

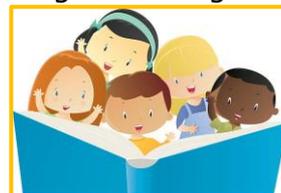


HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2021

Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

EXCITING LINKS FOR PARKWOOD

I'm really pleased to be able to let you know that school has recently formed some new links with Canterbury Christ Church University and with Mid Kent College. Although we have worked with both in the past, this will form some exciting new partnership work, with the University helping to support Reading Projects in the school and Mid Kent College looking to form a link to a 'Children's University' style partnership with Parkwood. I will update parents as we develop this work, but it will be entirely focused on the children, their learning and giving them additional and different opportunities.



In addition, the school has signed up fully with Read, Write Inc. to help support and develop our Phonics in the school and Mr Davis is leading this brilliantly.

These are exciting developments for Parkwood.

YEAR GROUP PRESENTATIONS

We very much enjoyed the tentative return to events for parents, with the Isle of Wight talk earlier this month. Next, we will be inviting parents in to see what the children have been learning in their classrooms as we develop our new curriculum. Each Year Group will have a curriculum presentation in a term, starting with Year 5 this term.



We look forward to these events very much and really look forward to parents being back in school.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

This year we are looking to give parents a choice between 'in person' parents consultations and 'TEAMS'. We will also be using an online booking system to help parents easily get a slot. If parents would prefer to meet online or at a later date, this can also be accommodated. The important thing is to find a way to discuss your child's progress in a way which makes both parent and teacher feel safe. This has to be down to individuals and we will make it work! Detailed information and 'How to Book' will follow before the end of term, ahead of the consultations in the first two weeks back.

STAFF ABSENCE

We have had instances this term of staff absence in certain classes. Where this has been the case parents have been really supportive and understanding, staff have been flexible and ready to step in and we have been doing all we can to support our absent staff. Quick fixes aren't always easy when this happens but we always look to make sure that all the children get fair and equal access to learning, whilst looking for long term solutions.

COVID

The school continues to monitor the situation around Covid very carefully as we enter the colder months. We will continue to try and get the balance right between being cautious and being realistic and take the right steps if they are needed, depending on the situation at the time. We have had a number of cases in the school, including pupils and staff, but as yet we have avoided an outbreak, when other local schools haven't been as fortunate.



Avoiding disruption to learning and keeping people as safe as possible at the same time, remain our priorities. By all doing our bit, being sensible, putting the greater good first and following a sensible risk assessment (as well as Government Guidance), we will, I am sure, give ourselves the best chance of a more settled and happy winter than last year.

We will of course, update parents, as and when this is needed.

ASSEMBLY

As the weather gets colder, assemblies have moved indoors. We are not having 'whole school assemblies', as we did outside, currently, but instead I am doing assemblies for three year groups at a time, ventilating the halls and keeping gaps between the years. Assemblies are kept to fifteen minutes, but this is an important part of school life and gives the children a chance to share 'big ideas' and celebrate each other's achievements, so we want to keep them going! Mrs McCormack is also presenting a number of assemblies and singing assemblies are being reintroduced. Hearing the children sing again will be lovely. I will start Foundation Stage 'Story time' assemblies from next term.



The behaviour in assembly has never been better. It is, in fact, exemplary and I have congratulated the children on how amazingly respectful they are being. This is generally the case around school where the children are being very polite and helpful. This example is being set by our oldest pupils and it has filtered down through the school. Our Foundation Stage and Year 1 children are already being brilliant in this respect.

PSA

We are in the early stages of re-booting the Parkwood Schools Association, after a long while and once again starting 'in school' events for the children to enjoy and to raise money for learning resources and our minibus. The PSA have always supported the school well and as a school we are after volunteers who can commit to supporting the school, work with the school, champion the school and hopefully raise lots of money from exciting events and ideas, which will benefit the school. We want this to be a real partnership and a proper Parents and Staff Association. If you would be interested in supporting this, in any capacity, please contact Mrs Orridge or myself, via the school and we will be able to signpost you in the right direction. More information on the PSA will follow in the coming weeks as we announce our first events.



A BIG CLIMB DOWN

Could I ask that parents ask their children not to play on the play equipment at the start and end of the school day. Although children are in their parents care, it is school equipment and it leaves a grey area of responsibility. The children get lots of time on equipment during play times, so they don't miss out, but we are asking parents to not allow their children on the climbing and play equipment so that we can avoid accidents.

MEDWAY TEST

Well done to all the children who took the Medway Test and of course to the children who secured a place in Grammar School, you have done so well! We do, however, feel equally proud of all our pupils, whether they secured the mark or not, or took the test or not, as we know that they will all do well and all want to achieve their potential.

**WELL DONE
EVERYONE**

NEW INTAKE

We welcome a number of new pupils to our school this term, it is great to have you here at Parkwood. We also have five 'Open Day' sessions in early November to welcome potential new Foundation Stage pupils. We look forward to meeting parents and showing you our school, in person!

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

14 th October	Year 5 Curriculum Presentation to Parents 2.45pm
22 nd October	Last day of Term
1 st November	Term 2 – All children back to school
3 rd November	Year 3 – Visit from the Dogs Trust
4 th November	Parent Consultations – Confirmation to follow
10 th November	Parent Tours for prospective pupils in 2022 9.30am and 1.45pm
11 th November	Flu Immunisation – Whole School
	Parent Consultations – Confirmation to follow
15 th November	Individual Photos
16 th November	Individual Photos
17 th November	Parent Tours for prospective pupils in 2022 9.30am and 1.45pm
	Year 4 Trip
	Full Governing Body Meeting
18 th November	Year 4 Trip
25 th November	Year 6 Curriculum Presentation to Parents 2.45pm

