

PARKGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

SMILES, SUNSHINE AND CELEBRATIONS!



It has been another busy and productive week at school, with pupils and staff making the most of the lovely weather. There has been a real sense of energy and enthusiasm across the school, both in and out of the classroom.

A big congratulations goes to Windsor House for winning the half-term competition – a fantastic achievement and well deserved!

As we head into the weekend, we would also like to wish a very happy Eid to all of our families who are celebrating. We hope you have a joyful and peaceful time with your loved ones.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 21st Mar Watford Harriers Junior Challenge 2026
- 24th Mar Year 5 Play
- 26th Mar PTA - Spring Arts & Crafts
- 27th Mar Parkgate's Got Talent and last day of term (1:30pm)
- 13th Apr First Day of Summer Term (**DATE CHANGE**)
- 23rd Apr PTA - Spring Disco
- 29th Apr Class and Yr 6 Individual Photographs
- 30th Apr Year 5 Sleepover
- 20th May Music Concert
- 21st May Book Look
- 25th - 29th May Half term
- 7th July Year 6 Play
- 21st July End of Term - school closes **1.30pm**



DON'T FORGET

NEXT WEEK

23rd to 27th March

Mon 23rd March - Library family drop in

Holiday Crafts

Come to family drop in on Monday for crafts or just a relaxed read and browse of your choice.

Tues 24th March - Year 5 Play

Performances at 3.30pm and 5pm, Extra ticket's now available on Arbor. Children must bring a snack as they will stay at school for both performances. Please collect your child at 5.45pm

Thur 26th March - PTA Spring Arts & Crafts

FREE Crafternoon for children at Parkgate Juniors from 3:20-4:20pm. Places are limited, you can reserve your place using the link on the newsletter.

Fri 27th March - Parkgate's Got Talent

Fri 27th March - Last Day of Spring Term

School closes at 1.30pm and please remember that there is no Parkgate Pirates in the afternoon.

ADMIN@PARKGATEJM.HERTS.SCH.UK



Year 6 PGL - PAYMENT REMINDER

This is a gentle reminder that the final PGL instalment is due **before** 1st April 2026.

Please ensure payment is made by then to secure your child's place. Please note that all outstanding payments must be cleared by this date, as the school is required to make the final payment to PGL.

YEAR 5 SLEEPOVER

Year 5 Sleepover on Thursday 30th April
Complete this form for **all** children, whether attending or not.

Make payment of £5 via Arbor if your child is attending.



OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS

Please can you make sure any outstanding payments on your Arbor or Caterlink accounts are up to date by Friday 27th March.

CATERLINK MENU - WEEK 3

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Enchilada Bae with Paprika Wedges	Pork Sausage or Chicken Sausage (halal option), with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice	Fish Fingers with Chips
Lentil Curry with Rice	Tomato Pasta		Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Chips
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Vegan Sausage with Roast Potatoes	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato
Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Jacket Potato	Cheese or Tuna Baguette	Cheese or Tuna Baguette
		Cheese or Tuna Baguette		



An inspiring learning community

EARRINGS

It has come to our attention that we, as a school, should not be putting tape over children's earrings for P.E.

Please see safe guidance guidelines below:

Association of PE Safe Practice guidelines - On PE days children are not to wear earrings. The only exception would be if the child has just had them pierced; **PARENTS** would need to apply earring tape.

If children arrive to school with earrings they will be asked to remove them for P.E. We will no longer provide tape to cover them.

Year 3 Tuesday & Friday
Year 4 Monday & Thursday
Year 5 Thursday & Friday
Year 6 Wednesday & Thursday

It would be helpful if parents consider arranging ear piercings during school holidays, as this allows sufficient time for healing and helps avoid any discomfort or distractions during the school term.

VOICE IN A MILLION

On Wednesday our talented choir went to OVO Arena Wembley, to take part in Voice in a Million, featuring thousands of school children in a mass choir. Voice in a Million aims to build confidence in young singers while raising awareness for children in the care system needing adoptive families, and we are very proud to have been part of it.



OPAL UPDATE



Firstly, a big Thank-You for all the donations you have made so far. The dressing up clothes have been a huge hit!

This week we are appealing for landscaping and gardening bits and pieces. Specifically we are in need of shingle/ pebbles, bark chippings, weed suppressant membranes, sharp sand, play sand, bamboo canes, willow canes, large timber logs, rubber matting. We will have a collection point at the front of the school from Monday and all week.

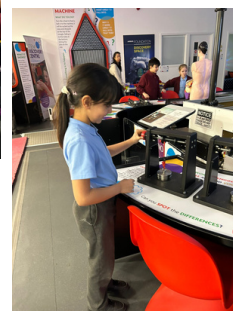
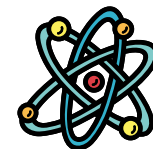
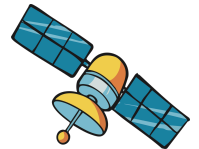
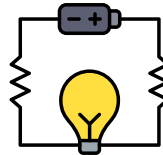
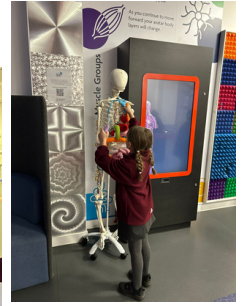
Thank you so much,

Mrs Croxford and the OPAL Team

Y3 TRIP TO THE STEM DISCOVERY CENTRE

Year 3 had an early start on Thursday visiting the STEM Discovery Centre.

They experimented with electrical circuits, learned about satellite's and explored the science games in the discovery centre.



PTA CRAFTS

The Parkgate Junior PTA is delighted to offer another **FREE** Crafternoon for children at Parkgate Juniors on **Thursday 26 March from 3:20-4:20pm**. It will be Spring themed and the children will have the choice of a range of craft activities to get stuck into, including bookmark making, colouring, rock painting and tissue-paper flowers.



Places are limited and you can sign your child up [here](#). The PTA will contact you if your child has secured a place.

If you have any questions about the event and/or would be happy to help on the day please contact the PTA on pta@parkgatejm.herts.sch.uk

LIBRARY NEWS

Family Drop In

For our final session of the term we have HOLIDAY crafts as well as the usual opportunity to read and relax. If you've never been before, you're very welcome.

Ideas for the Easter holiday

April 9th. Tickets £6

North Watford Library present A Noise Annoys, a family show featuring poetry, songs and silliness with Jude Simpson. Also at St Albans Library.

For tickets, follow the [link](#).

WINNING HOUSE

Well done to **WINDSOR HOUSE** for winning this half term's house competition.

The reward is a non-uniform day for all children in **WINDSOR HOUSE** on Friday 27th March.



PARKGATE READING XP CHAMPIONS

Welcome to the Parkgate Reading XP game, where children level up their reading!



The rules:

- You must read for at least 8 minutes per session for it to count - not dawdling, proper focussed reading!
- At least some of your reads must be signed off by an adult for the week's XP to count.
- Each session of reading for more than 8 minutes will earn you XP. You can earn a maximum of 15 XP per week.
- When you level up, you get a prize!

Minimum XP	Badge / Level
0	0 - Page Novice
15	1 - Story Scout
30	2 - Chapter Challenger
45	3 - Plot Pathfinder
60	4 - Narrative Navigator
75	5 - Word Warrior
90	6 - Comprehension Crusader
105	7 - Genre Guardian
120	8 - Literary Adventurer
135	9 - Lexical Explorer
150	10 - Mythic Reader
165	11 - Epic Biblionaut
180	12 - Tome Tactician
195	13 - Saga Scholar
210	14 - Ink Master
225	15 - Lorekeeper
240	16 - Grand Archivist
255	17 - Codex Champion
270	18 - Literary Virtuoso
285	19 - Pagebound Prodigy
300	20 - Ascended Reader

This week the Y6s are dominating because they trialled the game for me for a few weeks, but they'd better watch out - Y3 and 4 are hot on their heels!

Miss Osborne



PARKGATE READING CHAMPIONS

Weekly celebration board - most recent logged week: 16 Mar 2026 to 22 Mar 2026

Top 12 Readers		
Rank	Reader	XP
1	Ruhani - 6F	120
2	Ioli - 6F	111
3	Etana - 6F	67
4	Santhosh - 6F	65
5	Sophie - 6F	60
6	Edward - 6F	39
7	Jamal - 6F	36
8	Asher - 6F	34
9	Abeeha - 5P	30
10	Mariam - 6F	30
11	Vihaan Singh - 6F	30
12	Keira - 6F	25

Top 3 Classes		
1st	6F	745
2nd	30	132
3rd	4P	97
4th	5T	92

Overall class leaderboard is based on total XP. Up-levellers below are based on XP added this week.

Up-levellers of the Week		
3R	If ever a child were in lev of up in a class, the ir ma me s sta ck in the sa me box . For	30
4H		4P
Lorena - Story Scout Sofia - Story Scout		5P
Dua - Story Scout Madison - Story Scout		Abeeha - Chapter Challenger Fianna - Story Scout
6E		6F
		Etana - Narrative Navigator Ioli - Genre Guardian Ruhani - Literary Adventurer

Tip: enter dates in XP_Log to make weekly level-ups track automatically. This board shows the most recent week with dated XP entries.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the stars of the week:

🌟	3 Owl	Gabriel	Aiden
🌟	3 Robin	Aiden	Matilda
🌟	4 Heron	Diyan	Gavin
🌟	4 Puffin	Haider	Maya S
🌟	5 Parrot	Savannah	Qasim
🌟	5 Toucan	Ameerah	Andy
🌟	6 Eagle	Mariam	Farwah
🌟	6 Falcon	Vihaan	Jamal

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to 5 Toucan for 98.67% attendance last week.

3 Owl	92.59%
3 Robin	93.1% ✓
4 Heron	98.57%
4 Puffin	94.48%
5 Parrot	95.93%
5 Toucan	98.67%
6 Eagle	92.33%
6 Falcon	94.33%

RAFFLE WINNERS

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

3 Owl	Oops! In their haste to tidy the hall the raffle tickets have been recycled! Well done to all those children that won a prize this week.
3 Robin	Keep up the positive behaviour to earn more tickets.
4 Heron	
4 Puffin	
5 Parrot	
5 Toucan	
6 Eagle	
6 Falcon	

