

PARKGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 2026

WELCOME

It has been a busy week here at Parkgate Junior School. The children have enjoyed their learning across the school discovering the huge range of languages and cultures across the world and in our school.

The children have taken part in various activities including music sessions, a Chinese dragon workshop, clay modelling, making dream catchers, gaelic football and much more. We look forward to seeing you next Friday for our Open classroom where you can see what the children have been doing.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 28th Jan Football Match at Holy Rood Primary School
- 30th Jan Cross Curricular Week Open Afternoon
- 2nd Feb Football Match at Alban Wood Primary School
- 9th Feb Dance Show at Rickmansworth School (**DATE CHANGE**)
- 10th Feb Parents evening
- 12th Feb Parents evening
- 12th Feb Valentine's Fun Lunch
- 16th - 22nd Feb Half term
- 27th Feb Year 4 Visit to Verulamium Museum
- 6th Mar Year 5 Guildhall Concert
- 12th Mar Book look
- 16th Mar Netball Club Tournament at Future Academies
- 18th Mar Voice in a Million at Wembley
- 19th Mar Year 3 STEM trip
- 24th Mar Year 5 Play
- 27th Mar Parkgate's Got Talent and last day of term (1:30pm)
- 13th Apr First Day of Summer Term (**DATE CHANGE**)



DON'T FORGET

NEXT WEEK

26th - 30th January

Mon 26th January - Library drop in after school

For fans of Wimpy Kid, Dogman, cartoons and graphic novels. We'll be crafting, quizzing and crosswording and there'll be juice and biscuits. Brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents: all welcome.

Weds 28th January - Football match.

If you have received a confirmation email that your child will be playing, please remember to collect your child from school at 3.20pm and drop them off at the hosting school and collect at 4.15pm.

Fri 30th January - Cross Curricular Week Open Classroom

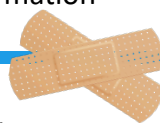
Parents are invited in to your child's classroom to see what they did during Cross Curricular week. The Southwold Road gate will open at 2.30pm. The Parkgate Road gate will open 3.10pm as usual.

ADMIN@PARKGATEJM.HERTS.SCH.UK



KEEP UP TO DATE

You can find key dates, school information, lunch options, club timetables and lots more information on our [school website](http://www.parkgatejunior.milton-keynes.com).



FIRST AID

Starting this week, if your child has an accident at school and first aid is given, you will receive an email at the end of the day with the details. This will also replace the yellow paper head bump notes so please do check your emails. Please be assured that we will continue to call parents in an emergency.

CATERLINK MENU - WEEK 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese & Broccoli Pasta Bake	Spaghetti Bolognese	Roast Chicken or Chicken Sausage (halal option), with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy	Beef Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Breaded Fish with Chips
Vegetarian Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice	Vegan Spaghetti Bolognese	Jacket Potato	Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice	Cheese Whirl with Chips
Jacket Potato	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato
Cheese or Tuna Baguette		Jacket Potato	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette
		Cheese or Tuna Baguette		



An inspiring learning community

MATHS CHALLENGE

You have one more week to complete this month's Maths challenge.

We have a break in the rain tomorrow so it would be an ideal opportunity to do a bit of birdwatching.



KS2 Monthly Maths Challenge - Big Garden Birdwatch Maths - January 2026

Can you turn bird spotting into brilliant maths?

The Challenge

Take part in your own mini Big Garden Birdwatch! Spot birds for a short time and use your maths skills to record and present what you find.

What to Do

1. Watch for Birds: Spend a 15-30 minute session quietly looking for birds in your garden, from a window, or a local park.
2. Count birds at one time: Count the maximum number of each type of bird you see (ending at the same moment for the total over time).
3. Choose 5 Common Birds: Focus on these five friends: Blackbird, Sparrow, Robin, Pigeon, Blue Tit.
4. Record results with tally marks: Use a notebook to make tally marks (e.g. |||| for each bird you see at once).

Maths Task: Create a Poster Chart

- Title requirement: Give your chart a clear, catchy title (e.g., "My Big Garden Birdwatch Count").
- Chart options: Choose one way to show your data:
 - Bar chart (using blocks or colored paper)
 - Tally chart (neatly drawn tally marks)
 - Pictogram (using small bird drawings as symbols)
- Labels needed: Label the axes (e.g., "Number of Birds", "Type of Bird") and add a key for a pictogram.
- Example maths sentences: Write 2-3 sentences about your findings, like "I saw 3 more Robins than Blackbirds." or "The Sparrow was the most common bird."

Maths Skills Being Used

- Counting
- Tally marks
- Interpreting data
- Comparing amounts
- Presenting information

Extra Challenge (Optional)

Can you find the total number of birds you spotted all together? Or try estimating the distance of the furthest bird?

Making it Display-Ready

Use bright colors, make your writing neat and clear, and add your own bird drawings! Ensure it's easy for others to read.



MATHS WORKSHOP

We would like to invite you to an after-school workshop for parents of children in **Year 3 and Year 4**.

Date: Thursday 5th February
Time: 3.30 – 4.00 pm

The purpose of this workshop is to support you in understanding the importance of times tables; introducing the Multiplication Check and how you can help your child at home.

The aims of the workshop are to:

- Understand the importance of fluency and number recall
- Learn about the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)
- Become familiar with the use of Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars
- Explore ways to further support your child's learning at home

If you would like to attend, please complete [this online form](#).

P.E. KIT

After consultation with parents, children and staff, we have decided to update the PE kit.

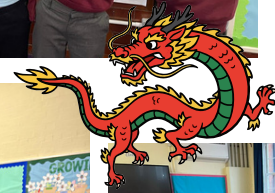
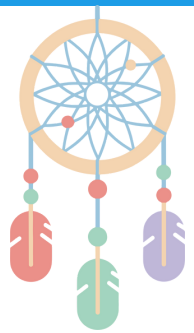
Trainers can be worn when the children are outside but they are optional. Plimsolls will still be needed for indoor PE as the floor gets marked by trainers.

The children can also wear black or navy tracksuits especially in winter as it does get cold on the playgrounds.

Winter Kit

- A plain white t-shirt
- Black or navy shorts
- Black or navy tracksuits
- Outdoors -Black or dark trainers with Velcro or laces (Optional)
- Indoors – plimsolls

CROSS-CURRICULAR WEEK



SPORTS NEWS

On Monday our mixed football team played an away match at Orchard. It was a tough match but our team showed great resilience, determination and team work. Our player of the match went to our goalie Grayson for making some great saves and showing awesome perseverance. The final score was 7-0 to Orchard.

We look forward to playing Holyrood next Wednesday.



OPAL BINGO



We are very excited to launch the OPAL play programme but we need your help to source some of the equipment. If you can donate any of the items on the OPAL BINGO grid please drop it into the red wheely bins which will be located at the front of the school from next week.

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO

Laundry basket 	Suitcase 	Wooden spoons 	Action figures 	Plastic crates
Dress up items 	Cars 	Dinosaurs 	Pans 	Plastic dolls
Lego 	Small balls 	Scooter 	Plastic tubes 	Tarpaulin
Beach spades 	Buckets 	Trowels 	Skateboard 	Cardboard tubes
Guttering 	Wooden planks 	Helmet 	Aprons 	Chalk

CYCLE TRAINING



Does your child want to learn to ride a bike? Ready to boost their cycling skills? Missed out on Bikeability training?

If you answered yes to any of these, we've got you covered this **February half term!**

Cycle training sessions are running across Hertfordshire, with options for all ages and abilities. Check out what's happening near you:

[Watford Cycle Hub](#)
King George V Playing Fields, Tolpits Lane

LIBRARY NEWS

Family drop in at 3:20 on Monday is:

'Doodles and Comic Strips'

For fans of Wimpy Kid, Dogman, cartoons and graphic novels. We'll be crafting, quizzing and crosswording and there'll be juice and biscuits. Brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents: **all welcome.**



PTA NEWS

PARKGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL PTA
Pre-Loved UNIFORM SALE!
BARGAIN PRICES!
SAVE MONEY & HELP THE PLANET!
FRIDAY 3:20PM
IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Parkgate Junior School PTA
TUCK SHOP
THIS FRIDAY!
3:20PM
IN THE SCHOOL HALL
Sweets & Treats 20p - £1

PARKGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL PTA
We Are Collecting
Unwanted Gifts & Toys!
IN GOOD CONDITION FOR FUTURE EVENTS
COLLECTION BOX
IN SCHOOL RECEPTION

MAPAC SALE

the mapac
January SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE
23RD - 31ST JANUARY!
SHOP HERE

10% OFF ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM & BAGS on your school's Parent Online Page.
10% OFF YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM
Find your school HERE!
Enter code: JSP26 at checkout

10% OFF... Skirts, Trousers, Shorts, Bags, Flip-flops, Hats, Art Products... & more!
Shop your plain items HERE!
Enter code: JSP26 at checkout
10% OFF PLAIN UNIFORM & ACCESSORIES

23RD - 31ST JANUARY!
SHOP HERE

STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the stars of the week:

- 3 Owl**
- 3 Robin**
- 4 Heron**
- 4 Puffin**
- 5 Parrot**
- 5 Toucan**
- 6 Eagle**
- 6 Falcon**

We have had busy week with Cross Curricular Activities and will be back next week.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to 4 Puffin for 99.64% attendance last week.

- 3 Owl** 93%
- 3 Robin** 94.48% ✓
- 4 Heron** 95.17%
- 4 Puffin** 99.64%
- 5 Parrot** 96.17%
- 5 Toucan** 95.67%
- 6 Eagle** 97%
- 6 Falcon** 98%

RAFFLE WINNERS

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

We have had busy week with Cross Curricular Activities and will be back next week.

