

Welcome to this week's Parkfield Press

As the first half term of the academic year ends, we can look back on the amazing learning and experiences the children have taken part in so far this year: sporting events, school trips, workshops and harvest festivals...just to mention a few. We are looking forward to another 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



Year 6 Secondary School Applications

We would like to remind Year 6 Parents / Carers that the deadline for secondary school applications is fast approaching.

Please ensure you have completed and submitted the application form by the closing date of 31st October 2024.

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)

Farewell to Mrs Brickley

I am writing to share some important news regarding a change in our music department.

After much consideration, our dedicated music teacher, Mrs Brickley, has made the decision to step down from her role at the end of this term. This decision was not made lightly, but due to the increasing challenges of the long commute to and from school, she has chosen to focus on opportunities closer to home.

We are deeply grateful to Mrs Brickley for her invaluable contributions to our school over the past 10 years. Her passion for music and commitment to fostering creativity in our pupils have been truly inspiring. While we are sad to see her go, we understand and fully support her decision.

After a thorough interview process, we are pleased to announce that we have appointed Mrs Hope as our new music teacher. Mrs Hope comes to us with a wealth of experience and a shared passion for inspiring young musicians. We are confident that she will be a great addition to our team and continue to nurture our pupils' musical growth.

We appreciate your understanding during this transition and are committed to ensuring a smooth handover. Mrs Hope will officially join us from January 6th, and we look forward to welcoming her into our school community.

Thank you for your continued support, and please join us in wishing Mrs Brickley all the best for the future.

Mr G Jones - Headteacher

Headteachers For The Day

Thank you to all the children that supported Theo T and George R (Year 6) in their efforts to be our headteachers for the day on Thursday. It was wonderful to see a rainbow of colours throughout the school and the children all enjoyed their extra break time!

Theo and George did an amazing job, meeting with various members of staff to learn about their responsibilities, assisting with assembly and meeting families who came into school for the new intake tour. They even ran a PE session for our Year 2 children with Mrs Waugh as their assistant!

Thank you to everyone who donated for the non-school uniform day – all funds raised will be used to purchase additional break and lunch time resources.



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

Trip to Hinkley Point – Kestrel Class

Kestrel Class visited Hinkley Point last week, where they learnt about nuclear fission, the different types of energy and lots of fascinating facts about Hinkley Point such as why the site has to provide non-stop electricity to our homes.

The children were also able to spend some time in the Games Room to play with interactive games about nuclear power and Hinkley, as well as trying on hi-vis and protective clothing.

The class were then collected by Hinkley's coach and driven to the Hinkley Point C site. They were driven around the site for 45 minutes whilst listening to a very entertaining tour with lots more information about the site and the work going on. The land upon which Hinkley Point C is built belongs to Lady Glass and once work has been completed, a lot of the buildings will be removed and the land turned into a nature reserve.

There were people working all over the site – it was incredibly busy! The children learnt about the many different jobs that there is at the site including fire and medical emergency services called 'Hinkley Health' and the different types of cranes that they have there.

They had a fantastic trip and found out so much about the new nuclear power station that is being built on our door step and will supply the electricity to our homes. Well done Kestrel Class!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Trip to Avalon Marshes – Year 5 (written by Jude & Nicholas)

On the 15th and 22nd of October 2024, both Year 5 classes went on a trip to the Avalon Marshes. On the trip, we visited 3 different houses, each resembling a different era.

There was the Iron Age hut, the Roman villa and the Saxon dining hall. Each house had a story to tell which gave us a fun activity to do all the time we were there!

Activities – We were split up into 3 groups which each did a different activity at the same time, but not when we were in the Viking longboat eating our packed lunches! The 3 activities were making coins, assembling Roman mosaics, and in the Saxon dining hall, setting fire to cotton wool with care.

Lunchtime – At lunchtime (12:10) we all sat in the Viking longboat and ate our packed lunches. We got 1 hour to eat and let the food go down before doing our 3rd and final activity.

Conclusion – In general, this trip was amazing! We learnt so much about Viking, Iron age, Roman and Saxon culture! If we had the chance to go back, we would undoubtedly say yes!

Fun Facts

1. Everything in Avalon Marshes was made by hundreds of volunteers!
2. One volunteer left a lamb leg in smoke for nine years to see if it was preserved! She then took a bite out of it and said it tasted smokey and how you think it would taste!
3. There are about 150,000 individual pieces in the mosaic in the Roman villa!
4. Other than the three main activities, there was also a coffee and food shop!



UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)

Florence Nightingale Workshop – Year 2

On the 21st October, Sam, from the museum service, came to see Year 2 to tell them all about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. The children found out about their lives and how they grew up, learning that Florence came from a wealthy family, but Mary did not, and that they both became nurses and helped the soldiers in the Crimean war in 1853.

Year 2 then took part in 3 different activities. Firstly, they used role play to act out Florence and Mary looking after the soldiers in the hospital. They cleaned the floors, gave the soldiers healthy food and they also bandaged up their wounds. It was great fun!

The children also looked at some artefacts that Florence would have taken with her to Crimea, using their detective skills to work out what they were and how they may have been used. Finally, they played a matching game where they matched images from the Scutari Hospital with captions which described what they were.

The children are really looking forward to our history work after half term!

UNCRC Article 28 (Right to an education)



Cycling Safety

It has been brought to our attention that several students are cycling to school in poor weather conditions without the necessary safety precautions.

If your child cycles to school, we would highly recommend that lights are fitted to their bicycle and that they wear something bright such as a hi-vis jacket. As winter is approaching, conditions are worsening and all cyclists should ensure that they are visible to other road users around them.

Eco Committee

This term has been exciting! We have voted in an Eco Committee and met to think about our actions for this year. Today we planted Spring bulbs in our new planters that we have purchased to increase biodiversity. The Eco Committee have also chosen new eco-friendly tables to go under our canopy area.

Next term we will be thinking about how we can support animals to prepare for winter and will be creating for our Eco Christmas stall.

Mrs Bowkett & The Eco Committee

UNCRC Article 24 (Right to a clean environment)

School Council

This term we have seen democracy in action by voting for our Pupil Leadership Team and School Council.

This year's PLT and council members have met to talk about British Values and UK Parliament Week and we have embarked on our Outright Campaign: democracy and global citizenship!

Next term we will be informing children on UK Parliament Week, Human Rights Day and will be preparing for our Christmas Stall. How exciting!

Mrs Bowkett & The School Council

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



Lost Property / Pre-loved Uniform

We have already accumulated a vast amount of lost property this school year. Please could we remind you to **label all uniform** so that we can do our best to return lost items to your children.

We encourage parents to look for lost property in the storage boxes on the Year 3 decking. Each half term, uniform that is not collected from lost property will be moved into the PTFA pre-loved shed.

All pre-loved uniform can be found in the PTFA shed by the Year 3 decking and is available for anyone who needs it – please help yourself. If you would like to give a donation in return for pre-loved uniform, this can be given to the school office who will pass on the funds to the PTFA.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all families who have donated pre-loved uniform – please could we kindly request that name labels are removed prior to donation.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

UNCRC Article 27 (adequate standard of living) Food, clothing, a safe home.

School Meals

We are pleased to confirm that bookings for school meals are now open until April 2025, including a fabulous CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU on Tuesday 17th December 2024.

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.

HMRC Voucher Payments

Please be aware that in order for us to process HMRC childcare voucher payments, we require a print screen of the transaction showing:

- Payment reference number - this is a unique number ending with the letters TFC
- Date the transaction is reaching school's bank account
- Payment Amount (odd amounts are easier to allocate)

Please note if you have multiple children attending Parkfield, vouchers can be sent in one payment with a note detailing how you would like the balance distributed to the relevant accounts.

We appreciate your cooperation with this, allowing us to process payments more effectively.

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 – 5.30pm 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.

Online Safety Focus

This week's website recommendation from the Online Safety Champions is ...

<https://www.kiddle.co>

Do your children use a child-friendly search engine at home yet? Kiddle is run by Google but has child friendly search results, giving them a great tool for research and homework. It also raises children's awareness of how search engines work - for example, the sponsored results at the top are clearly marked out in a different background.

UNCRC Article 17 (Right to access information from the media)

Out of School Achievements – Martial Arts

Congratulations to Amelia E (Year 5) who attended her first panel grading at the beginning of the month.

A panel grading is a 3-hour long martial arts exam, strenuously testing the senior belts on their knowledge, technique and ability. Throughout the duration, there are no rest periods, only pausing for very brief water breaks periodically. It is mentally and physically draining, but also incredibly rewarding. Amelia passed and is now a Red belt, only 2 belts away from being a black belt! Well done Amelia!



UNCRC Article 15 (Right to join groups and organisations)

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

25th October 2024

Key Dates

November 2024	
Mon 4 th	Back to School
Tues 5 th – Thurs 7 th	Book Fair
Fri 8 th	Tempest Photographs – Families & Siblings
Mon 11 th – Fri 15 th	Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Day)
Mon 11 th	Year 6 – Remembrance Service (10.30am – 11.10am) - NEW
Weds 13 th	Year 3 – Trip to Richard Huish College (Geology Workshop)
Thurs 14 th – Fri 15 th	Anti-Bullying Workshops
Thurs 14 th	Pembrokeshire Information Meeting for Year 6 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Fri 15 th	Children in Need Day
Mon 18 th	Road Safety Workshop
Fri 22 nd	Non-Uniform Day for PTFA Christmas Fayre donations (Bottles & chocolates)
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th	Faith Week
Tues 26 th	Kilve Residential Meeting for Year 3 Parents / Carers (3:45pm)
Fri 29 th	Year 5 – Trip to Queen's College
Fri 29 th	PTFA Christmas Fayre (6pm – 8pm)
December 2024	
Mon 2 nd	Flu Vaccinations
Tues 3 rd	Year 5 – Sports Games Festival (Bridgwater & Taunton College) - NEW
Tues 10 th	Year 2 – Nativity (10am)
Wed 11 th	Year 1 – Christmas Concert (10am)
Thurs 12 th	Year 2 – Trip to Taunton Brewhouse
Fri 13 th	Reception – Nativity (10am)
Tues 17 th	Christmas Dinner
Wed 18 th	KS2 (Y3 / 4 / 5 / 6) Christmas Carol Concert (6pm – 7pm)
Thurs 19 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 20 th	INSET Day / End of Autumn Term 2024

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



PARKFIELD SCHOOL
felicitas per ardua

Felicitas Per Ardua

Success and Happiness Through Hardwork



Artsmark
Silver Award
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Parkfield Press

25th October 2024

Contact Details

Parkfield Primary School
Parkfield Road
Taunton

Tel: 01823 282125

E-mail: office@parkfieldschool.co.uk

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

 ChatHealth

 Somerset Council

- 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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25th October 2024



Taunton Coffee Mornings

A casual coffee morning for parents and carers of autistic children (any age / no diagnosis required).

People come to our coffee mornings for all kinds of reasons:

- * To ask for advice and support.
- * To meet other parents and carers
- * To feel seen and heard.

No need to book just drop in on the day

Friday 18th October 10.30 - 11.30
Friday 13th December 10.30 - 11.30

Boston Tea Party
25a Fore Street,
Taunton, TA1 1JW



'It was so great to meet other parents who understand'



www.autismcentral.org.uk/southwest

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Fridays 4:30pm and 5:05pm-6:05pm.
Venue: Trull Memorial Hall TA3 7JZ

- Focus and Respect
- Team Work and Achievements
- Character Building
- Self-Awareness
- Coordination
- Agility and Balance

Tania or Matt 07875599715



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