



HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022



Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

DEAR PARENTS

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR – CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCES

It has been a really busy and exciting time in the school over the past three weeks. Starting with the Year 5 and 6 Choir Concert for the Dementia Café, then the Foundation Stage Nativity performances, followed by the Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day, the Church Choir Concert, The Year 1 singing performance, Class parties and the Christmas Market. These have been really happy occasions and the children have really enjoyed them but also maintained positive behaviour. Keeping these traditions in the school, or in some cases returning to them fully after two years, is really important to us at Parkwood and long may they continue and evolve. I want to thank



all the staff and children who put so much into making these things possible and the parents who attended many events and gave their support.

PARENT COUNCIL

We had our first Parent Council meeting this month, which was very helpful and productive. It's quite an informal discussion, with coffee and biscuits and we covered a number of important areas. These included the start and end of school days, charities and costs, communication and social media and whole school events. We got some great take outs from the meeting and we are hoping that the quite relaxed and informal nature of it may mean that more parents would like to take part. Just email me via the school office if that is the case.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

We have paused Around the World in 80 Days, after 50 days, for the holiday and due to the icy conditions last week. It will blast back into life on January 5th. As a school we have reached Japan and we have a good chance of getting back to England inside the 80 days, if the daily miles and family walks continue to pile up as quickly as they have. We would be more than happy to have extra miles from the festive period added to the Facebook page or emailed, perhaps with some photos, once we return in the new term. Thank you to all those taking part!



LYONS' (CAKES) AND TIGERS AND BEARS

After a successful charity cake sale for the Aspinall Foundation, the Year 2 children have chosen their animals to adopt. Tigers proved popular with both Robin and Woodpecker voting to adopt one each and Puffin choosing to adopt a bear.



The children are looking forward to receiving their animal packs through the post. Thank you again to all our families who supported this.

THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We are going to be sending out information on 4th January, which will show some minor tweaks and (hopefully) improvements for the start and end of the school day. These will not be major, but will hopefully address some of the concerns raised by parents and staff, around the overview of lines, the safety of the children and also the best way for parents to be able to get messages to staff in a more confidential way. There will need to be a bit of give and take both ways, but we feel these are issues that can easily be ironed out. We will make sure the information is as clear as possible, but there will always be the prospect of teething problems for the first few days.



LATE PICK UPS

From time to time, everyone runs late or have something unexpected happen which prevents them being able to pick up on time. This is especially true with the current strike action in terms of transport and the recent weather and road closures. If you are running late it is essential that you ring the office and let us know and give an estimated time of arrival. There are increasing numbers of children who are not being picked up at the right time and often being collected up to an hour late. This is not fair on staff or in particular, the children. Where this becomes persistent, and there is an expectation that staff will simply step in, then it becomes a significant concern. In the event you are running late, please ring the office and ensure that wherever possible, this is not repeated.

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to help in the school, in particular with reading and you are willing to give up some time during the week, we would really like to hear from you. This often looks very good to potential employers as well as being something which really helps the school.



The children love to read with an adult and it really helps our school reading priority.

COMPLAINTS

As a school, we try really hard to listen to parents' views and also to be open in terms of sorting and responding to concerns. This does not always mean the outcome is the one everyone would want. In the event you do have concerns, please access our school complaints procedure via our website <https://www.parkwoodprimary.org.uk> and select policies and choose complaints policy. The policy will show the order in which to approach the school and the timeframes involved. We hope you never have to use it, but in case you do, here it is.

STAFFING

Mrs Costall will be leaving us after this term after many years at the school supporting individual children and being a key part of our pastoral team. We wish her all the best in the future and in the next stages of her career.

PSA

The PSA have continued to provide an incredible support to the school. In recent weeks, following the Halloween Disco, they have set up The Reading World Cup, sold over 550 Christmas gifts for Parents and secured significant company sponsorship. In the last week they have also supported us with refreshments and the raffle at the Christmas Market. Thank you to all members of the PSA who give up so much time to help the school and give the children and their families those extra experiences.



HOLIDAYS

All of us at Parkwood would like to wish you a happy holiday and for all those who celebrate it, a very Merry Christmas. Let's hope for a more optimistic year in 2023 and my best wishes to all our families to stay safe and warm this festive season. We'll see you all again, with the children back in their uniform (as long as there is no snow) on Thursday 5th January.

MR A MOIR
HEADTEACHER



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

20 th December	Last day of Term 2
3 rd January	Staff Development Day – No children in school
4 th January	Staff Development Day – No children in school
5 th January	Start of Term 3 – Children back to school

