

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

On behalf of everyone at Parkfield Primary School, we are delighted to welcome you and your children to the 2026 - 2027 academic year.

We are especially pleased to welcome the families who are new to our Parkfield community. We hope that you will quickly feel part of our school family, and we look forward to working alongside you as your children continue to grow, learn and flourish with us. It has been fantastic to see the children returning to school with such enthusiasm and to watch them becoming familiar with their new classes, teachers and routines. There has been a particularly positive start for our new Reception children, who have adapted so well to school life and are already becoming confident members of their classes.

Although we are still at the beginning of the academic year, there has already been a real sense of energy and excitement throughout the school. Our classrooms are busy, learning is well underway and we have lots of exciting opportunities and experiences planned for the weeks and months ahead.

We value the important role that families play in supporting children's education and believe that the strongest outcomes come from a positive partnership between home and school. We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and supporting every child to develop their confidence, skills and potential.

Should you have any questions, concerns or anything you would like to discuss, please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher. We are always happy to work with you to ensure your child has a happy, successful and rewarding experience at Parkfield.

Mr G Jones
Headteacher



Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Stanford (Year 1 Class Teacher) to Parkfield and also Miss Crook (Reception Class Teacher) who will be with us for this academic year covering Mrs Bamford's maternity leave. Welcome to Parkfield!

School Office Hours

Please be aware that the school office is staffed from 8.30am – 4.30pm each school day.

If you need to contact the school outside of these hours, please either send an email to office@parkfieldschool.co.uk or choose the option to leave a message on the phone line.

The exception to this is for parents / carers with children in Swallows from 4.30pm – 6pm who need to contact the school urgently. Please contact the school via the phone line and we will endeavor to answer your call as quickly as possible.

School Meals / School Money

School meal bookings are open until October half term. 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.

Teacher2Parents – if you have the Teachers2Parents app, please ensure that you have notifications switched on to ensure you are alerted to new messages. If you have been unable to log on to the app, please request a password reset from the school office.

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

PE Lessons

Please can we remind you that all pupils should come to school wearing the correct PE kit on the allocated PE day for their year group. The correct PE kit for the Autumn term is as follows:

- **PE T-Shirt with Logo (Navy Blue)**
- **Leggings / Jogging Bottoms with Logo (Navy Blue)**
- **Hoody with Logo (Navy Blue)**
- **Trainers / Plimsolls**

Gym / Sports Shorts / Skirt with Logo (Navy Blue) can be worn if the weather allows.

Furthermore, for Health and Safety reasons, long hair must be tied back and all jewellery, including earrings, must now be removed before pupils take part.

A reminder of the allocated PE days:

- Monday: Reception
- Tuesday: Year 3 & Year 6
- Wednesday: Year 5 & Year 1
- Thursday: Year 4 & Year 2

The safety of our children in school, especially during PE, is extremely important and we appreciate your support in making sure your child is wearing the correct kit. Please also ensure that all uniform and PE kit is named – we already have a substantial amount of lost property this term.

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

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 – Wednesday 7th October, 9:15am – 9:45am

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

EYFS – Thursday 8th October, 2.45pm – 3.30pm (Family Learning Workshop)

We will once again be collecting non-perishable items this year and will be supporting both the Taunton Food Bank and Taunton Open Door. Most donations are keenly received however, we have been informed that the following items are in desperate need:

- **JAM / PEANUT BUTTER**
- **UHT LONG LIFE MILK**
- **TINNED MEAT / MEALS (MEAT & VEGETARIAN)**
- **TEA / COFFEE / HOT CHOCOLATE**
- **RICE PUDDING / BISCUITS**
- **PASTA / PASTA SAUCES / RICE**
- **COOKING OIL**
- **TOILETRIES (ROLL ON DEODORANT, SHOWER GEL, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES)**

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

For further information on the Food Bank and Open Door, please see the websites below:

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

<https://www.tauntonopendoor.org.uk/donate/>

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

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Secondary School Applications

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL YEAR 6 PARENTS / CARERS

The online form for secondary school applications opened on **Monday 14th September 2026**. Please ensure you have completed and submitted the application form by the **closing date of 31st October 2026**.

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 2026) 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)

School Run Reminders - Parking

We would like to remind you to please park / pull over considerately of our neighbours and others, ensuring driveways and paths are not blocked and to be aware of your surroundings.

Please do not park on double yellow lines.

Please do not pull over into the bus stop, this is not a parking space, or use the on-site staff car park.

Please do not stop on the road to let your child out of the car, please find somewhere safe to pull over.

As pedestrians, please be aware of the zebra crossing – if you do not intend to cross the road, do not congregate close by as this is confusing to drivers on what is already a busy road during drop off / collection times.

We are aware that parking close by to school can be difficult but please assist us in being considerate to others, to ensure the safety of everyone.

School Run Reminders - Communication

We would like to kindly remind everyone to be mindful during drop-off and pick-up times.

These can be busy periods, so we ask that everyone remains respectful and considerate of others, particularly when speaking to or around the children.

We would also ask that you are especially careful about what is said directly to children, particularly if the child is not your own. We appreciate that comments may sometimes be made with no ill intention however, children can interpret things differently and conversations can easily be misconstrued or cause unnecessary upset.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and continued support, ensuring that drop-off and pick-up remain a positive and comfortable experience for all our children and families.

Swallows / Clubs Sessions & Payment

Our Swallows / Clubs sessions qualify as a childcare and therefore can be paid for with childcare vouchers.

Childcare vouchers are exempt from national insurance contributions (NICs) and income tax for employees, up to a certain value. All employers are able to run a childcare voucher scheme either through HMRC or other companies. The school can accept all types of childcare vouchers as full or part payment towards your session fees. If applicable, you may like to speak to your employer to find out which childcare voucher company they are registered with.

To make a voucher payment to the school, you will probably require the following details:

- **Ofsted Number:** 123714
- **School Name:** Parkfield Primary
- **Address:** Parkfield Primary School, Parkfield Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4RT

Most childcare voucher companies provide access through their websites to an online account for parents and we recommend this as the easiest way to make your voucher payments to us.

HMRC voucher payments – please send us the following information each time a payment is made (alternatively, you can send a print screen of the transaction showing the following):

- Date the transaction is reaching the school account (not the date the transaction is authorised)
- Payment reference
- Amount
- Reference number (start with the first letter of your child's name followed by three letters of the surname/family name and a five-digit number ending with the letters TFC)

Other providers – normally a payment notification email is sent automatically direct to the school. Once we receive the payment notification, we then credit the School Money account manually. Please check if the school is registered with the company you are using.

To ensure that making a payment is as easy and stress-free as possible, please make payment well in advance. Childcare voucher and HMRC tax-free payments take between 3 – 5 days to reach us, so please allow two weeks from the payable date when you send them and for our finance team to credit your child's online School Money account.

Unfortunately, we are not able to process voucher payments set for in the future.

Childcare vouchers are only acceptable for the following eligible activities:

- Swallows (wrap around care) Club
- After school Clubs
- Holiday Camps

Childcare vouchers **are not** accepted for the following:

- School lunches/meals
- School trips during school hours or related to the school curriculum
- Residential trips that take place away from the school's registered premises
- School activities ie: Swimming etc

Please be aware that, under HMRC rules, any overpayment of childcare vouchers cannot be refunded directly to parents due to the tax benefits received on purchase.

Swallows / Clubs Sessions & Payment continued

Bookings need to be made with payment and in advance using our School Money online payment system. To ensure a place is available for your child to attend Swallows wrap around care, **bookings must be made by the Thursday (5pm) prior to the week required**. We are unable to give refunds or credits for any changed/cancelled bookings where less than 7 days notice has been given.

Swallows Morning Club

- 07:50 - 08:50 (£3.80)

Drop off from 07:50 at the main entrance / office.

Parents/carers must accompany their child to the club entrance and ensure that the child is handed to a member of the Swallows staff. The staff member will then check the child's name against the booking register.

There are plenty of resources available for your child to play with until it is time for school. All children are accompanied to their respective classes at the start of the school day.

Breakfast is served between 07:50 - 08:15. Breakfast is a choice of: milk, cereals, toast & spreads or fruit.

Swallows Afterschool Club

- 15:30 - 16:30 (£3.80)
- 15:30 - 17:30 (£7.60)
- 15:30 - 18:00 (£9.50)

The following sessions are available for those children who take part in an onsite club/activity:

- 16:30 - 17:30 (£3.80)
- 16:30 - 18:00 (£5.70)

Class teachers are notified which child is attending a school club in advance.

Children are taken to the Swallows club by a member of the class team and signed in the Swallows register. Once a register has been taken, children are offered a snack (fruit/biscuit/ raisins etc). You are welcome to send a snack with your child.

Collection point for Swallows club is the Main Office.

Other School Clubs

As well as our popular Swallows Club, when possible, there are lots of things to do after school at Parkfield School. Whether your child is sporty, musical, arty or if they just enjoy trying out new things with friends then we hope there is something that will interest them.

Class teachers are notified in advance which child is attending a school club. Children are taken to their respective club by a member of the class team and signed in the club's register.

Places for clubs are limited and are offered on first come first serve basis.

Please note, children must be collected no later than the time booked. Collecting after/after later than the booked time may incur a late collection charge (This will pay for any additional operational costs that caring for a child outside the booked Swallows/clubs hours.)

Amendments/changes/cancellations made to any bookings (Clubs/Trips/any School Activity etc.) after the closing date, regardless of the reason, are unfortunately non-refundable.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate spectators in any of the clubs.

All bookings and payments need to be completed online using School Money <https://eduspot.co.uk/>.

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Out of School Achievements

Congratulations to Theo H, Jacob G, Felix P and Lochlan P (Year 6) who represented Somerset Under-11s Water Polo at the recent South West Inter-Counties Water Polo Tournament.

The boys played brilliantly as part of the Somerset team, competing against other counties from across the South West, and came away with a bronze medal! Well done – we are so proud of you!



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.

MENDIP 867	QUANTOCK 883	BLACKDOWN 893	EXMOOR 851
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The winning value is RESPECT – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

Key Dates

September 2026	
Mon 21 st – Tues 22 nd	Year 6 Bikeability Course – Group 2
Wed 23 rd	Year 3 – Invasion Games Festival (Castle School)
Mon 28 th	PTFA AGM (7.30pm)
Mon 28 th – Tues 29 th	Year 6 Bikeability Course – Group 3
Tues 29 th	Kestrel Class – Trip to Hinkley Point
Wed 30 th	Year 2 – Multi Skills Festival (Castle School)
October 2026	
Thurs 1 st	Falcon Class – Trip to Hinkley Point
Mon 5 th	Phonics Session for Parents / Carers (3pm – 3.30pm)
Tues 6 th	Phonics Session for Parents / Carers (3pm – 3.30pm)
Mon 5 th – Tues 6 th	Year 6 Bikeability Course – Group 4
Wed 7 th	KS2 (Y3 / Y4 / Y5 / Y6) – Harvest Festival (9.15am – 9.45am)
Thurs 8 th	KS1 (Y1 / Y2) – Harvest Festival (9.15am – 9.45am)
Thurs 8 th	Reception – Harvest Festival Family Learning (2.45pm – 3.30pm)
Fri 9 th	Non School Uniform Day & School Disco (PTFA)
Fri 16 th	Tempest Photographs – Individuals
Tues 20 th	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Wed 21 st	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Fri 23 rd	Headteacher for the day
Fri 23 rd	Flu Vaccinations
Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th	HALF TERM

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.

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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

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

Parkfield Press

18th September 2026

 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

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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TAUNTON SCHOOL

SOUTH WEST SCHOOLS BIATHLON

RUNNING

SWIMMING

11TH OCTOBER | £15
REGISTRATION FROM 9.30AM

Years 3-4 | 25m Swim | 400m Run
Years 5-7 | 50m Swim | 800m Run
Years 8-13 | 100m Swim | 1500m Run

TAUNTON SCHOOL, SOMERSET, TA2 6AD

Discover more at:
pentathlongb.sport80.com/pub/e_locator/events/view/38112

QUALIFIER

