Earlier this month, it was wonderful to be able to come together in the school hall with other year groups and parents / carers to celebrate Harvest with a selection of poems, hymns and songs. We also welcomed the Reverend Deborah Kirk, who kindly came along and spoke to us about the meaning of Harvest.

We would like to thank you all for your generosity with the foodbank donations. We were truly humbled by the support you have all given to our community through this collection. We have now delivered our donations to Taunton Foodbank and they were so grateful by the amount of food collected.



UNCRC Article 24 (health and health services) Health, water, food, environment.

Headteacher for the day

Thank you to all the children that supported Crystal C (Year 6) in her efforts to be our headteacher for the day on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see all the children enjoying their chosen fun activities and wearing what makes them happy!

Crystal did an amazing job, meeting with various members of staff to learn about their responsibilities, assisting Mrs Mitchell on gate duty, conducting a health and safety walk with Mr Jenkins and monitoring EYFS learning with Mrs Bamford.

Thank you to everyone who donated for the non-school uniform day – all funds raised will be donated to The Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital.



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

Hinkley Point Trip – Year 6

In Year 6, the children have been learning about different types of renewable and non-renewable energy to produce electricity. As part of this, Kestrel and Falcon class had the wonderful opportunity to visit the nuclear power plant construction site - Hinkley Point C.

The trip began at the Visitor Centre in Cannington. Here, using photos and diagrams, Year 6 learnt about nuclear fission, the different types of energy and lots of fascinating facts about Hinkley Point C.

They were able to ask lots of questions and Debbie and James, the Hinkley guides, were very impressed with their knowledge of renewable and non-renewable energy! The children then spent some time in the Games Room playing with interactive games about nuclear power and Hinkley, as well as trying on hi-viz and protective clothing.

Hinkley's bus then collected the group and drove them to the Hinkley Point C site. Hinkley currently has 246 of their own buses for transporting workers. The bus journey around the site took around 45 minutes with the children being given a very entertaining tour and lots more information about the site and the work, completing a quiz sheet as they went around.

There were people working all over the site – it was incredibly busy! Falcon and Kestrel class talked about the many different jobs that there is at the site including fire and medical emergency services called 'Hinkley Health'. They learnt what the different coloured hard hats mean and that there is a food company on site to feed all the workers.

Year 6 had a fantastic trip and found out so much about the new nuclear power station that is being built on our door step and will supply the electricity to our homes. Maybe some of them will work there in the future!

Did you know?

- Hinkley Point supplies 6.5 million homes with electricity (about 7% of the population)
- Provides 25,000 jobs
- Has the largest land-based crane – Big Carl (named after the owner of the company, Carl Sarens). Big Carl has a younger sister called Celeste. 'Big Carl' came from Belgium and was transported in pieces in 280 lorry loads
- EDF is the largest generator of low carbon electricity: wind, solar and nuclear. The nuclear power station is costing an eye-watering £34 billion to build.

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

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Avalon Marshes – Year 5

On the 14th and 21st October, both Year 5 classes went on a trip to the Avalon Marshes. On the trip, the children were able to visit three different houses, each resembling a different era - there was the Iron Age hut, the Roman villa and the Saxon dining hall. This was helpful as it showed how the houses changed over the ages!

There were three main activities; Year 5 discovered what Saxons wore and felt an actual replica of a chain mail and found out that they are extremely heavy – imagine fighting a battle in one!

They then played Saxon games and tried Saxon weaving techniques. In the Longhouse, Heron and Swan class wrote in Saxon runes on replica paper, tried carving runes using the Saxon carving method and created a coin. At lunch, the classes ate in an imitation longboat that had rigging attached and then went on an art trail to locate different art hidden within the houses.

One of their favourite activities was when the historian told the story of Beowulf; an ancient narrative poem that tells that story of a Saxon hero who helped defeat a savage monster for the King of Sweden!

Overall, this trip was amazing! The children learnt so much about the Saxons culture! Well done Year 5!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Vivary Park – Year 2

On Thursday the 10th October, Year 2 went on a local visit to Vivary Park as part of their history and geography work. The children all walked sensibly and beautifully all the way there!

The focus of the visit was to identify human and physical features of the park. Nightingale and Dove class spotted lots of human features like benches, seating huts, the bandstand, play areas and the cafe! Some of the physical features they saw were trees, the stream and the ducks and squirrels!

The children then sat under a huge tree to complete a sketch map from an aerial viewpoint - this was trickier than they thought but they all tried really hard.

Year 2 are continuing their topic back in the classroom by looking closely at the data they have collected and creating a 'messy map' of the park. Well done Year 2!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Maths Challenge – Year 6

A dynamic team of Year 6 children recently squared off against some of the most prestigious schools in the region, some travelling from as far afield as Bristol, at a high-stakes maths challenge competition.

The event unfolded across several rounds, each designed to test not only arithmetic agility but also strategic thinking and collaborative problem-solving. And that's just the marking scheme!

The group round saw Parkfield's team triangulate their strengths, working in perfect symmetry to solve complex problems with precision and flair. In the cross-number round - a crossword style mix of calculations - they demonstrated exponential thinking, filling in the grid with answers that added up in more ways than one. The shuttle round required rapid-fire exchanges of logic and number sense, with pairs from each school's contingent passing each question to their team-mates like vectors in motion. But it was the final relay round, a true test of speed and mental stamina, where their mathematical mettle was really tested.

In the end, it all added up to success. Whilst every team showed brilliant mathematical thinking, perseverance and team-work, every point counted and Parkfield's team were finally announced as the winners. Congratulations to everyone involved!

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

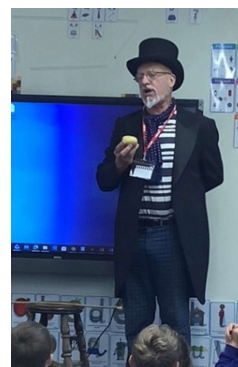


Grace Darling Workshop – Year 1

The Year 1 children were treated to a Clive Pig workshop this week, where he used his amazing storytelling skills as a Victorian teacher - complete with cane and top hat!

Mr Pig captivated the children with the tale of Grace Darling's heroic rescue of 9 survivors on 7th September 1838. Sparrow and Chaffinch class amazed him by recounting their knowledge of Grace Darling throughout his presentation, as they have just completed this unit of work in their history lessons. The children learnt about timelines and evidence as part of their skills as a historian, and really enjoyed the workshop.

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Cross Country – Year 3 / 4 / 5 / 6

Earlier this term, the Year 3 & Year 4 children competed in the SASP Cross Country Race, racing a distance of just over 1km and with our Year 3 children taking part for the first time.

The Year 4 children were the first to set off and all children had a great race, with Leo B finishing in first overall. The Year 3 children set off second and again ran a fantastic race, with Lucas K taking 2nd place overall.

The following week was the turn of our Year 5 & Year 6 children, two very strong groups of children who took on the challenge of the 1.2km track.

For Year 5, Xavier S lead strong from the start, taking an early lead which meant he crossed the finish line in 1st place with Lochlan P coming in at 7th place, running his first race at Parkfield. For Year 6, Thomas H worked tirelessly until the end, finishing strong and overtaking two runners to come in at 3rd place.

Well done to all of our runners!

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Cyclo Cross – Year 6

A few weeks ago, 8 children from Year 6 took part in a cyclo cross fixture at Ash Meadow.

The team had to cycle on an off-road track for 10 minutes and try to complete as many laps as possible in that time. The route took them over obstacles, along narrow tracks and around tight bends.



A special mention to Jake S for winning his race, with others in the team coming 2nd and 3rd in their races. The team did incredibly well, supported each other throughout and gain valuable points during their races. This put them in 2nd place overall, a fantastic podium finish!

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

Invasion Games – Year 4

Last week, excitement filled the air as Year 4 pupils from across the local area gathered for a thrilling Invasion Games Festival.

Held at Castle School, the festival brought together young athletes to compete in a series of dynamic invasion games, including football, handball, goalball, and ultimate frisbee. Each sport tested the pupils' teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking and Parkfield's teams rose to the challenge with impressive skill and determination.



Football saw both Parkfield teams showing off their footwork and fast-paced coordination, while in handball, their quick passing and agility kept the competition on their toes. In the goalball challenge, a unique, inclusive sport where players rely on sound and teamwork, Parkfield pupils demonstrated great listening and collaboration skills. Rounding off the day with ultimate frisbee, both teams showed fantastic spirit, sportsmanship, and plenty of flying discs!

It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to try a variety of sports, work together, and most importantly, have fun. We're incredibly proud of how they represented Parkfield – not just with their ability, but with their attitude too!

Well done to all involved!

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

Recorder Karate – Music

This term, the music room has been buzzing with excitement as our fantastic Recorder Club continues to grow in confidence and skill! Every week, a group of enthusiastic children come together with their recorders, ready to learn new notes, master new tunes, and take part in a fun challenge we call Recorder Karate.



Recorder Karate is a musical achievement program where children earn coloured "karate belts" as they progress through different levels of playing. Just like in martial arts, the belts get more challenging as they move up – starting with the White Belt and working their way towards the coveted Black Belt! Each level focuses on specific notes and songs, helping the children to build their reading and performance skills step by step.

We're incredibly proud to announce that Mrs Hope has already awarded an amazing 116 belts so far this term! That's 116 moments of determination, hard work, and musical success being celebrated in the classroom! The children have shown wonderful perseverance and enthusiasm. It's lovely to see their faces light up when they earn their next belt, and even better to hear the music they're making together.

Well done to all our Recorder Club members – keep practising, and let's see how many more belts we can award before the end of term! 🎵

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

School Meals

We are pleased to confirm that bookings for school meals are now open until April 2026, including a fabulous **CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU** on Wednesday 17th December 2025.

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.

Out of School Achievements – Trampolining

Congratulations to Eve R (Reception) who has been working hard and has recently achieved her Level 6 certificate and badge in trampolining!

Eve is currently attending trampolining for two hours every Monday and is doing brilliantly!

Well done Eve!



UNCRC Article 15 (Right to join groups and organisations)

House Points

House points are given to pupils to reinforce and reflect the school values that they are demonstrating at the time. The total for each house is updated every two weeks, until the end of each term.

Well done Mars – our current winners!

MARS 1183	MERCURY 901	PLUTO 953	VENUS 973
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The winning value is RESPECT – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

Key Dates

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)
Fri 14 th	Children in Need Day
Mon 17 th	Year 3 – Trip to Richard Huish College (Geology Workshop) NEW
Mon 17 th	Road Safety Workshop
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)
December 2025	
Tues 9 th	Year 1 – Christmas Concert (10am)
Wed 10 th	Year 2 – Nativity (10am)
Thurs 11 th	Reception – Nativity (10am)
Tues 16 th	KS2 (Y3 / 4 / 5 / 6) Christmas Carol Concert (6pm – 7pm)
Wed 17 th	Christmas Dinner
Thurs 18 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 19 th	INSET Day / End of Autumn Term 2025

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



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Contact Details

Parkfield Primary School
Parkfield Road
Taunton

Tel: 01823 282125

E-mail: office@parkfieldschool.co.uk

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

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

**The Howards Family Charitable
Partnerships Programme**



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Parkfield Press

23rd October 2025



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- 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 ChatHealth 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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