

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

As we come to the end of a busy and cheerful spring term, we're delighted to share the highlights and celebrations from across the last few weeks. From exciting trips and events and creative learning, to team and individual achievements, it has been a season full of energy, growth, and community spirit. We hope you enjoy catching up on everything our pupils have been involved in as we head into the Easter break.



During the holidays, we are encouraging all children to take part in our Easter Reading Competition 2026. Pupils are invited to complete one or more optional creative activities inspired by the books they read over the holiday. They can choose from:

Writing Activities

- A short summary of their book
- A thoughtful book review

Creative Artwork

- A redesigned book cover
- A drawing of the setting
- Artwork featuring one or more characters



Fun Extras

- A photo of your child reading in an unusual place
- Their favourite quote from the book, presented creatively

After the holiday, children should return their completed work to their class teacher by Friday 24th April. Each class will then create a special scrapbook to showcase their reading, which will be displayed in the school library.

Our School Readership Team will enjoy looking through all the finished scrapbooks and selecting their favourites.

- The class awarded 1st place will be able to choose 10 new books for their classroom library.
- The class in 2nd place will receive 5 new books of their choice.

This competition is a wonderful opportunity to promote reading for pleasure during the holidays. Thank you for supporting and encouraging your child to get involved - we cannot wait to see their brilliant ideas and creativity!

We look forward to seeing you all when we return to school on Monday 20th April.

Mr G Jones
Headteacher

Year 1 are Kings (and Queens) of the Castle!

The Year 1 pupils have been engrossed in Kings, Queens and Castles as their History focus this half term. The children embarked on an epic journey through the town in glorious sunshine, where they were beautifully behaved representing Parkfield School.



Upon arrival at Taunton Castle, now The Museum of Somerset, Chaffinch and Sparrow class worked together to discuss the features of the castle and why the castle was built in the first place. The children also produced some observational sketches of the castle, where they labelled features such as "towers, archways, stone walls and battlements."



Year 1 then visited the old East Gate, which is the archway by The Castle Hotel, where they spotted the portcullis which was used as a means of defence. The children had super "sticky knowledge" of the topic and were even treated to an unintentional science lesson about the weather, as they endured sunshine, wind, rain, sleet and hail throughout the trip! Well done Year 1!

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

Year 2 Visit the SS Great Britain

Our Year 2 historians stepped back in time this week for a magnificent trip to the SS Great Britain. Dressed in their finest Victorian outfits, the children didn't just explore the ship—they became part of its history!

The highlight of the visit was a grand Victorian party to celebrate the ship's "launch," where the children imagined the excitement of the very first voyage.

From investigating the cramped cabins to marvelling at the massive hull, it was a fantastic day of hands-on learning that brought the 19th century to life.



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

EYFS Trip to Puxton Park

Robin and Wren classes had a wonderful trip to Puxton Park last week.

The children enjoyed a brilliant tractor trailer ride around the cow barns and got to learn all about the dairy cows and see some baby calves.

Next, they went on to visit Meerkat Manor where they got to meet 3 meerkats and feed them some live insects! The last visit was to the Hoofstock barn, where the children met and fed some characterful pigs, cheeky goats and charming donkeys. They then finished off the trip with a quick visit to the rabbits, guinea pigs, monkeys and reptiles.

Robin and Wren were both absolutely fantastic and represented the school brilliantly!

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



Community Concert at Castle School

On Wednesday evening, pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 choir took part in the wonderful Castle School Concert, and what a fantastic performance they gave!

Our school choir opened with a beautiful and heartfelt rendition of "Hope Will Rise." The children sang with confidence, expression and real passion, and the audience were clearly moved by their stunning performance. Later in the evening, our choir joined forces with pupils from Bishops Henderson School for a special two-part performance of "Circle of Life." The collaboration between the two schools was a joy to watch, with the harmonies blending beautifully and filling the hall with music. It was a proud moment for everyone involved.

A huge well done to all the children for their hard work, enthusiasm and brilliant singing. They represented our school wonderfully, and we're very proud of them!



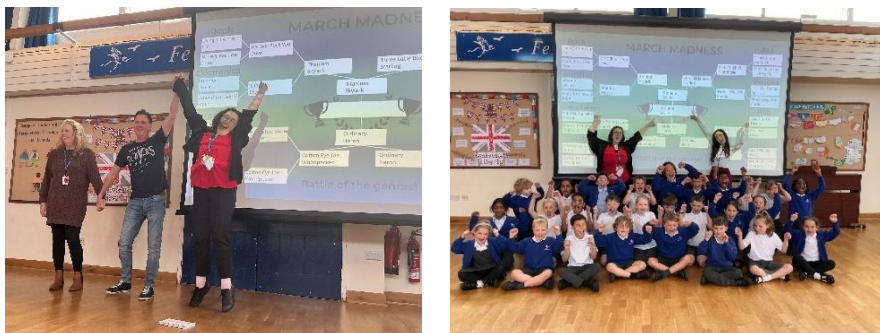
UNCRC Article 31 (The right to take part in artistic and cultural activities)

March Madness

The much-anticipated March Madness final reached an exciting conclusion last week, with Skylark Class and the genre *Electronica* emerging as our overall winners!

It was a nail-biting finish: *Titanium* and *Ordinary* each received seven votes, leaving the result in the hands of our mystery voter—who was finally revealed to be Mr Jenkins. His deciding vote secured the victory for Skylark Class.

To celebrate, the class rounded off the event with a lively dance party in the hall!



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

Sports Events

Year 5 & 6 Cross Country - A Superb Effort at King's College

Last week, a team of enthusiastic Year 5 and Year 6 runners represented our school brilliantly at the cross-country event held at King's College. The challenging 1.5km course tested stamina, determination, and resilience – but our pupils rose to the occasion with smiles, teamwork, and incredible effort.

For some children, this was a return to familiar territory as repeat racers took on the course with confidence and experience. For others, it was their very first competitive cross-country race - and they embraced the challenge with fantastic positivity.

A special congratulations goes to Xavier S, who delivered an outstanding performance to finish 2nd place in the Year 5 race. His focus and effort were evident throughout, and we're incredibly proud of his achievement.

Every runner showed superb determination, pacing themselves well and pushing through the tough sections of the course. It was wonderful to see so many children supporting one another, cheering for their friends, and celebrating each other's successes.

Well done to all our Year 5 and 6 runners for representing the school with such energy, courage, and brilliant sportsmanship.

Year 6 Netball Area Finals – A Fantastic Bronze Finish!

The Year 6 mixed netball team represented our school brilliantly on Monday as they took part in the Area Finals alongside seven other schools. With four matches to play and only the top four teams progressing to the County Finals, the pressure was on from the first whistle.

The team made a steady start in their opening match but soon found their rhythm, securing a 2–0 win thanks to Thelia's tireless running in centre and confident shooting from Jude and Ava. This early success set a positive tone for the afternoon.

In the second game, the team initially went a goal behind, but a superb long-range effort from Josh levelled the score just before half-time. Energised and full of determination, the team returned to the court with renewed focus. Jack was unstoppable in the second half, scoring an incredible five goals, with Aria adding another to seal a dominant 7–1 victory.



The third match proved the toughest of the tournament. Despite outstanding work rate from Olive and Minnie in centre and some excellent defensive interceptions from Gabriella, the team were defeated 2–0. However, their resilience shone through as they prepared for the final game.

Knowing a win was essential to secure a top-four finish, the team rose to the challenge. They controlled possession brilliantly and played with confidence throughout, finishing with a comfortable 3–0 victory. With three wins from four matches, the team earned a well-deserved 3rd place, taking home bronze medals and, most importantly, securing their place in the County Finals!

A huge well done to the entire squad for their hard work, teamwork, and fantastic attitude throughout the afternoon. We are incredibly proud of you all!

Well done to all children who have represented Parkfield at these events – we are so proud of you!

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

Book Talk

This week's book review is by Lyla in Kingfisher Class who will be sharing her thoughts on the book '*Cream Buns and Crime*' by Robin Stevens.

What is the book about? It is one of the books from the collection, 'A Murder Most Unladylike'. It tells you how to set up your own detective society. Hazel and Daisy are girls from a private school for girls where a murder takes place. They joined together to set up a detective society to try and solve murders. Daisy doesn't want others to join the society but Hazel keeps telling people about it. Hazel is Cantonese and she comes to school in England. The girls pass on their knowledge to the police and this leads to the suspect getting arrested. The girls are given badges for being great detectives. Also, there is a quiz at the end to check that you have understood the book.



What is your favourite part? My favourite bit is code-breaking with Hazel. It teaches you about Morse Code and Caesar Shift Cipher: there is space in the book for you to crack the code.

Do you like the book? Why? I LOVE the book because it gives you lots of mini mysteries, teaches you about old detectives and shows the girls' personalities. Daisy's favourite detective is Sherlock Holmes.

Who would enjoy this book? Boys and girls both read it in my class. It is in the 9-12 years section: it can be a bit gorey as it mentions blood.

How many stars would you give it out of 5: 100/5!!!

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

KS2 Orienteering

This half term, KS2 pupils have been taking part in an exciting new PE activity: Digital Orienteering. This free resource has allowed children to navigate around the school grounds, locating control points and answering themed questions at each stop. During their PE lessons, pupils have tackled challenges linked to Outdoor Education, World Book Day, and Red Nose Day.

Each course covers around half a kilometre – sometimes more if children take an unexpected detour! Their enthusiasm and energy have led to some fantastic achievements:

- **358 sessions completed**
- **13 days, 7 hours, and 16 minutes** of total activity
- **256 pupils** taking part
- **Over 700km travelled in total**

To put that into perspective, travelling 700km directly north from Parkfield Primary School, Taunton would take you all the way to the Scottish Highlands, near the edge of Cairngorms National Park!

Well done to all of KS2 for their brilliant effort and teamwork.

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



Eco Committee Update: Planting for a Calmer, Greener Future

Last week, Team Root and Shoot took an exciting first step on our journey to create a school sensory garden – a peaceful space where both children and adults can relax, connect with nature, and enjoy the benefits of increased biodiversity.

Together, the team planted peonies, dahlias, and a selection of mixed root vegetables in our raised beds. These plants have been carefully chosen not only for their vibrant colours, scents, and textures, but also for their ability to support wildlife across the seasons. It was wonderful to see pupils working collaboratively, learning new gardening skills, and showing real pride in nurturing our shared outdoor environment.

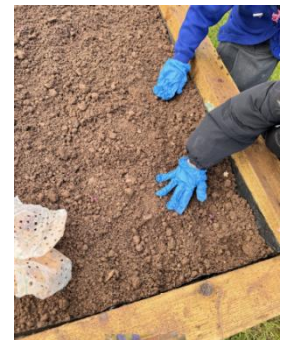
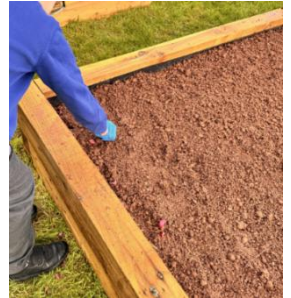
We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parkfield Friends for their generous contribution towards the raised beds. Their support has helped transform this project from an idea into a flourishing reality.

And we are only just getting started!

After the Easter holidays, our next focus will be creating a meadow area – a haven for pollinators and a key feature of our sensory garden. We also plan to grow sweet peas weaving through willow arches, adding height, fragrance, and a magical sense of enclosure to the space.

We can't wait to see the garden grow and evolve throughout the year.

UNCRC Article 24 (The right to live in a clean environment)



Global Recycling Day

On the 16th of March, our school celebrated Global Recycling Day, an annual worldwide event held on 18th March to raise awareness of how recycling protects our planet and conserves natural resources. We were delighted to welcome a representative from Carymoor's Schools Against Waste initiative, who led an inspiring whole-school assembly at 9:30am before running two engaging workshops with KS1 and the KS2 and then met with the Eco Committee.

During the assembly, pupils learned that Global Recycling Day encourages everyone to recognise recyclables as the "Seventh Resource" – a valuable material that reduces pollution, saves energy, and supports a more sustainable future. They explored how recycling is not just about waste, but about turning old materials into new opportunities, reflecting the global theme "Don't Think Waste – Think Opportunity."

The Carymoor Schools Against Waste representative helped pupils understand how small everyday actions – reducing rubbish, recycling correctly and re-using materials – can make a big difference to our environment. KS1 children enjoyed hands-on activities exploring what can be recycled, while the KS2 Eco Committee deepened their understanding of how waste impacts climate change and how they can lead whole-school change.

The morning left pupils informed, motivated and empowered to become true Recycling Heroes, ready to help protect our planet through mindful choices and positive action.

UNCRC Article 24 (The right to live in a clean environment)



Children Champion Road Safety at Mayor's Civic Award

Nell and Seth Hayward, along with the children from Parkfield's School Council, were invited to attend the Mayor's Civic Awards at the Brewhouse on 24th March. They were recognised for their support of the Trull Road Safety Improvements, which include proposals for improved pedestrian crossings, traffic-calming measures, and addressing increased traffic from new developments.

During the awards, Nell and the School Council were presented with a certificate to acknowledge their valuable contribution to the campaign. Well done, Parkfield!



[UNCRC Article 13 \(Right for say their opinions providing they are within the law\)](#)

Red Nose Day 2026

This year, we celebrated Red Nose Day by wearing something to school that made us happy. Pupils and staff filled the corridors with bright colours, silly accessories, and plenty of smiles as we came together to support a great cause.

Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and generosity, Parkfield School raised **£232** for the Comic Relief charity. The money will help support important projects that change lives across the UK and around the world.

A big thank you to our school community for making Red Nose Day such a fun and meaningful event!

Out of School Achievements

Lucas K, in Year 3 represented Parkfield Primary at the 2026 Great British Schools Biathlon Championships at the University of Bath on Sunday 22nd March.

After earning a place through the regional qualifiers during the autumn term, Lucas showed courage, composure and determination on the national stage. Schools from across the country attended and after competing in swimming and running events Lucas earned an incredible 2nd place, just missing out of the top spot!

Well done Lucas, we are all very proud of you.



[UNCRC Article 15 \(Right to join groups and organisations\)](#)

School Meals

We are pleased to confirm that bookings for school meals are now open until the end of the school year.

Bookings for week commencing 27th April (the second week we return after the Easter break) will close on Sunday 19th April 2026. If no bookings are made, your child will need to bring a packed lunch to school.

All other school meals must be booked **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.

Swallows

We are pleased to confirm that bookings for AM & PM Swallows sessions are now open until the end of the school year.

We would like to remind you that booking for Swallows closes at 6pm on a Thursday evening for the following week. Please ensure you book your required sessions by this time, so that we are able to plan staffing and activities effectively.

Please also be aware that the final serving for breakfast in AM Swallows is 8.15am. If your child is arriving at school for AM Swallows after this time, please ensure they have already eaten at home.

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 spring term winners!

MARS 711	MERCURY 601	PLUTO 632	VENUS 615
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The winning value is **RESPECT** – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

Key Dates

April 2026	
Thurs 2 nd	End of Spring Term 2026
Mon 20 th	Start of Summer Term 2026
Wed 29 th	Year 3 – Trip to Bristol Museum & Bristol Synagogue
May 2026	
Fri 1 st	Year 4 – Ancient Greek Workshop
Mon 4 th	BANK HOLIDAY
Wed 6 th	Year 3 – Trip to Kilve Activity Centre
Wed 6 th	Reception / Year 6 – National Child Measurement Programme
Fri 8 th	Reception – Family Learning Workshop (9.15am – 10.15am)
Fri 8 th	Year 1 – Trip to Noah's Ark Zoo
Mon 11 th – Thurs 14 th	Year 6 – KS2 Assessments
Fri 15 th	Reception / Year 3 / Year 6 – Space Dome
Fri 15 th	Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6 – Author Workshops (Taunton Brewhouse)
Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd	Health Week
Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd	Little Lifesavers Workshops
Mon 18 th	Reception – Sports Day (2pm – 3pm)
Tues 19 th	Years 1 / Year 2 – Sports Day (2pm – 3pm)
Wed 20 th	Years 3 / Year 4 – Sports Day (2pm – 3pm)
Wed 20 th	Reception – Multi-Skills Festival (Castle School)
Wed 20 th	Year 5 – Civic Award Evening (6pm – 7:30pm)
Thurs 21 st	Years 5 / Year 6 – Sports Day (2pm – 3pm)
Fri 22 nd	Reception / Year 1 / Year 4 – Dental Hygiene Workshops
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th	HALF TERM

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

Parkfield Press

2nd April 2026

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>

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Parkfield Press

2nd April 2026



Volunteer Litter Picking

Land Litter Picking

There will be land based litter picking through different places in Taunton according to the date you volunteer.



This will be assisted by Tim from the local shop Tare & Tide.

Water Litter Picking



Water based litter picking will be led by instructors from TASCC in our provided boats.

This will take place down stream of the COACH building located in French Weir Park.

Children (8 – 18) need to be accompanied by an adult who are both confident swimmers. You will need to bring dry clothes and a towel for after as well as shoes you don't mind getting wet.

Dates



There will be AM and PM sessions on the 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th of April.
AM sessions will run from 10am – 12pm. PM sessions will run from 1pm to 3pm.

Fundraising



TASCC are raising money for our club, and we would appreciate it if you could make any contribution that you can. This could be an in-person cash payment or via our bank, details below.

TASCC 60-80-06 597445169



Additional Information

All volunteer sessions will start from COACH, French Weir Park, Taunton TA1 1AW.
Before the session there will be a personal details form and photography permission slip to fill out.

To sign up scan the QR Code or visit <https://www.tascc.co.uk> and scroll down to the Contact Us section.



ChatHealth



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Healthy lifestyles

School transitioning

Emotional health

is your child
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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



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

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choiceadvice@somerset.gov.uk
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