

## Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

**Welcome to a bumper edition of the Parkfield Press – we're sure you'll agree that we've been super busy this term!** Please take your time to read through the wonderful enrichment activities our pupils have taken part in and their achievements during this term so far.



**The Christmas Season is upon us!** The children have been busily working on their nativities and concert songs ready for their fabulous performances over the next two weeks. Letters regarding each of our Christmas events including ticket details were sent last week, so please refer to them for further information.

We also have our delicious school Christmas meal on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – if you have not yet booked and your child would like to take part, please ensure you book on School Money prior to the deadline of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Our annual Christmas jumper day will also be taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> December – please refer to the letter sent today!

### Parkfield Christmas Tree –

Our Christmas Tree is now standing proudly near our front entrance to bring festive Christmas cheer to us all - thank you again to everyone that contributed so generously towards our fundraiser and to Monkton Elm for their support.

At the end of term, the tree will be looking for somewhere else to celebrate Christmas – do you know anyone that would like it? If you, or someone you know, could give our tree a home for Christmas, please contact the school office.



## Remembrance Service – Year 6

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, Year 6 led a Remembrance Service in The Secret Garden. In spite of the rain, many friends and families joined us for the special occasion. As the rain fell, we were reminded of the difficult and relentless conditions soldiers endured in the trenches - without even the simple comfort of an umbrella for shelter. During the service, the children took turns to describe the events that led to World War I and read aloud some well-known, war-themed poems. Some children proudly read extracts from letters that they had written as soldiers in the trenches based on our study of the book, 'Dear Jelly'.



Amelia wrote: *'My Dear Dorothy, How have you come off since you last wrote to me? How is mother? I must say, I envy you being in England at all, although I daresay everyone at home wishes they were out here – they wouldn't if they once tried it.'*

Amongst the poem reciting, story-telling and the sharing of historical information, the children also laid poppies. They included a ceramic cornflower – Bleuet de France – which is used in France as a symbol of hope, memory and peace. They also laid a purple poppy to remember the animals that helped too, eg horses, dogs and pigeons, as animals showed great bravery, even though they didn't choose to go to war.

The Secret Garden looked beautiful with the display of clay poppies: each uniquely crafted using a range of clay modelling techniques. Respectfully, we all observed the two-minute silence which ended with 'The Last Post' played on a bugle. As the silence ended, Mia, on the behalf of all of Year 6, thanked everybody for attending and asked us to carry forward the memories of those who served and to continue honouring them through peace, kindness and understanding.

## UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: **Mrs Mitchell, Mr Jones or Mrs Bowkett**. Alternatively, you can ring Children Social Care on: **0300 123 2224** or email **childrens@somerset.gov.uk**

## Poppy Project 2025

The front of school blossomed at the at the beginning of November as we proudly unveiled our Remembrance Poppy Display.

Each poppy was carefully created from recycling plastic bottles - cut, shaped, painted and decorated by our talented pupils. The children poured so much care and thought into their work as they learned about the importance of remembrance and honouring those who served. The result? A vibrant, heartfelt tribute that we couldn't be prouder of and we were delighted to share with our school community.



## UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

## Faith Week (24<sup>th</sup> November – 28<sup>th</sup> November)

Faith Week was a huge success once again this year, bursting with exciting activities, new learning, and plenty of opportunities for both children and adults to explore different religions and cultures. Each year group fully immersed themselves in a different faith, discovering beliefs, traditions, celebrations and stories – alongside lots of cooking, sewing, drama and creative fun!

It was an action-packed week from start to finish. Year 4 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Mosque in Taunton, while Rev. Deborah Kirk from Temple Methodist Church joined us in school to talk to everyone about Advent.

Our EYFS and Year 2 children explored Judaism through online workshops, learning about Jewish weddings, Shabbat and the festival of Hannukah. Meanwhile, Year 3 and Year 6 showed off their rhythm and moves during an energetic Indian Dance workshop—after the whole school enjoyed an amazing Indian drumming session and even a *staff dance-off* that had everyone cheering! Year 3 went on to explore Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita, while Year 6 investigated the Dharma, Deity and Atman as part of their learning about Hindu beliefs.

Throughout the week, all classes took part in special oracy sessions, using drama to share ideas, explore big questions, and practise communicating with confidence. Our curriculum kitchen was also busier than ever, filled with delicious smells as children cooked everything from mince pies to samosas!

To finish the week with festive creativity, every child made their very own Christmas decoration—either through weaving or by learning simple stitching techniques. It was wonderful to see so many children showing resilience, focus and pride in their handmade creations.

Talking with pupils across the school, it was clear how much they had learned and how excited they were to share new facts about the faith they studied. Faith Week was truly a memorable experience for everyone.

A huge thank you to Miss Isaacs for organising such an inspiring week, and to all the staff for their enthusiasm, energy and creativity. We're already looking forward to next year!

Mrs Bowkett

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

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## Florence Nightingale Workshop – Year 2

Just before the half term break, our Year 2 children had a fantastic time stepping into the past during a Florence Nightingale workshop. They dressed up and roleplayed as soldiers and nurses, learning how to care for the wounded just like Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.

The children explored fascinating artefacts, discussed suitable food for injured patients, and even looked at a map to discover where the Crimean War took place. It was a fun and educational experience that brought history to life!



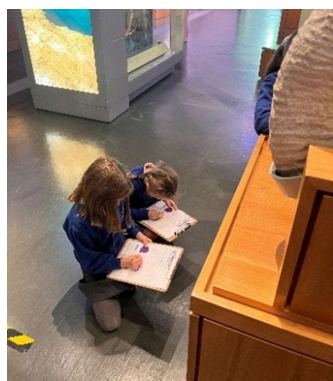
**UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)**

## Trip to Taunton Museum – Year 3

Year 3 visited Taunton Museum at the beginning of November to consolidate their learning about the Stone Age in history. It was so lovely to hear the children all sharing their learning with such passion during the workshops.

The children were then given the opportunity to make a necklace of teeth, handle artefacts, dress up, make cave paintings and answer a worksheet trail while looking at the exhibits. The children also had the chance to talk about animal fossils dating back to the Stone Age.

All the children had a great time immersing themselves into pre-history – well done Year 3!



**UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)**

## Geology Workshop – Year 3

On 17<sup>th</sup> November, our amazing Year 3 explorers headed off to Richard Huish College for a brilliant, hands-on science workshop!

Skylark and Starling Class began their adventure by diving into the world of rocks and minerals. They became real scientists, examining different samples and sorting them into clever categories. First, they investigated what makes rocks *different* from minerals. Then they took things a step further by comparing rocks, minerals and fossils - discovering the clues each one holds about our planet's past.

But the excitement didn't stop there! The children then became geologists-in-training, grouping rocks into the three major types: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. They looked closely at the unique features of each rock type and even explored the rock cycle to learn how rocks are formed, changed, and recycled over millions of years. A huge well done to all our brilliant Year 3 scientists - you rocked the trip!

**UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)**

## Wellington Maths Challenge – Year 6

On Saturday morning, our Year 6 Maths Challenge Team competed in the Wellington Maths Challenge, where they faced some incredibly tough questions. The event was so challenging that no school managed to achieve full marks this year – the top score being an impressive 23/25.

Our team performed brilliantly, earning a very healthy 18/25 and showing great problem-solving skills under pressure. A big well done to Asfa, Joshua J, Joshua L and Elliot for proudly representing our school.



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## Mini Mock United Nations – Year 6

Oakley, Tymofii, Gabriela, Olivia, Aria and Alex in Year 6 recently took part in a Mini UN event at Queens College, representing the nations of Ethiopia and the UK. This exciting event challenged participants to engage in debates on pressing global issues, negotiate solutions, and represent their assigned countries with accuracy and diplomacy.

All our students did a fantastic job preparing for the event, showcasing their research skills, teamwork, and ability to think critically under pressure. Although the event was not a competition in itself, a member of each of the delegates of the UK and Ethiopia were recognised for their extreme efforts in fighting for their country's cause. Excellent work!

This event was an incredible opportunity for our students to broaden their understanding of international relations and global challenges. Congratulations to all who participated – you've made our school proud!



**UNCRC Article 29** (Right for education to develop a child's ability and talent)

## Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 10th November marked the start of National Anti-Bullying Week – a time to celebrate kindness, respect and inclusion across our school community. This year's theme was "Power for Good", and we explored how we can all speak up, support one another and stand together against bullying in all its forms.

We started the celebrations by wearing odd socks - all week long, children and staff proudly wore socks that didn't match to celebrate how wonderfully unique we all are! But the fun didn't stop at funky footwear! Throughout the week, classes took part in a range of activities to help us understand what bullying is and how we can work together to prevent it.

A huge well done to all our pupils for listening so carefully and taking part so thoughtfully. Your kindness, courage, and brilliant ideas help make our school a place where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

**UNCRC Article 12** (Right to have a say in all matters that affect them)

## Children in Need

On a very soggy Friday afternoon, the children at Parkfield took part in an obstacle course for Children in Need. The aim was to complete a 25km course as a school as part of the 'Challenge Yourself to 25' campaign. Each class came out and completed 2 laps of the course, supported by staff and our brilliant sports leaders. As a school we ran almost 45km!!



A huge thank you to all the children and teachers who took part and a special thank you to our fantastic sports leaders, who were out in the heavy rain supporting the event with such brilliant enthusiasm!!

Well done Team Parkfield!

## Sports Events

### Girls Football – Year 5 / Year 6

In November, 9 girls from Year 5 and 6 braved the rain to take part in a football competition with 7 other local schools. The girls played 4 games throughout the evening, in the hopes of qualifying. With a great run of games, the girls finished in the top 3 and progressed onto the next round - Area Finals.

Now competing against 5 other schools, the girls were up against tougher opponents. They showed grit, determination and excellent team work. After completing their 5 matches the girls were delighted to find out they finished in second place and have secured a place in the County Finals in January!

### Boys Football – Year 6

10 Year 6 boys recently took part in a competitive football competition in the hopes of making it to the Area Finals. Playing against 2 other schools, the boys made easy work of the matches and sailed through to the next round. Now competing against some very good schools, the boys worked hard but often struggled to find the net in the short amount of time they had in the matches.

Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful this time around but should be commended on their excellent team work as they organised substitutions and formations themselves. Well done team!

### T1 Rugby – Year 5

9 children from Year 5 took part in a T1 rugby event run by students from Richard Huish and supported by SASP. The children took part in some training and coaching first, and then used these skills to compete in some matches. Of the 3 matches they played, they worked well as a team and managed to score lots of tries! It was great to see them enjoying themselves despite the heavy rain at the end! Well done to all who attended.

### Netball – Year 6

Some of the children from our netball squad took part in their first competitive match last week, against a tough Milverton side. The first quarter saw them down 6-1 but not to be defeated, the team worked hard in the final 3 quarters to bring the score to 12-8 to Parkfield!

The Milverton team chose Thelia as their player of the match and the Parkfield players chose Jude as player of the match. Well done to all for a great first game.

### Indoor Athletics – Year 6

A few weeks ago, 18 Year 6 pupils took on the challenge of indoor athletics. With each child taking on 2 track events and 2 field events, they were kept extremely busy. The children conducted themselves in an excellent manner and supported each other throughout the events. On the team events they were well organised and confident in their decisions. Unfortunately, we didn't make it through to the next round but all the children should be extremely proud of themselves.

### Sports Festival – Year 4 / Year 5

Children in Year 4 and Year 5 recently travelled to Taunton College for a morning of sport, in place of their regular PE lessons. They were taught by pupils from the college in a number of different sports and events.

It was great to see the children active and engaged throughout the morning and able to take part in sports we have been looking at in our lessons. We hope to be able to take some more of our children across in the coming weeks.

**Well done to all children who have represented Parkfield at these events – we are so proud of your resilience, team work and determination.**

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## GAC Christmas Concert

The Year 5/6 choir were invited to perform at the Temple Methodist Church on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November for the Taunton GAC Christmas celebration carol concert.

The children sang and played their boomwhackers in front of a busy church and some important guests including Taunton Mayor, Cllr Martin Straus, with whom the children did a humorous reading, Consort Ms Lauraine Newcombe, driver/Sergeant at Mace Mr Richard Venn and Rev Deborah Kirk.



The children really enjoyed themselves and received a great many compliments on their performance. A huge £691.52 was raised for the GACs chosen charity – St Margaret's Hospice Care.

**UNCRC Article 29 (Right for education to develop a child's ability and talent)**

## School Council

This year, our School Council is proud to be working on the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Framework, a fantastic initiative that supports schools in promoting positive mental and physical health.

To kick things off, the School Council completed a Wellbeing Audit with Mrs Bowkett, helping us reflect on what we're already doing well and where we can grow. From this, we've identified our key focus areas for the year:

- 🌱 Mindfulness
- 🎨 Creativity
- 😊 Understanding Our Emotions
- 🏃 Play and Active Breaks

We're excited to explore how these areas can help everyone in our school community feel happier, healthier, and more connected. This is just the beginning of our wellbeing adventure—and we're ready to make a difference!

Together, we're learning how to look after ourselves and each other—because when we feel good, we flourish.

Mrs Bowkett & The School Council

**UNCRC Article 12 (Right to have a say in all matters that affect them)**

## Autumn Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who purchased items from our Book Fair In November. We're delighted to confirm that following the event, we have been awarded over £900 of FREE books for resources and our school library!



This makes a massive difference and we are really grateful for your support.

**UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)**

## Clothing Bank

Sadly, we no longer have a clothing bank on site at school. We appreciate all the support it received while it was available, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. If the situation changes in the future, we will be sure to let everyone know.

## Out of School Achievements

### Martial Arts

Congratulations to Aadi S and Bradley G (Year 4) who recently competed in a Martial Arts Competition, the Team Evolution UK Championships, in Guildford.

Both boys did extremely well, with Aadi taking the gold medal and Bradley the silver! Well done both!



### Trampolining

Harry G (Year 3) competed in Trampoline and DMT recently and finished on the podium in both (plus a team first!) in the under 10s age group.

Harry is currently preparing to attend the regional qualifier for DMT in February, so this was good practise at a local competition. Well done Harry!



Brooke T (Year 5) competed in the South West Regional Trampoline Competition in Bath last weekend and came third in her team category.

This was Brooke's first big competition since being selected for the team this summer, and everyone is very proud of her achievement. Congratulations Brooke for winning bronze!

### Biathlon

On Sunday 23rd November, Lucas K and Matthew S (Year 3) competed in the National Schools Biathlon run by Pentathlon GB. Schools from across the South West attended. Lucas & Matthew competed in a 25-metre swim and a 400-metre run. Both boys took to the challenge with great courage and determination. Both boys put their all into the event and thoroughly enjoyed the day and was proud of their achievements.

Lucas finished in second place after the 2 events and Matthew 20th. They are both awaiting results from across the country to see if they have qualified to attend the Nationals that will take place at Bath University in March. Congratulations on your amazing achievement both!



## 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!

<b>MARS</b> 1685	<b>MERCURY</b> 1326	<b>PLUTO</b> 1394	<b>VENUS</b> 1412
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The winning value is RESPECT – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

## Key Dates

December 2025	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 – Roman Day
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 – Christmas Concert (10am)
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 – Nativity (10am)
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception – Nativity (10am)
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 (Y3 / 4 / 5 / 6) Christmas Carol Concert (6pm – 7pm)
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day / End of Autumn Term 2025
January 2026	
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Spring Term 2026
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pantomime – Dick Whittington
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 – Ancient Egyptians Workshop
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 – Charles Darwin Workshop
February 2026	
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Non School Uniform & School Disco (PTFA)
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Safety Week
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 – Net / Wall Ball Festival (Blackbrook Sports Centre)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	RNLI Water Safety Workshop
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	HALF TERM
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Back to School

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

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# Parkfield Press

5th December 2025

 ChatHealth



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**



Improving  
LIVES

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.



## 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](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/choice-advice)

Contact us via email  
[choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk)  
or scan the QR code



**PREMIER  
HOLIDAY CLUBS**

HHH Holiday Clubs, more fun, more friendships, more smiles during the winter Holidays!

Book today  
<https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>

Excellent  
Trustpilot

★ Parkfield Primary School, Taunton, TA1 4RT

★ Multi Activity camps available

★ Running 29th, and 30th December

★ Running 9am - 3pm

★ Available to children aged 4 - 11

★ Book at <https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>

★ Contact [dcrysell@premier-education.com](mailto:dcrysell@premier-education.com) for queries



Our 5\* Holiday Clubs are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the winter holidays.

And with the HHH programme, your children can attend sessions free of charge. Each session includes healthy food and enriching activities.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

**Book now** for lots of festive fun!



Scan to book, or visit -  
<https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>



Excellent  
Trustpilot

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## Taunton's Christmas Tree Trail

Step into the festive spirit and explore a magical trail of Christmas trees.

Each tree is unique, crafted by local artists, and at arts workshops hosted by Go Create, bringing a dash of creativity and joy to our community.

Scan the QR code to access the map and start your journey today, or visit [taunton-tc.gov.uk](http://taunton-tc.gov.uk) for more details, including a full calendar of festive activities for 2025.

Funded by  
**TAUNTON TOWN COUNCIL**

Monday 1 December  
to Friday 5 January

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