



HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2022

Imagine Believe Persevere Achieve

DEAR PARENTS

We are really enjoying our teaching and learning and exploring different areas of the curriculum at Parkwood. Here are what individual year groups have been working on.

FOUNDATION STAGE

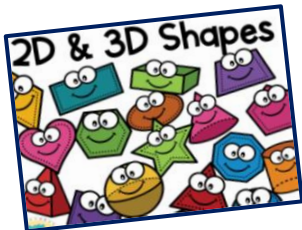
We are having such a fun term in Foundation Stage. Fireflies and Bumblebees have settled into school so well and we are very proud of all of them! We are enjoying our first term of P.E. and our daily mile 'welly walks'.

Our topic this term is "Terrific Tales" and we are enjoying reading stories such as Goldilocks and The Three Bears, Jack & The Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs. On our Fairy tale journey, we will be stepping into many different roles. We have already become detectives when we followed clues to find golden eggs from the magic hen in Jack in The Beanstalk, and we are looking forward to becoming designers when we create a new chair for Baby Bear. We are also working hard as fabulous team players putting together our Christmas Nativity!



YEAR 1

Another amazing term in year one that has seen the children continue to develop across all aspects of their school life. We have seen the children growing in confidence with their reading, whether it is with first steps or now reading to larger groups. This is a confidence we hope you are seeing at home and have to thank you all for the support you have been giving. Maths has seen the children apply their skills learnt with smaller numbers on slightly bigger ones and also a trip into the worlds of 3D and 2D shapes.



We have continued our exploration of the world around us, looking at algorithms in computing, where animals live and how to recognise different types of trees in science and continuing to develop our musical skills with Mrs. Orridge. Skills we will be using when we finish the term with a fantastic festival of festive singing on the 16th December, we hope you will be able to join us.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have been working hard this term. They have been focusing on their design technology project, in which we challenged the children to design a bag suitable for taking on a day trip to the Amazon Rainforest. The children had to carry several different types of bags across an obstacle course, test the materials for their waterproof properties and carry out some market research before creating a design of their own.

Swimming continues to be a great success. The children have been amazingly independent when changing and taking care of their belongings. They have loved their time in the pool with the swimming instructors. The children even have a weekly countdown of the number of days left before their next swimming session!

As part of our project work, Year 2 will be fundraising in the hope that each class can adopt an animal of their choice from Howletts Zoo that's linked to our rainforest conservation. They have chosen to organise a cake sale to raise money. This will be Friday 2nd December and so please come and visit our cake sale after school.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have nearly finished reading Pugs of the Frozen North and are excited to see who wins the race to the Top of the World. They will be writing their own adventure story linked to the book. In Geography and Destination Reader they have been learning about Northern Europe, especially The Arctic and Norway. In



Science the children have been discovering the importance of our skeletons and how our muscles work. The iPads have been used to learn how to programme using Scratch. In the coming weeks, the children will produce their own travel scrapbooks all about Norway. In Art, the children will experiment with pastels to build up to a final piece inspired by The Northern Lights. The children

will use this piece of artwork to create a calendar to take home. What an exciting term!

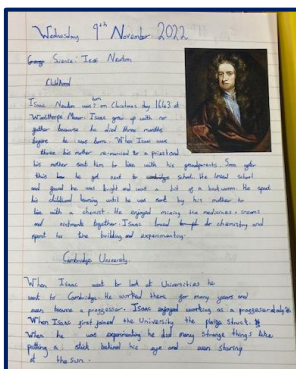
YEAR 4

This term, Year 4 have continued to explore our enquiry question 'Is it our responsibility to look after the environment?' by looking at the River Yangtze and the River Nile, thinking carefully about the human impact on the habitats surrounding these rivers and how land has been used. Their understanding has been enhanced by their learning in Science, exploring animals and their habitats. They are continuing to engage with 'The Wild Robot' in English, and are currently working on exploring character emotions in the form of a diary entry. Swimming has now come to an end, but it was fantastic to see how the children's confidence in the water improved. They most certainly made us very proud!



YEAR 5

In Year 5, we are continuing our Power of Reading texts: Cosmic or Space Cakes.



These stories allow us to travel to lots of new places which is perfect for our space theme. We have written action-packed diary entries as characters from the texts we have read. In geography, we have learnt more about the human and physical geography of the USA, and now have some experts on states and their capitals. In science, our topic of forces has focussed on influential figures in scientific discovery. The children loved hearing about Isaac Newton's childhood and how it differed to their own.

In design technology, we will be designing and building our own (moving!) moon buggies. Thank you to parents for all the DT materials kindly sent in for this project.

YEAR 6

In year 6 we have been incredibly busy! House captains produced amazing speeches and were voted in by their peers from Y1-6 and the school council applications are being carefully considered for the top roles. Other children have shown real maturity, guiding prospective parents around school for the foundation stage tours – we are in no doubt that they impressed.



DT has been a big focus in class, with the children looking at how buildings can be constructed to withstand an earthquake. They have used technical language such as cross bracing and shock absorbers - this week real builders will

assess the designs and consider their prototypes before announcing the winners and awarding prizes.

Steve (the weatherman) has been in to talk to the year six children about why we have different types of weather and he has also shown them evidence of climate change in his data, which has been collected over recent years. He has also very kindly brought the school two weather stations that will be placed around school – now our pupils can become meteorologists too!

SPORTING ROUND UP

It's been wonderful to give so many children access to a sporting club after school. This term we have offered the children basketball club, table tennis club, netball club, football club, karate club and gymnastics club. We have taken part in a few events recently, taking children to a MYG basketball event and a Kent School Table Tennis Championships where Parkwood lost by one mark in the semi finals to win a team silver medal. Something that I'm really proud of though is that I'm hearing that many children are trying a new sport in an afterschool club and then moving on to join a club within the local community. Fantastic News!



On Wednesday, the Year 5 and 6 cross-country runners had their first races of the season in the Medway Primary Schools League. All sixteen children added their miles to the 80 days around the word challenge and there were some fantastic results!

- Year five boys team 2nd
- Year six boys team 2nd
- Year five girls team 1st
- Year six girls 1st

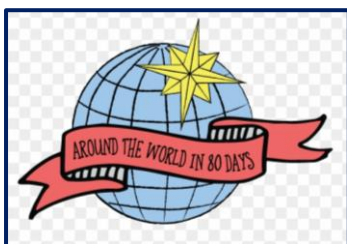
We also had individual success in their races:

- Demi 5th year 5 girl
- Paige 4th year 5 girl
- Tommy was 4th year 5 boy
- Mia 4th year 6 girl
- Aimee won bronze in the year five girls race
- Chloe won silver in the year 6 girls race
- Luc won the year 6 gold medal!

Well done to them all.

PARKWOOD – AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

I have been really pleased and impressed by the number of families who have embraced the walking challenge of getting Parkwood around the world. It has been really lovely reading about the children's adventures and all the things they are doing and the places they are walking. As a school, we are not quite at the half way point, but we have so far travelled all the way across Europe, down through the Israel to Egypt and are somewhere in Saudi Arabia, heading east. We polled the children a few weeks ago about how many of them walk to school and how often, so we will add those miles when we need to. Thank you to all families, as well as staff, governors and the pre school, who have taken part, got involved and shared their experiences. Keep up the good 'walk' and please either email:



aroundtheworld@parkwoodprimary.org.uk

or update the Facebook thread with the big picture of the world, to get involved.

SITE SECURITY

As a school and under advice from safeguarding at Medway, it is essential that we know which adults are in the school, at any time that pupils and staff are present. So I would ask parents to please only enter the building through the office, so that you can be signed in and we know who is in the building.

PARENT VIEW AND PARENT COUNCIL

Thank you to parents who have given their views on the parent view site, about the school. This is a nationally accessible site and is also used by Ofsted, so as a school we are being totally open about asking for your views. When these are given, it really helps us look at what we need to do next. Results are always reported back to Governors and available to the Local Authority. If you feel you would like to contribute your views then we would be really grateful. This is a chance for parents who are really busy, to support the school, with a quick survey and their views. You can use the link below to complete this short but very helpful survey:-



[HTTPS://PARENTVIEW.OFSTED.GOV.UK/LOGIN?DESTINATION=GIVE-YOUR-VIEWS](https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views)

I would also like to invite parents again, to be part of a parent council at the school. Our first meeting will be at 2pm on December 14th and it will be a chance to discuss a number of school related issues in order to get parent views and gauge the feelings of our parent community. I really want this to be a success and to have lots of volunteers, to have a real say in the school. If we don't get the numbers then I will adopt a 'build it and they will come' approach and start from a very select group! If you do have time for an hour on a Wednesday afternoon, once a term, please email the school office, for my attention.

NAMES

We have had an increasing number of children who have lost items of clothes lately, when they have not been named. Our Year 6 children and office staff frequently go through lost property and return items to their owners, but this is only possible if items of clothing are clearly named, with first and last names. In doing this, the chances of items being reunited with owners is higher and ultimately will save parents having to replace items.



NEW NAMES AND FACES

We have two new members of our admin staff. Mrs Matthews, who is our new front of house receptionist and our new SEN admin assistant, Mrs Tuffield. Both have become really positive and helpful members of our team and they look forward to meeting you.

PSA

A big thank you to our PSA who are fully active and have staged a number of successful events, including discos for both parts of the school, a Foundation Stage Party, the 'Sporty Clothing' day, Uniform Days and the Reading World Cup which followed. Their support for the school will lead to us completing our long campaign to get interactive whiteboards in every classroom, financing the minibus and starting to bring extra books into our new library.

THE BIG '3'

Our School Improvement Plan is a long and very detailed document, covering all aspects of school life and how we want to move forward. A 'headlines' version will be shared with parents and children in the coming weeks, but we have 3 overarching priorities, which we want to bring into every part of school improvement. They are:-

Reading, Reading, Reading. We want to give the children a huge diet of reading opportunities and experiences to encourage them to be successful and confident readers.

Physical and Mental Well Being. We want our pupils to be happy and healthy. We feel that if they feel confident and are aware of their own well being, they will learn better and feel more motivated.

A Broad and Balanced Curriculum. This is tough, because there are lots of expectations in school, but we are determined to find the right balance between high expectations in reading, writing and maths and giving the children an exciting and rich curriculum offer which covers all the other subjects and a wealth of exciting experiences.

WEBSITE LINKS

Mrs Kirk, one of our year 4 class teacher and lead practioner/mentor has found two website links that may be of interest to parents.

An easy way to borrow and read from your library:

<https://medway.overdrive.com/library/kids>

Storybooks brought to life:

<https://www.vooks.com/>

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

**MR A MOIR
HEADTEACHER**

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

29 th November	Height & Weight – Foundation Stage and Year 6
1 st December	Flu Immunisation – Whole School
7 th December	Christmas Production – Foundation Stage
8 th December	Christmas Production – Foundation Stage
9 th December	Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch
15 th December	Choir Christmas Concert Year 2 and Year 3 10.00am
16 th December	Christmas sing-a-long – Year 1 2.15pm
19 th December	Christmas Market and Raffle (PSA Event) 3.00pm
20 th December	Last day of Term 2