



## HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2023

Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

### DEAR PARENTS

#### SURROUNDING ROADS

The school continues to have concerns raised by local residents about the way parents are parking at the start and end of the school day. The main concern is about the pavements being blocked on the nearest roads so that access for pushchairs and wheelchairs is not possible, but there is also concern around driveways being blocked and the negative reactions when residents ask people to move. I appreciate that it is something of a rat race at this time of the day and that drop off often coincides with being in a hurry or needing to get to work, but as someone who lives on a road where there are five schools and colleges and having witnessed first hand the results of dangerous parking and driving at busy times of the school day, it is more important that all members of the school community are safe and show each other respect.



Additionally, we have many parents running with their children across the road between the junction for Long Catlis and the school gate. There have been some near misses and our advice would always be to use the crossing, as some drivers seem to speed up near the school, rather than slow down.

#### LAST DAY OF TERM – A REMINDER



A reminder that Year 6 will finish their leavers assembly at 12.00pm on the last day, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. As is tradition at Parkwood, all the other children will finish at 2.00pm.

#### UMBRELLA DAYS

When we have particularly heavy rain or poor weather, the children come straight into school at 8.40am, when the doors open. Please do not send your children in earlier, or simply drop them off, as 8.40am is the start on a wet school day for everyone. We have had children arriving early and getting drenched. Also, a waterproof coat on these days is always a good idea.



#### NEXT YEAR ADVANCE WARNING... SLIGHT CHANGE – START/END TIMES OF SCHOOL DAY

So that all children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (infant and junior age Children) have an equal time in school and teachers have an equal amount of face to face teaching, we are slightly tweaking our school day timings in September. This is a minor change and we will remind about this in the coming weeks, but from September:

Years 1, 2 and 3. Start at 8.40am. Finish at 3.10pm

Years 4, 5 and 6. Start at 8.45am. Finish at 3.15pm

Timings for Foundation Stage are different at the start of the year and parents of next year's Foundation Stage will be kept up to date by the FS team as the big day for starting school approaches.

### **ISLE OF WIGHT, ACTIVITY WEEK AND CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT WEEK**

The children (and staff) who went on the Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight, seemed to have the time of their lives. Activity Week for those not attending also seemed to be a huge success. Thank you to all children and staff involved in both experiences. The children in other year groups who remained in school did a huge range of additional activities: Studying different cultures and languages, such as Japanese, creating amazing stop motion videos, contacting space stations, scooting and exploring different books, art work and media. It was a good week for all.



### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS AND VISITORS**

It is important that at Parkwood, all visitors, including parents, to the school, or when concerning the school, behave in a way that gives the best examples to our pupils. Unacceptable behaviour, whether instigating or retaliating, will not be tolerated. The school has a code of conduct around this and Governors take the safety of staff, pupils and all members of our community seriously. The conduct policy is available on the website. Behaviour covered by this policy includes:

- Any kind of insult (whether intended or otherwise) which is demeaning, embarrassing or undermining
- Any kind of threat or threatening behaviour
- Raising of voice so as to be intimidating, shouting at members of the school community, either in person or over the telephone
- Physical intimidation, e.g. By standing very close to him/her or the use of aggressive hand gestures or body language
- Swearing
- Any kind of physical abuse or violence, including (but not limited to) pushing; hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, spitting or using/throwing any object
- Breaching the school's security procedures
- Allegations which turn out to be vexatious or malicious (even if thought to be true when made)
- Online behaviour which puts members of the school community at risk or is unfair or malicious in intent

I think all of our community would agree that a school free of this type of behaviour would be ideal for all of us, the children in particular.

### **OTHER CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS**

There have been some more really exciting things happening at the school in the past few weeks and here are some examples:

The Year 6 team and all of Parkwood are proud of the children for all their hard work during the SATS tests. There were some very challenging papers this year and the children showed great perseverance and such a desire to do well. Thank you for all your support with the tests. Now we are looking at Shakespeare's Macbeth as an inspiration for some wonderful pieces of writing, building up to the children composing their own descriptive and atmospheric stories.

Also, we have started our new project GFC (Gillingham Football Club) and we are enjoying looking at how a sports club is ultimately a business and the skills involved to run your very own football team. Children have designed kits and crests for their team and are learning how to work towards a budget when choosing football players and staff for their side. Additionally, they have produced some beautiful art work around the heart and enjoyed studying evolution and the circulatory system in science.

Year 2 did some exciting things for our off timetable week, we made them fun and engaging!

Here's some of the highlights: food tech, ICT – stop motion filming, orienteering, road safety sessions and scooters.

As part of the Year 5 Japanese week, a great many curriculum ideas were covered:

- PE – from Japan Society – Japan themed movement class
- Language – a short session each day – MFL
- Writing their name – calligraphy – translating western names into Japanese script.
- Will Adams – the link to Gillingham - History
- Scrap model making boats and then seeing if they can support weights in water
- Japanese blossom art
- Haikus and Tankas
- Japan – as it is now
- Manga drawing
- Sushi making
- Japanese history – clothes, religious ceremonies
- Dressing up
- Origami
- Japanese fans



Previously, in term five, Year 5 enjoyed our texts 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and 'Wabi Sabi' by Mark Reibstein. These stories have transported the children to another time and place which has linked well with our art. In art, we have looked at the work of various artists including Georges Seurat, Yayoi Kusama and Katsushika Hokusai. The children have applied the pointillism techniques we have studied in their own artwork. We have also created our own Hokusai wave pictures which will be a focal point of our digital art unit next term.



In science, the children have experimented with the conditions needed for growing plants and made key observations about their plants' growth. We have some very capable gardeners - their mint plants are thriving!

Also a big 'Shout Out' to Hedgehog Class as they are the current Doodle Maths champions within the school.

**MR A MOIR**  
**HEADTEACHER**



## **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

26 <sup>th</sup> June	IROCK concert for parents with pupils attending IROCK sessions Year 5 Parents invited to school (Life Cycles 3.15pm)
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 trip
29 <sup>th</sup> June	SEND Coffee Morning (Learn about Dyslexia 9.00am – 10.30am)
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Colour Run – whole school
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3 trip
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Possible NEU Strike Day
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1 and Year 4 curriculum Transition sessions to new classes
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Possible NEU Strike Day
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production 5.00pm
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Second transition in new classes
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day followed by a picnic and draw at 5.00pm
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Open and sharing (straight after school)
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 disco (run by Parents) 5.00pm – 7.00pm
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 BBQ after school until 5.00pm
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term Year 6 leavers' assembly Year 6 to SOAR (organised by parents)