

## Welcome to the first Parkfield Press of 2026!

We would firstly like to wish all our families a happy new year and hope you all had a lovely time celebrating with family and friends. We have been delighted to welcome the children back and have already got stuck into the new term's learning.

We opened the year with an exciting pantomime by Chaplin's Pantomimes which was kindly funded by the Parkfield PTFA. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching Dick Whittington, the cheers and laughter could be heard throughout the school!



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

## Christmas Sparkle Update – Year 5 Civic Award

Back in November 2025, Penny Walker from the Christmas Sparkle Project came to visit Year 5. She explained that the charity collected gifts to distribute to families to ensure that every child in Taunton and surrounding areas received a gift at Christmas.



After her visit, the children in Year 5 delivered an assembly to the rest of the school explaining how we could all take part in this. We collected the donations and ensured they were delivered to the Project to be wrapped in time for Christmas.

**Thank you to all the Parkfield families who donated to this wonderful charity and made lots of children's Christmas extra special.**

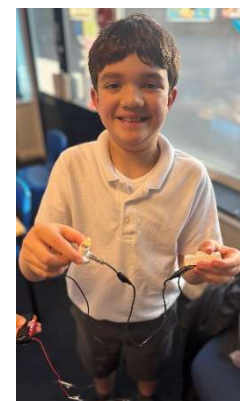


## Science – Year 4

Our Year 4 scientists have been busy exploring the world of electricity! The children have been learning how to build a simple series circuit using everyday components like batteries, wires, bulbs, and switches.

What have they learnt? Electricity loves a complete circuit! If there's a gap, nothing works – so they made sure everything was connected just right. There were plenty of glowing bulbs as the children tested their circuits!

Well done Year 4!



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

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## Read All About It!

After discussion with the School Readership Team, we thought it would be a great idea for each class' representative to write a book review on a book that they are currently reading to share on our newsletter.



Starting us off, is Henry in Dove Class who will be sharing his thoughts on the book 'Horrid Henry's Haunted House' by Francesca Simon.

**What is the book about?** The book is about a boy called Horrid Henry and he goes to stay at his Aunt's house but he has to sleep in the attic. This makes Henry feel scared because he hears spooky sounds coming from the wardrobe so he grabs his goo gun for protection.

**What is your favourite part?** When he spooks his horrible cousin, Steve, because I don't much like Steve.

**Do you like the book? Why?** I like it because he's called the same as me but I'm not horrid!

**Who would enjoy this book?** Boys and girls around my age, 7 years old.

**How many stars would you give it out of 5:** 5/5

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

## Wicked Sing-Along

Wow! What a Wicked afternoon we had at Parkfield School!

On Thursday 22nd January, the whole school came together to join in the Young Voices Worldwide Wicked Singalong. It certainly was a day to remember 'for good' and we were more than ready to 'defy gravity' when the big moment finally arrived!

We united remotely with over 500,000 children worldwide and an 8,000-strong choir live from The O2 in London, along with special guest star Emma Kingston who is currently playing the role of Elphaba in the West End.

The children sang their hearts out and we had really magical afternoon.

Well done Parkfield!

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



## Recorder Karate Black Belts!

We are thrilled to announce that 4 children in the Recorder Karate Club have now received the much coveted 'Black Belt'.

Sammy R, Rachel A, Alice P and Darcey E have all been putting the work in at home as well as at school to achieve this incredible accolade.

We are so proud of you all. Congratulations!



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

## Sports Events

### Year 6 Boys Cricket Training with Marcus Trescothick

Our Year 6 boys were treated to a truly memorable cricket experience last week as they took part in a specialist training session at Taunton School, led by former Somerset and England cricketer Marcus Trescothick.

The session focused on developing key batting and fielding skills, with pupils benefiting from Marcus's wealth of professional experience and expert coaching. The boys worked through a variety of drills designed to improve technique, confidence, and game awareness, all delivered in a supportive and inspiring environment. Marcus also shared insights from his international career, offering invaluable advice on mindset, teamwork, and the importance of practice.

The enthusiasm and engagement shown by the pupils was fantastic to see, with many relishing the opportunity to learn from one of England's most accomplished opening batsmen. The session not only helped to develop cricketing ability but also motivated the boys to challenge themselves and enjoy the game even more.

We are extremely grateful to Taunton School and Marcus Trescothick for providing such a high-quality and inspiring experience, which will undoubtedly be remembered by the boys for years to come.

### Year 5 & 6 Girls Football County Finals

Our Year 5 and 6 girls football team proudly represented the school at the County Finals Tournament held at Strode College last week. Competing against some of the strongest schools from across the county, the girls demonstrated determination, teamwork, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

The team faced a challenging group of matches in a highly competitive pool, showing great resilience and commitment in every game. Their efforts were rewarded with a 4th place finish in their pool, a fantastic achievement at county-level competition.

Beyond the results, the girls supported one another brilliantly, communicated well on the pitch, and represented the school with pride. The experience gained from competing at such a high standard will be invaluable as they continue to develop their football skills.

Well done to all the players involved for their hard work, positive attitude, and for representing the school so admirably at the County Finals.

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

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

### School Council Update – Mindfulness with Mrs Bowkett

Our School Council has been working hard on promoting mindfulness across the school. We've explored calming techniques such as belly breathing and body scanning to help us feel relaxed and focused.

We've also learned about gratitude – taking time to appreciate the good things in our lives. As part of our gratitude work, we created gratitude posters for our teachers to show how much we appreciate everything they do for us. To make our sessions even more peaceful, we've rediscovered how tranquil music can help calm our minds and create a positive atmosphere.

Mrs Bowkett & The School Council

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

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## Scooter Safety from the Eco Committee

As part of our Eco School Transport Initiative, we're encouraging children to use scooters for a fun and environmentally friendly way to get to school. Scooting helps reduce traffic, lowers pollution and keeps us active!

### Safety Tips for Scooting to School:

- Always wear a helmet to protect your head.
- Use the pavement or designated paths – never scoot on the road.
- Slow down near driveways and crossings.
- Be aware of pedestrians and share space politely.
- Keep your scooter in good condition – check brakes and wheels regularly.



Let's make our journeys greener and safer together!

See our video on scooter safety on the school website here -

<https://www.parkfieldschool.co.uk/about-us/photo-gallery/video-gallery-2025-2026>

## UNCRC Article 19 (Right to protection from harm)

### 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> 158	<b>MERCURY</b> 115	<b>PLUTO</b> 126	<b>VENUS</b> 132
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The winning value is **RESPECT** – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

### Key Dates

January 2026	
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 – Ancient Egyptians Workshop
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 – Charles Darwin Workshop
February 2026	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 – Sports Games Festival (Taunton College) – REVISED DATE
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>	Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6 – Network Rail Safety Workshop
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
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Celebrating International Mother Language Day (Non School Uniform)
March 2026	
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Story Explorer Workshops
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	Book Fair

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# Parkfield Press

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Reception / KS1 – PTFA Cake Sale
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Tempest Photographs – Vista for Reception / Year 6
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Carymoor Recycling Workshops
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Reception – Vision Screening
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Red Nose Day
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 – PTFA Cake Sale
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Week
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	Year 2 – Trip to SS Great Britain

**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

Parkfield Primary School  
Parkfield Road  
Taunton

Tel: 01823 282125

E-mail: [office@parkfieldschool.co.uk](mailto: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**



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

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**STIKINS – Parkfield PTFA  
Fundraising Number – 15416**



Speech bubbles containing questions:

- CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL, AND CAN I LODGE MORE THAN ONE APPEAL?
- 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.
- 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](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



**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**

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

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## FREE Parent and Carer Workshops: Talking to your children and teens about their bodies, feelings and relationships

An opportunity to attend a relaxed and informative session for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) of all ages with an additional focus on teenage years.

### What's This Session About?

Talking about bodies, boundaries, feelings, and relationships with your SEND child or teen can feel overwhelming—but you're not alone.

Each session will be a safe space for parents and carers to be seen, valued and heard. You only need to attend **ONE** workshop:

**In person:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at Albemarle Centre, Taunton, TA1 1BA, 1pm—2:45pm

**Online (live only):** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7pm-9pm (please login by 6:55pm)

**Duration:** 1.5 hour workshop + 30 mins Q&A

Led by **Alice Hoyle**, national Relationships and Sex Expert and SEND mum, this 1.5-hour interactive workshop will offer practical advice, tips, and signposting to help you feel more confident starting (or continuing) important conversations at home.

### Learning Outcomes:

- How Relationships and Sex education can look different for SEND children and teens —and why that's okay
- Tips for talking about bodies, friendships, puberty, and safety at home
- How to use everyday moments to build understanding and confidence
- Where to go for trusted resources, books, websites and next steps

Click here to book your place: [Talking to your children and Teens about their bodies, feelings and Relationships – Fill in form](#)

For further enquiries please email: [admin@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk)



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★★★★★  
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## Holiday Clubs running in 2026 at Parkfield:

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

Summer dates to be announced soon

To book please visit: [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

For queries please contact: [dcrysell@premier-education.com](mailto:dcrysell@premier-education.com)



Our Holiday Clubs keep children active, safe, and entertained throughout the school holidays.

Join us this February as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, performing arts, and games, all at great value. There's something for every child to enjoy this half-term!

**Book now** for a holiday full of excitement!

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\*Table Supply, Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.



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Packed lunch  
Plenty of water  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!



Excellent  
★★★★★  
Trustpilot