

# PARKGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th October 2025

## Half Term Update and Heartfelt Thanks

As we get to the end of this half term, I wanted to say how grateful and thankful we are as we build on the Parkgate Family. It was lovely to see so many families at Parents Evening.

This half term has been incredibly busy and productive. Our pupils show remarkable resilience, curiosity, and enthusiasm. We've made significant progress in our key priorities:

**Oracy Development:** Our pupils are building confidence in their communication skills

**Online Learning:** We're integrating digital platforms, like Learning by Questions to enhance our traditional learning

**OPAL Programme:** We've begun our exciting journey to transform playtimes

Our core values of **Family, Discovery, Compassion, Independence, Determination, and Fairness** continue to guide everything we do. We are particularly proud of how our diverse school community supports and respects one another.

After the half term break, hopefully we will all return refreshed and ready to learn on **Tuesday 4th November**. Be prepared for another exciting half term.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and kindness. Our pupils are truly remarkable, and together we're helping them reach their full potential.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 31<sup>st</sup> Oct Secondary school application deadline
- 27<sup>th</sup> Oct - 31<sup>st</sup> Oct Half term
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov - Inset day
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov - Open morning - prospective parents
- 10<sup>th</sup> Nov Year 5 National Space Centre Trip
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov Year 6 Local walk
- 18<sup>th</sup> Nov - Book look
- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov Year 5 Fun run at Future Academy
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 4 Dress rehearsal
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 4 Play
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec Pantomime at school
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas outfit day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas dinner and Carol concert
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec Last day of Autumn Term (1.30pm)



## CHILDREN'S PLAYTIME SURVEY

If you haven't done so already we would really appreciate it if you could complete [this survey](#) giving your thoughts on our children's playtimes.

## CATERLINK

Please can you check your Caterlink accounts and make payment if needed.

## NEW MENU

Have a look at our new lunch time menu on the school website.



## CATERLINK MENU - WEEK 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Plant Balls in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken or Chicken Sausage (halal option), with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Chicken Biryani	Fish Fingers with Chips
Veggie Sausage with Mashed Potato	Autumn Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes	Vegan BBQ Sausage Pasta with Garlic Bread	Cheese & Bean Pasty with Chips
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato
Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette

## DSPL9: FOR SEN FAMILIES

DSPL9 Parent Newsletters are published fortnightly and include a round-up of courses, workshops, training and events available to parents and families within DSPL9. Please follow the attached link if you are interested in reading [newsletter 4](#):

This can also be found on the [DSPL9 website](#).



An inspiring learning community

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Spooky Family Library Drop-Ins

Thank you to those who came along to our family library drop-in this week. We had a special spooky themed session. The children had great fun creating creepy biscuits and decorating Halloween bookmarks.



### North Watford Library Events

## North Watford Library Half Term Events

Saturday 25th October, 11am  
Scary Storytime & Craft  
£1 donation



Monday 27th October, 11am  
Lego  
Ages 5+ £4.40 Drop in



Tuesday 28th October, 11am  
Storytime  
Drop in



Tuesday 28th October, 2-3pm\*  
Make Your Own Dreamcatcher  
Ages 5-11 £4.40 per child



Wednesday 29th October, 2-3pm\*  
Learn about caring for our world & make an underwater sea world  
Ages 5-11 £4.40 per child

Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer.  
\* Tickets from Library Enquiry Desk.

## FUN LUNCH

The children were very excited to find this spooky pumpkin in the dining hall.



## YEAR 6 - BLETCHLEY VISIT

Year 6 visited Bletchley park earlier this week, which was once the home of the WW2 Codebreakers.



## TT ROCK STARS BATTLE

Which class are TT Rock Star Champions?



Miss Mason has set up a Battle starting today, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October and ending next Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October. Be a team player, take part and let's see which class can win the title of TT Rock Stars Champions.



## POPPY APPEAL

This year we will again be supporting The Royal British Legion's Poppy appeal, to help raise funds for veterans, serving personnel and their families.

In the week we return after half term we will have collection boxes where the children can make a donation and choose a gift if they would like.

This is a voluntary fundraiser.



You can find out more about the Royal British Legion on their [website](#).

## YEAR 3 - STONE AGE DAY

We have been transported back in time today, to the stone age, where year 3 have been very creative making some very impressive clay pots.



You will find more photographs on our [Instagram page](#).

## REMINDERS

### GATES

If you arrive after 8.50am you must come through the gate on Southwold Road. Once the gate is closed on Parkgate Road it will not be open again until 3.10pm.

We know it may seem unkind, but if someone has pressed the bell and is waiting to come onto school grounds and you are leaving please do not let them in. This is to safeguard our children and so that we know who is in the school at all times.

### ABSENCE

If your child is ill please contact the office via email or telephone before school begins.

If your child has a medical appointment please let the office know as soon as possible.

If you plan to take your child from school for any other reason please ask at the office for a leave of absence form.

### WEATHER

As the weather gets colder please send your child in with a coat for play time and lunch time. Please make sure it is clearly labelled with their name.



## STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the stars of the week:

🌟	<b>3 Owl</b>	Darcie	Jaheim
🌟	<b>3 Robin</b>	Muhammad	Isla
🌟	<b>4 Heron</b>	Richard	Halima
🌟	<b>4 Puffin</b>	Riyan	Sierra
🌟	<b>5 Parrot</b>	Grace	Inaaya
🌟	<b>5 Toucan</b>	Mishi	Xavier
🌟	<b>6 Eagle</b>	Joel	Anaya
🌟	<b>6 Falcon</b>	Jamal	Shamere

## ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to 5 Parrot for 98.62% attendance last week.

<b>3 Owl</b>	93.48%
<b>3 Robin</b>	98.33%
<b>4 Heron</b>	98.52%
<b>4 Puffin</b>	89.62%
<b>5 Parrot</b>	98.62%
<b>5 Toucan</b>	97.59%
<b>6 Eagle</b>	94.19%
<b>6 Falcon</b>	96%



## RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to this week's raffle winners for positive behaviour:

<b>3 Owl</b>	Sophie
<b>3 Robin</b>	Omosefe
<b>4 Heron</b>	Pearl
<b>4 Puffin</b>	Joaquim, Seyara
<b>5 Toucan</b>	Anna
<b>6 Falcon</b>	Ioli, Ruby, Jessica

