

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

The new academic year has got off to a fabulous start. The children are now familiar with their new classes and routines, and there is a real buzz around the school, with lots of exciting learning opportunities taking place.

We have already enjoyed a range of sporting activities, Year 6 are working through their Bikeability course, and our enrichment programmes are now underway. Read on to find out more!



Welcome to our new Reception starters!

We are so proud of how wonderfully Robin and Wren Classes have settled into school! The children have embraced Reception with such enthusiasm, enjoying lots of exciting learning through play while also beginning their phonics, literacy and maths journeys.

It has been lovely to see their confidence grow each day, and we have been especially proud of the determination and resilience they are already showing when faced with new challenges.

What a fantastic start to their time in Reception at Parkfield. Mrs Crook has also settled in fabulously too!



UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

Year 2 Multi-skills at Castle School

This week, Year 2 walked to Castle School for a sports festival. The festival was run by children from Castle School and there were lots of energetic activities for the children to enjoy.

There were team games, parachute activities, an obstacle course, ball games and throwing activities. Other schools from around Taunton were also at the festival, so it was great to meet and play with other children.

Everybody really enjoyed themselves – well done Year 2!



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

Year 3 Invasion Games Festival

Year 3 had a fantastic time at the Invasion Games Festival held at The Castle School. Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of sports, including netball, tag rugby, frisbee, football and basketball.

The pupils showed great enthusiasm and teamwork, encouraging one another and trying their best in every activity. They demonstrated excellent resilience when faced with challenges and showed kindness and respect towards both teammates and opponents.

It was wonderful to see such positive sportsmanship on display, with children playing fairly, celebrating each other's achievements and representing the school so well. Everyone had a brilliant day, developed new skills and returned to school with lots of happy memories.



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

Kilve Residential – Year 4

At the beginning of September, our amazing Year 4 cohort had an exciting time on their Kilve residential! The children embraced every opportunity, showing fantastic teamwork, resilience, courage and determination throughout their adventure.

They took part in a wide range of exciting activities, including abseiling, mountain biking, buggy building, the Fantasy Trail and challenging maze puzzles. A highlight was our visit to Kilve Beach, where the children worked together to hunt for fossils and were thrilled to discover real ammonites and devil's toe-nails.

There was also plenty of time for fun and friendship, with an evening disco, campfire, toasted marshmallows, hot chocolate and lots of singing.

Most importantly, the children supported and encouraged one another, stepping outside their comfort zones and taking on challenges with enthusiasm. We returned to school with some very tired children – but lots of happy memories!

Well done, Year 4! We are incredibly proud of you!



UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

Year 4 Cross-Country Success

Well done to all of our Year 4 children who took part in the recent cross-country race. They showed excellent running skills, determination, and perseverance throughout the event. The course was challenging, but every runner gave their best effort and represented the school brilliantly. It was fantastic to see the children encouraging one another and showing great sportsmanship from start to finish. Their positive attitudes and resilience were a credit to the school.

A special congratulations goes to Lucas K, who achieved an outstanding 2nd place finish. Lucas demonstrated exceptional determination and a strong running performance to secure his place on the podium. We are very proud of his achievement.

Well done to everyone who took part and made the event such a success!

Year 5/6 Cross-Country Race

A huge well done to all of our Year 5 children who took part in their cross-country race. The pupils demonstrated excellent running skills, determination, and resilience as they tackled the challenging course. Every runner gave their very best effort and showed fantastic sportsmanship, encouraging their friends and refusing to give up even when the race became tough.

Also, a big congratulations to all of our Year 6 runners who took part in their cross-country race. The children displayed outstanding determination, perseverance, and excellent running throughout the event. They approached the challenge with confidence and resilience, supporting one another and demonstrating superb sportsmanship from start to finish.

A special mention must go to Xavier S, who produced an exceptional performance to finish in 1st place, crossing the line with an impressive 10-second lead over the rest of the field. Xavier's determination, pace, and hard work were evident throughout the race, and this was a fantastic achievement.

Following the race, all the children took part in a vibrant Colour Run, which provided lots of fun, laughter, and celebrations after their hard-earned efforts on the course.

Well done to all our runners for representing the school so wonderfully and making us proud!

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

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

At Parkfield, we believe that reading is one of the most powerful ways for children to learn, grow, and develop a lifelong love of discovery. Whether it's diving into an exciting adventure, exploring new worlds, or learning about different people and cultures, reading opens doors to endless possibilities.



Research consistently shows that children who read regularly develop stronger vocabulary, improved comprehension skills, greater creativity, and increased confidence. Just a few minutes of reading each day can make a significant difference to a child's academic progress and wellbeing.

To help families find fantastic books and reading inspiration, we would like to recommend **The Reader Teacher**, a wonderful website created by teacher and reading advocate Mr Dilly.

The Reader Teacher is an award-winning website offering fantastic book recommendations, reading lists, and resources for families and educators. Whether your child enjoys adventure, fantasy, poetry, graphic novels, or non-fiction, you'll find plenty of inspiration to help nurture a love of reading.

Together, let's encourage every child to enjoy the magic of reading! <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

Eco Committee Update

Our Eco Committee is up and running! Representatives from across the school have met together, taken on different roles and completed an environmental review to help us identify our next steps.

This year, we'll be focusing on Global Citizenship, exploring what it means to make a positive difference locally and globally. Our projects will include learning about Taunton as a Fairtrade Town, the impact of fast fashion, and how we can help protect endangered species.

We're looking forward to sharing our progress and inspiring everyone to make small changes that can have a big impact! Mrs Bowkett

School Council Update

Our new School Council is up and running! We've already had our first meetings and started exploring this year's Rights Respecting Schools OutRight Campaign on Safer Learning Spaces. The children have been discussing what makes them feel safe, supported and ready to learn, as well as the rights that link to this important work.

We'll also be supporting the Eco Committee's focus on Taunton as a Fairtrade Town and continuing to champion health, wellbeing and play across the school.

We're excited to see what our pupil leaders can achieve this year! Mrs Bowkett

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

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)

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

We would like to make Year 6 Parents / Carers aware 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 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)

Save the Brewhouse

Seb (Year 4) and Pippa (Year 1) have been working incredibly hard growing spider plants to raise money for the campaign to save the Brewhouse Theatre.

They have enjoyed many wonderful shows at the theatre over the years and were very upset to hear that it is due to close at the end of October unless enough funds can be raised to secure its future. As the theatre can no longer cover its running costs, local theatre groups and supporters have launched a fundraising campaign to help keep this much-loved community venue open.

Wanting to do their bit, Seb and Pippa decided to grow and sell their own spider plants, with every penny raised going directly to the fundraiser. We are very proud of their initiative, generosity and community spirit. Well done, Seb and Pippa, for supporting such an important local cause!

If you would like to purchase spider plants, please contact Shell on 07816 239559.



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

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

Out of School Achievements

On Saturday, Billie (Year 2) took part in the Axminster Carnival as a member of the Eclipse Elite Twirlers. Billie has been preparing for months, practising her pom dance and baton skills.

She will be taking part in six carnivals over the coming weeks, including Wellington and Taunton, so please give her a wave and a cheer if you see her!



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.

MENDIP 1508	QUANTOCK 1522	BLACKDOWN 1519	EXMOOR 1502
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The winning value is **RESPECT** – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

Key Dates

October 2026	
Mon 5 th – Tues 6 th	Year 6 Bikeability Course – Group 4
Mon 5 th	Phonics Session for Parents / Carers (3pm – 3.30pm)
Tues 6 th	Phonics Session for Parents / Carers (3pm – 3.30pm)
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 Family Learning Workshop (2.45pm – 3.30pm)
Fri 9 th	Non School Uniform Day & School Disco (PTFA)
Mon 12 th	Year 1 – Grace Darling Workshop
Wed 14 th	Year 5 – Sports Games Festival (Taunton College)
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
November 2026	
Mon 2 nd	Back to School
Tues 3 rd – Thurs 5 th	Book Fair
Thurs 5 th	Year 5 – Trip to Escot
Fri 6 th	Tempest Photographs – Families & Siblings
Wed 11 th	Year 6 – Remembrance Service (10.30am – 11.10am)
Thurs 12 th – Fri 13 th	Anti-Bullying Workshops
Thurs 12 th	Pembrokeshire Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Fri 13 th	Non-Uniform Day (PTFA Christmas Fayre Donations - Bottles & Chocolates)
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th	Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Week)
Mon 16 th	Road Safety Assembly
Fri 20 th	Children in Need Day
Mon 23 rd – Fri 27 th	Faith Week
Tues 24 th	Kilve Residential Meeting for Year 3 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Thurs 26 th	Year 4 – Sports Games Festival (Taunton College)
Fri 27 th	PTFA Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)
December 2026	
Tues 8 th	Year 1 – Christmas Concert (10am)
Wed 9 th	Year 2 – Nativity (10am)
Thurs 10 th	Reception – Nativity (10am)
Tues 15 th	KS2 (Y3 / Y4 / Y5 / Y6) Christmas Concert (6pm – 7pm)
Wed 16 th	Christmas Dinner
Thurs 17 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 18 th	INSET Day / End of Autumn Term 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.

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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
Partnerships Programme**



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

Parkfield Press

2nd October 2026

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Just send a text

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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
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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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Could you tell if your child was being **exploited** **online?**



Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

29 September 19:00 - 20:30pm **06 October** 13:00 - 14:30pm

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

29 Sept



06 Oct





THE 4 WEEK RESTART CHALLENGE.

ONLY £97

- Mums, maybe your fitness restart hasn't gone quite as planned.
- Did you have good intentions when the children went back to school?
- Or, did you start but you've already dropped off due to lack of support and accountability?
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X 3 sessions per week (12 per month).

Location: COACH, French Weir.



- A personalised approach.
- Building strength.
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- Fat loss.
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- Improving posture.
- Learning good form and technique.
- Building confidence.
- Creating consistency.

For a 15 min consultation scan the QR Code



We pride ourselves on being a friendly, fun and supportive community where women feel confident to exercise and boost their health and fitness.

HELEN X

Parkfield Press

2nd October 2026



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★ Monday 26th October - Wednesday 28th October

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★ Running 9am - 3:30pm / 8:30am - 4:30pm

★ £27.99 / £34.99 per child, per day

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★ Book at www.premier-education.com/holiday-clubs

★ Contact dcrysell@premier-education.com for queries

PROMOTIONS & DISCOUNTS!

★ 1x Half price day if you attended during Summer 2026

★ 1x Half price day if you've attended Premier Education Wrap Around Care this term

To book promotions & discounts, message us on Facebook

@PremierEducationSomerset



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

Join us this holiday period as we offer a wide range of fun activities, including sports, arts and crafts, dance 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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Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot

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3, 4, 5 & 6

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PLAYING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN THE TAUNTON AREA

PLAY FOOTBALL | **MAKE FRIENDS** | **BUILD CONFIDENCE** | **HAVE FUN**

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BISHOPS LYDEARD AFC | GIRLS & WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

The poster features a red and black color scheme with a distressed, paint-splattered background. It includes images of young girls and a senior woman in football kits. The club crest is in the top left, and the text is arranged in a dynamic, energetic layout.

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