Parkfield Press

20th October 2026

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

As the autumn days settle in and the evenings become cooler and darker, please take extra care to ensure that children are visible and safe when travelling to and from school. Whether walking, cycling or travelling by car, a little extra vigilance at this time of year can make a big difference.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks for your support of our Harvest Festivals last week. Your generous donations for the Taunton Food Bank and Taunton Open Door were greatly appreciated and will help support members of our local community who are in need. It was wonderful to see such kindness and community spirit on display.

Lastly, we look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and achievements at the parents' evenings this week and to another very busy term ahead, filled with opportunity and preparation for our Christmas events which we cannot wait to share with you!

We wish all a wonderful half term break.

Parkfield School

Baby News!

We are delighted to let everyone know that Mrs Bamford and her husband have welcomed their baby boy.

Archie John Bamford was born on 8th October weighing 8lb 1oz!

We are pleased to report that both mum and baby are doing well and we send the family our very best wishes as they enjoy this special time together.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

We would like to remind Year 6 Parents / Carers 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 2025) 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)

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Maths Challenge – Year 6



Parkfield were proud to field two excellent teams in the recent maths challenge at Queens College, alongside opponents from many other schools in the Taunton area. Competition was fierce as the tasks increased in difficulty from a whole group round based on reasoning questions, to a "crossnumber" (crossword, but with numbers!) followed by a tense, timed shuttle round, all topped off with a manic, but really exciting relay challenge.

As well as hardcore maths, our numerical warriors needed to show excellent communication skills, work well as a team and keep their cool under pressure. Everyone left with big smiles on their faces and a lovely goodie bag!

UNCRC Article 29 (Right for education to develop a child's abilities)

Harvest Celebrations



Our Harvest Festivals were wonderful celebrations of thankfulness, community and the abundance of the harvest season. Across both Key Stages, the children showcased their talents through enthusiastic singing, thoughtful poetry and generous acts of kindness.

The children sang a range of joyful harvest songs with confidence and enthusiasm, filling the hall with music and smiles. They also worked hard to write and perform beautiful harvest poems, sharing reflections on nature, gratitude, sharing and helping others.

In KS2, the festival began with a very special performance from Sammy, who played the piano beautifully for our school song, setting the tone for the celebration. Later, the choirs from both Key Stages entertained the audience with lively performances. In KS1, the choir delighted everyone with a collection of animated harvest songs, while in KS2 they impressed with their humorous parody songs based on Firework and Walking on Sunshine, complete with colourful scarf actions that brought plenty of smiles.

We were delighted to welcome Rev Deborah Kirk, who shared a meaningful story about kindness, generosity and caring for others. Her message encouraged the children to think about how small acts of kindness can make a big difference and the importance of supporting members of our community who may need a helping hand.

As always, our school community demonstrated tremendous generosity. Children across the school brought in a fantastic collection of food and household items to donate to the local food bank. We are incredibly grateful to all the families who contributed. These donations will make a real difference to those in need and truly reflect the spirit of harvest.

Well done to all of our pupils for their excellent performances, thoughtful poems and generous donations. A special congratulations goes to Sammy for his wonderful piano playing, which made the KS2 celebration extra memorable. Together, the children helped create meaningful Harvest Festivals that celebrated community, kindness and gratitude.

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

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EYFS Harvest Workshop



Our reception children had a wonderful time at our Harvest Family Festival Workshop, where families came together to explore and learn about harvest through a range of fun, hands-on activities. From becoming seed investigators and creating clay hedgehogs to designing scarecrows and drawing colourful fruit and vegetables, there was something for everyone to enjoy! It was a lovely opportunity to get creative, discover more about the harvest season and celebrate learning together.

Special thanks to Rev Nick Griffin, who is one of our reception parents, and his colleague Emma, who joined the workshop, reciting a harvest story and prayer.







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

Year 5 & Year 6 – PCSO visit



On Monday morning, we were visited by PCSOs Shaun and Marshall, who came to talk to the children about the Age of Criminal Responsibility.They began by explaining what this means. In England, from the age of 10, children are considered legally responsible for their actions. This means that if they break the law, the police may become involved. The children were then asked to think of examples of anti-social behaviour. Their suggestions included bullying, swearing, fighting and being drunk in public.

A significant part of the discussion focused on online safety and social media. Many children either have a mobile phone or may be getting one soon. The PCSOs talked about popular apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp and reminded the children about the importance of staying safe online.
They also discussed online gaming, particularly games that allow players to communicate with others. Some children shared that they chat to other people while playing multiplayer games. Marshall reminded the children to be cautious when interacting with people online and highlighted concerns about safety when using certain online gaming platforms.

The children were given the opportunity to ask questions about anything that might be worrying them, as well as any concerns they may have about situations they have seen in the community.
The PCSOs also reminded everyone that if they ever need police assistance or have concerns, they can:
· Call 999 in an emergency.
· Call 101 for non-emergency situations.
· Visit their local police station to speak to an officer.

Shaun and Marshall were impressed with how much the children knew but highlighted that it is always important to stop and think first before acting. The session was informative and gave the children valuable advice about making safe and responsible choices both online and in the community.

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Year 6 – Trip to Hinkley Point C



In Year 6, the children have been learning about different types of renewable and non-renewable energy to produce electricity. As part of this, each Year 6 class had the wonderful opportunity to visit the nuclear power plant construction site - Hinkley Point C.



The trip began at the Visitor Centre in Cannington. Here, using photos and diagrams, we learnt about nuclear fission, the different types of energy and lots of fascinating facts about Hinkley Point C. The children were shown a graph showing electricity consumption across 24 hours and discussed why there were peaks and troughs. Following this, they spent some time in the Games Room to play with interactive games about nuclear power and Hinkley as well as trying on hi-viz and protective clothing.

Hinkley's coach then collected the class and drove them to the Hinkley Point C site. Hinkley has its own buses for transporting workers and they currently have 200 buses! The children were driven around the construction site whilst being given a wealth of information about the work being done and nuclear energy.

Year 6 had a fantastic trip and found out so much about the new nuclear power station that is being built on our doorstep and will supply the electricity to our homes. Maybe some of them will work there in the future!

Did you know?



- Hinkley Point supplies 6.5 million homes with electricity (about 7% of the population)
- Provides 25,000 jobs with 14,000 people being on site at any given time
- Has the largest land-based crane – Big Carl (named after the owner of the company, Carl Sarens). There are currently about 50 cranes on site
- HPC holds the world record for the longest, continuous concrete pour – a staggering 78 hours!
- EDF is the largest generator of low carbon electricity: wind, solar and nuclear. The nuclear power station is costing an eye-watering £34 billion to build and should be finished in 2030.

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

Year 1 Grace Darling





We have had a special visitor recently in Year 1!

We welcomed Cornelius Stickler - Victorian School Inspector (aka Clive Pig), a fantastic storyteller who brought the story of Grace Darling to life through his exciting and engaging storytelling.

The children were captivated as they listened to the story and learnt about Grace Darling, a brave Victorian heroine who helped rescue survivors from a shipwreck in 1838.

Through Clive's wonderful storytelling, the children were able to bring history to life and learn more about Grace's bravery and courage. It was a fantastic experience that helped us understand the significance of the story and sparked lots of interest in this incredible true event!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

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BBC 500 Words Writing Competition



BBC 500 Words Competition 2026: The BBC 500 Words competition is now open! Children aged 5-11 years are invited to write an original story of 500 words or fewer. There are two age categories: 5-7 years and 8-11 years. Stories are judged on creativity and imagination, not spelling, punctuation or grammar.

Entries must be submitted electronically by an adult (parent, guardian or teacher) through the BBC website. The closing date is 9.00pm on Friday 6 November 2026.

For more information and to enter, visit: https://www.bbc.co.uk/500words

Happy writing!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

School Council Update: Fairtrade

This week, we have been learning all about **Fairtrade** and **Fairtrade Towns**. We explored what Fairtrade means, why it is important for farmers and producers around the world and identified Fairtrade products already used in school. We have also begun creating a Fairtrade noticeboard to share our learning with the rest of the school.

As part of our Outright Campaign for Safe Learning Spaces, we thought carefully about barriers that can stop people from accessing learning and designed ideas for safe, welcoming learning spaces. We look forward to sharing more of our work and continuing to promote fairness, inclusion and global citizenship throughout the year.

Mrs Bowkett and the School Council

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

Eco Committee Update: Food & Farming

This week, the Eco Committee launched our Food & Farming theme by exploring the question: "How does the food we eat affect people and the planet?"

The children learned about Fairtrade, food miles and sustainable choices, discussing ways to reduce food waste and support "Fairness for Farmers." They also discovered several Fairtrade products already used in our staffroom.

To finish, our Eco Committee members became food detectives, meeting with lunchtime staff to begin a school food audit and to investigate the foods available at lunchtime.
We look forward to sharing our findings and next steps later this term!

Mrs Bowkett & The Eco Team

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

School Meals

We are pleased to confirm that bookings for school meals are now open until March 2027, including a fabulous **CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU** on Wednesday 16th December 2026.

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.

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Out of School Achievements

Taekwondo Champion!



Aadi S (Year 5) has participated in the UKTA championship 2026, which is his third consecutive year competing in this national Taekwondo competition. This year, he achieved an excellent result, by winning two silver medals, one in sparring and another in Patterns.
His achievement over the past three years demonstrates his dedication and continuous improvement in taekwondo. We are very proud of his commitment to the sport and the progress he has made through consistent training and hard work.

Fantastic determination, Aadi!

Swimming Star!



Congratulations to Audrey P (Year 5) who swam at the Somerset County Development Meet last weekend at Millfield School, winning a fantastic Silver medal in 50m Fly and gaining PBs in the 50 Fly, 50 Backstroke, 100 Freestyle, and 100 IM!

Well done Audrey!

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	QUANTOCK	BLACKDOWN	EXMOOR
2268	2222	2260	2205

The winning value is RESPECT – well done Parkfield for being respectful students!

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Key Dates

October 2026	
Tues 20th	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Wed 21st	Parents Evening (3.50pm – 6.50pm)
Fri 23rd	Headteacher for the day
Fri 23rd	Flu Vaccinations
Mon 26th – Fri 30th	HALF TERM
November 2026	
Mon 2nd	Back to School
Tues 3rd – Thurs 5th	Book Fair
Thurs 5th	Year 5 – Trip to Escot
Fri 6th	Tempest Photographs – Families & Siblings
Wed 11th	Year 6 – Remembrance Service (10.30am – 11.10am)
Thurs 12th – Fri 13th	Anti-Bullying Workshops
Thurs 12th	Pembrokeshire Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Fri 13th	Children in Need Day
Mon 16th – Fri 20th	Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Week)
Mon 16th	Road Safety Assembly
Fri 20th	Non-Uniform Day (PTFA Christmas Fayre Donations - Bottles & Chocolates)
Mon 23rd – Fri 27th	Faith Week
Tues 24th	Kilve Residential Meeting for Year 3 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Fri 27th	PTFA Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)
December 2026	
Tues 8th	Year 1 – Christmas Concert (10am)
Wed 9th	Year 2 – Nativity (10am)
Thurs 10th	Reception – Nativity (10am)
Fri 11th	KS2 (Y3 / Y4 / Y5 / Y6) Christmas Concert (Queens College, 2pm – 3pm)
Wed 16th	Christmas Dinner
Thurs 17th	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 18th	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

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E-mail: office@parkfieldschool.co.uk
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/parkfieldschooltaunton

We are very grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the



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



STIKINS – Parkfield PTFA
Fundraising Number – 15416

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MINDFUL PERSONAL TRAINING

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?
- Whatever your reason, our 4 Week Restart Challenge gives you the opportunity to kickstart your fitness with regular sessions that fit into your busy day.

X 3 sessions per week (12 per month).

Location: COACH, French Weir.





- A personalised approach.
- Building strength.
- Increasing cardiovascular fitness.
- Fat loss.
- Strengthening the core.
- 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.

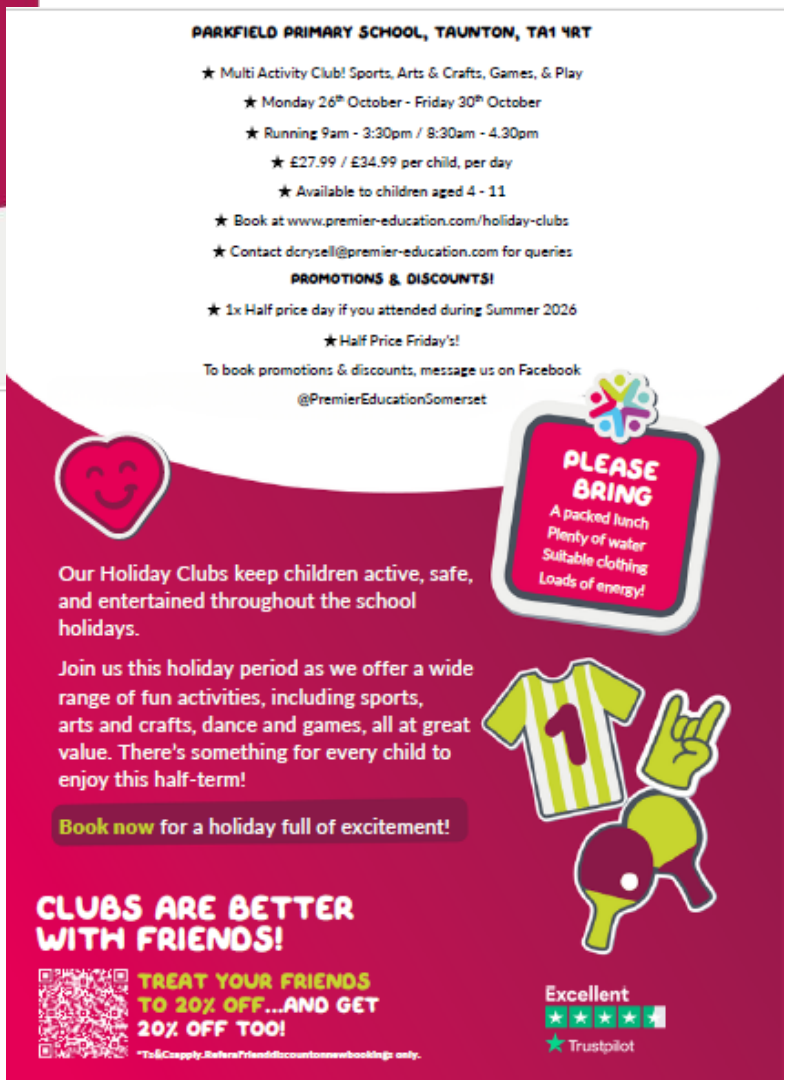
HELEN X

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