



PARKGATE JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1 Celebration Newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM MRS BARTON

It has been another busy week at Parkgate as we reach the end of our first half term of the school year.

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our parents' evenings on Wednesday and Thursday. Not only did families have the opportunity to meet with teachers and hear about their children's progress but we were also able to share some of the exciting developments taking place across the school.

Parents/carers and children had the opportunity to sample food from our new school menu, which will now include halal options on all meat days. Governors were also available to meet with families and we were pleased to have the opportunity to showcase some of the wonderful new initiatives we have introduced since the start of the school year. I was particularly impressed with how confidently our children were able to recall our school rules and talk to their families about their **Protective Behaviour Hands** and **Zones of Regulation toolboxes**. It was lovely to see the children explaining these tools and how they use them. This really shows how quickly these approaches are becoming embedded in everyday school life and how well the children are beginning to understand and use them.

Thank you to everyone who attended and took the time to speak with us. It was lovely to see so many families engaging with school life.

As we move into the colder and wetter months, I would like to remind parents and carers that children must bring a rain jacket to school every day. We all know how unpredictable the British weather can be and we aim to get the children outside for playtimes in all weathers. Having a suitable coat ensures that they can enjoy their time outside whatever the weather brings.

As we come to the end of our first half term, I would like to personally thank all of our parents and carers for their continued support. Every single kind word has been appreciated and I feel very privileged to be leading such a wonderful school community. I am pleased with the progress we are making and look forward to continuing this work together.

Finally, I would like to wish our whole school community a wonderful and restful half term. I hope you all have the opportunity to enjoy some time together and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 2nd November**.

An inspiring learning community

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 26th - 30th October Half Term
- Saturday 31st October - Secondary school application deadline
- 2nd - 6th November Year 5-6 Bikeability
- Tuesday 3rd November PTA Diwali themed Arts & Crafts
- Monday 9th November Year 6 School nurse visit
- Friday 17th November Book Sale - 3.20pm
- Monday 30th November Year 5 National Space Centre
- Tuesday 1st December PTA Winter Disco & Dress down day
- Wednesday 2nd December Year 6 Lincolnsfield trip
- Thursday 17th December Christmas Carol Concert & Christmas dinner
- Friday 18th December End of Term (1.30pm)
- Tuesday 5th January Start of Spring Term
- Tuesday 9th February Young Voices

PGL - 2nd INSTALLMENT

Please make the payment by **31st October 2026** to secure your child's place on the trip.

Please also complete the [online medical form](#) if you haven't already done so.

YEARS 5-6 BIKEABILITY

Bikeability training will begin on the Monday after half term. Please ensure children bring their bikes and helmets and arrive at school on time, ready for each session. It is important that children attend all sessions in order to complete the course and pass.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline to apply for a secondary school place is **31st October**. Please ensure you have submitted your application before the deadline. If you have not yet applied, please make this a priority.

COMMUNICATION

A gentle reminder that all communication should be directed through the school office or the admin email address, rather than emailing teachers directly. This ensures that your queries are directed to the right person and dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain effective communication between home and school.

DSPL9 - FOR OUR 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 10](#)

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

AMAZON WISHLIST

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents who have kindly donated items from our Amazon Wishlist. Your generosity and support are truly appreciated, and we are so grateful for every single donation. It really does make a difference, and we feel very lucky to have such a supportive school community. For anyone who would still like to contribute, our Amazon Wishlist is available here: '[wishlist](#)'. Thank you again for your kindness and continued support!

HARVEST ASSEMBLY

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Assembly at the beginning of October, with a special visitor from Watford Foodbank joining us to talk about the important work they do in our community.

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your generous donations. Your kindness and support are greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to those in need.



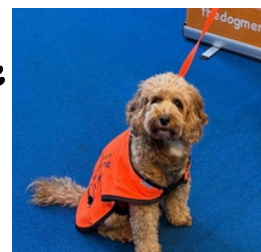
MAGGIE

This week, we were delighted to welcome Maggie, our new school mentor dog!

The children were excited

to meet their new four-legged friend, who will help support wellbeing, build confidence and bring plenty of smiles to our school community.

We look forward to sharing more updates about our furry friend's adventures in school!



NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your patience while we resolved the issues with our new meal ordering system. We really appreciate your support and for continuing to use the new system.

A quick reminder that meals must be ordered by **8:30am on the day** and please ensure there is enough money in your account to cover all meals ordered.

After half term if your child does not have a packed lunch and a meal has not been ordered for them we will be asking for a packed lunch to be brought in for them.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their **Halloween Fun Lunch** and it was lovely to see everyone getting into the spooky spirit!



Looking ahead, our **Christmas Dinner** will take place on **17th December**. Meals will need to be pre-ordered, and further details will be shared soon.

Our **new menu** for after half term is now available to view on the **[school website](#)**, so please take a look.

Finally, we would really appreciate it if parents and carers could take a few minutes to complete our **short survey** about why you choose school dinners or packed lunches for your child. Your feedback will help us better understand your choices and is greatly appreciated.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our after-school library drop-ins have been lots of fun! These take place every Monday after school and will continue after half term. Everyone is welcome, so do come along and enjoy some time exploring our library, sharing books and developing a love of reading!

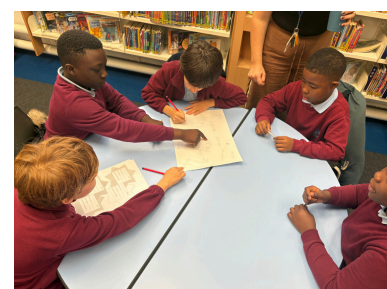


We are also delighted to welcome our new pupil library assistants. It is wonderful to see our children taking on these responsibilities and helping to make our school library a welcoming place for everyone. Well done to our new assistants.



Year 6 enjoyed a visit to North Watford Library this week.

Unfortunately, they got very wet on the way back, but this didn't dampen their spirits! A huge thank you to our parent volunteers for giving up their time and supporting the trip.



YEAR 4 TRI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Year 4 took a trip to Future Academy on 8th October to take part in a golf tournament with some other local schools. We didn't win but we had a great time trying.



KNUTSFORD TRIP

Year 4 had a wonderful trip to Knutsford Playing Fields to learn about water habits and pollution.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to this week's stars of the week:

- ★ **3 Owl** Houd
- ★ **3 Robin** Khaleesi
- ★ **4 Heron** Ibrahim
- ★ **4 Puffin**
- ★ **5 Parrot** Idris
- ★ **5 Toucan** Joel
- ★ **6 Eagle** Qasim
- ★ **6 Falcon** Scarlett

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to 5 Toucan for 97.19% attendance last week.

- 3 Owl** 95.63%
- 3 Robin** 96.64%
- 4 Heron** 96.78%
- 4 Puffin** 95.61%
- 5 Parrot** 96.76%
- 5 Toucan** 97.19%
- 6 Eagle** 94.98%
- 6 Falcon** 96.97%



RAFFLE WINNERS

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

- Mayson Efford
- Dua Azmat
- Xavi Vella
- Dora Mohebpour
- Ibrahim Sheikh
- Aiden Beale
- Christiana Georgieva
- Burhannadin Nullwala
- Inaaya Mohammed

