



Parkwood Primary School Newsletter

As the year draws to a close, we would like to take the opportunity to update you on the end of this year and exciting additions for the new academic year.

Sports Day

We look forward to seeing everyone for Sports Day on Friday 28th June. Children need to wear their PE kits. Timings are as follows:

FS, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3: 9.00am - 10.30am

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6: 11.00am until 12.30pm

Year group and Parkwood relay: 2.15pm until 3.00pm.

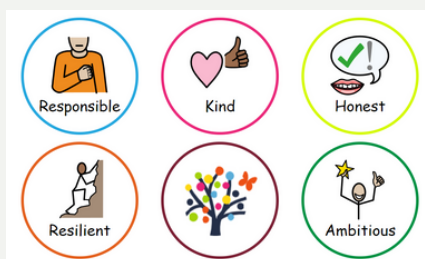
Children **MUST** remain with their classes at all times. Dismissal will happen in the usual way.

Please ensure the children are wearing sun cream before arriving at school and have a full water bottle and hat. All children will be given a time slot to visit the ice-cream van with their teacher. Please send money in a sealed envelope.

A Tough Year

Losing Mr Moir this year to an awful, unforgiving disease has been an emotional challenge for us all. It was heart-warming to see so many of the community attend the memorial we held earlier this week.

In addition to this, our staff have faced a restructure so as to reduce staffing costs and numbers as we move closer towards becoming a two-form entry school. These two coinciding events have required our staff as a whole to show real resilience, something we expect from our children. As a newly appointed headteacher, I am thankful for the understanding, patience and support they have given me this year. Decision making that involves people's livelihoods is challenging at the best of times; it is even more challenging when you have been a colleague and friend for many years prior.



The restructure has led to a number of voluntary redundancies which we needed to regretfully accept. Facing a restructure at a time of financial challenge has led to some staff, and rightly so, looking for job security in the face of the unknown. This has then resulted in the need to recruit. It is going to be difficult to lose members of staff, but it is great to see that it has created opportunities for individuals.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to some teachers: Mrs Orridge, Mrs Currier, Mrs Baker, Mrs Power, Miss Blackwell and Mrs Leonard.

We will also be saying goodbye to valued support staff: Mr Gardener, our caretaker, and Mrs Dowdall, a long-serving TA.

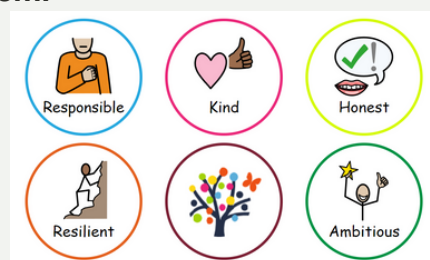
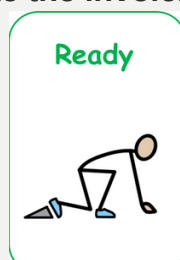
Mrs Park, a well-respected senior leader, will also be leaving us at the end of the academic year.

I would like to thank those leaving us for their dedicated service and I am sure you will join me in wishing them well on their new ventures.

We are fully staffed for the new year. We will welcome new teachers: Mrs Pyrke, Mrs Tapson (another one), Miss Bentley and Mrs Harnett (a teacher who has taught at Parkwood previously).

I'd also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mrs Bird on being appointed as our new Foundation Stage Lead. She's made a strong start already with transition preparations. Mrs Randall will be taking on a new leading role as she is tasked with incorporating continuous provision into the Year 1 curriculum. There is an abundance of research out there which suggests that children learn best through play. Continuous provision offers just that. Many other countries which out-perform the UK do not start their formal education until the age of 7 (our Year 2). Direct teaching (formal learning) cannot be lost from Year 1. However, playing to learn will become very much part of the way Year 1 work. It will also ease the transition from FS to Year 1. Continuous provision is a model that is well-established in all FS classrooms across the country and is becoming as popular in Year 1 in the same way.

Added to the list of significant events this academic year was the closure of Sunshine Club. Mrs Park, Miss Yarrow, Mrs Quinn, Mrs Rayfield and Miss Boardman have worked really hard to provide a replacement service. I am pleased to say this service will continue into the new year. We are working closely with Medway's Wraparound Care Lead to secure funds to improve the service. Look out for a link we will send before the end of the year to gain parent feedback to help us evolve the service. Mrs C Randall, our finance admin assistant, has been instrumental in helping to navigate the invoicing system.



TIMES FOR THE NEW YEAR

As of September the whole school will have the same start and end time: 8.40am until 3.10pm. This will ensure they are in school for the statutory 32.5 hours a week. FS to Year 3 will be dropped off and collected from classrooms. Year 4 through to Year 6 will continue with lining up outside. Further information will be sent, along with a map, before the end of year. Those with multiple drop-offs to complete will have a window in which to do so in the morning (8.40am until 8.50am). Youngest siblings can be collected first at the end of the school day. Older children will be held with their class teachers. Having one time for drop off and pick up is common practice in most schools. Umbrella days will be very similar now. Only Year 4 to Year 6 need to remember to go through a different entrance (the double doors next to the office).



PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Below you will find a list of dates for the new academic year. Amongst those listed, you will find 'Parents as Partners' sessions. These are an opportunity for parents to come into school to participate in learning experiences with their children. We are a stronger force when we work together. We look forward to opening our doors to you.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Also amongst the dates listed below, you will find Coffee Mornings scheduled by our Family Liaison officer, Mrs Williams. Some are for sole FS parents whereas others are for the entire school community. We hope these will offer valuable support to parents and help us to strengthen the school and parent partnership.



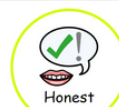
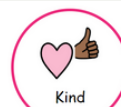
Safe



Respectful



Ready



DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR

We have been beavering away behind the scenes to ensure you have as many dates as far in advance as possible. They have all been added to the school website for the entire year.

Sep 2024

- 04 Sep 2024-06 Sep 2024 Foundation Stage Children: Morning or Afternoon Session
 - 09 Sep 2024-13 Sep 2024 Foundation Stage stay for lunch then home all week
 - 11 Sep 2024-11 Sep 2024 Foundation Stage Parents: Getting to know each other coffee morning
 - 16 Sep 2024-16 Sep 2024 Foundation Stage stay all day - Full Time
 - 17 Sep 2024-18 Sep 2024 Medway Test
 - 18 Sep 2024-18 Sep 2024 Foundation Stage Parents: Family Action coffee morning
 - 25 Sep 2024-25 Sep 2024 Foundation Stage Parents: Medway Carers & Parent Forum coffee morning
 - 25 Sep 2024-25 Sep 2024 Drop in coffee morning: details to follow
 - 27 Sep 2024-27 Sep 2024 Macmillan Coffee Morning
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Oct 2024

- 02 Oct 2024-02 Oct 2024 Year 6 Parents as Partners for reading
- 02 Oct 2024-02 Oct 2024 Fortis Trust coffee morning
- 09 Oct 2024-09 Oct 2024 Coffee morning: Foundation Stage parents
- 14 Oct 2024-14 Oct 2024 My Child's Art: Christmas cards
- 16 Oct 2024-16 Oct 2024 Foundation Stage Parents: Catch up coffee morning
- 17 Oct 2024-17 Oct 2024 Halloween Disco - details to follow
- 31 Oct 2024-31 Oct 2024 Pumpkin competition: details to follow

Nov 2024

- 05 Nov 2024-05 Nov 2024 Parent consultations
 - 07 Nov 2024-07 Nov 2024 Parent consultations
 - 11 Nov 2024-15 Nov 2024 Anti-Bullying Week - PSHE lessons will cover anti-bullying
 - 11 Nov 2024-11 Nov 2024 Remembrance Day: Assembly
 - 12 Nov 2024-12 Nov 2024 Anti-Bullying Assembly
 - 12 Nov 2024-12 Nov 2024 Flu Immunisation: Whole school
 - 13 Nov 2024-13 Nov 2024 Foundation Stage Tours: Parent tours for pupils starting in September 2025
 - 15 Nov 2024-15 Nov 2024 Children in Need: merchandise on sale, class assembly
 - 20 Nov 2024-20 Nov 2024 Foundation Stage Tours: Parent tours for pupils starting in September 2025
 - 20 Nov 2024-20 Nov 2024 Year 5 Parents as Partners for reading
 - 27 Nov 2024-27 Nov 2024 Foundation Stage Tours: Parent tours for pupils starting in September 2025
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Dec 2024

- 04 Dec 2024-04 Dec 2024 Family Action coffee morning
- 06 Dec 2024-06 Dec 2024 Christmas Fayre: 2pm finish
- 10 Dec 2024-10 Dec 2024 Foundation Stage: Nativity (time to be confirmed)
- 12 Dec 2024-12 Dec 2024 Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Disco
- 17 Dec 2024-17 Dec 2024 Church Christmas Concert: details to follow
- 18 Dec 2024-18 Dec 2024 Christmas dinner (wear Christmas jumpers)
- 19 Dec 2024-19 Dec 2024 Year 1 Christmas sing-a-long

Jan 2025

- 06 Jan 2025-06 Jan 2025 Staff Development Day - No pupils in school
- 15 Jan 2025-15 Jan 2025 Parents as Partners for maths
- 29 Jan 2025-29 Jan 2025 Open and sharing after school for all parents
- 29 Jan 2025-29 Jan 2025 Triple P Parenting support and advice coffee morning