



Headteacher Message

It has been a busy and productive half term with lots of learning across school. We have enjoyed having our pupils back full time and being able to get on with our job of teaching and learning. There have been so many positives over the last few weeks. We have continued to work on our high expectations for all pupils and work in books and in classrooms has been wonderful to see. We have seen the school characteristics within our pupils and are proud of everything they achieve. We have had some senior leaders from across the Trust looking at learning across the school. Our pupils showed them their positive attitudes to school and talked confidently to them about their learning. Many children continue to look really smart in their school uniform, including on PE days.



We look forward to another busy half term when we return with lots of exciting activities for the children to engage in.

Kind regards

J Andrews

Mrs J Andrews
Headteacher

Key Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2021

School Opens

Monday 25th October 2021

Virtual Parents Evening

Tuesday 26th October 2021

Wednesday 27th October 2021

Thursday 28th October 2021

(Year group dependant)

Closing Date for Secondary School Applications

Sunday 31st October 2021

Whole School Pupil Photos

Thursday 4th November 2021

Children in Need

Friday 12th November 2021

(details to follow)

Flu Immunisations

Monday 13th December 2021

(details to follow)

School Closes

Friday 17th December 2021

SPRING TERM 2022

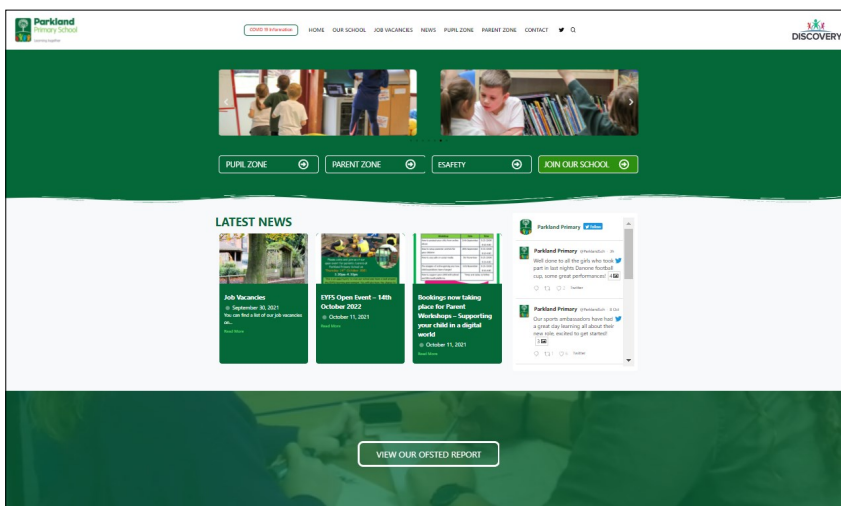
School Opens

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dates for Christmas events in school will be communicated after the half term.

New Website

We are pleased to announce that the school's website has been given a brand new look. It has been created to be more informative and user-friendly, to enhance parental engagement, with features such as latest news and twitter feeds on the home page. There is also a clear and informative section on our curriculum to provide parents with a greater understanding of our 'Limitless Learning'. We are also in the process of adding new images to the site, to allow existing / prospective parents/carers and the wider community a real insight into our school.



Harvest Appeal 2021

A massive thank you to those who donated to the school's harvest appeal. The response has been amazing!

Your kind donations will go a long way in helping the charity continue with their life-changing work.



Pre-School

This term we have welcomed many new children to the preschool and have been amazed with how well they have settled into their new surroundings. The children have been busy forming new friendships and our group times have helped them with their social communication as well as their listening and attention skills.

The children have access to a range of equipment and resources that they are able to use for their own independent learning and adults have used these interests to extend their learning and language development. They have shown lots of interest in our open-ended resources where we have seen some great creations and the outdoor learning environment has been a particularly popular area to be in.



It has been lovely getting to know our new pre-schoolers and welcoming back those that are familiar to us, we look forward to more fun and exciting play opportunities throughout the Autumn Term!

There are still some limited spaces available for Pre-School, for more information please email preschool@dsatparkland.org.

Foundation

In EYFS this term our topic has been 'all about me'. We have learnt about our families, our homes, our bodies and our senses. We have read some fantastic books including 'Funnybones' and 'Owl Babies'. We have also been singing lots of classic nursery rhymes including, 'Georgie Porgie', 'Diddle Diddle Dumpling' and 'Pat-a-cake'.

In phonics we have been learning to read & write! We have learnt the sounds that some of the letters make, and we have been practising blending the sounds together into words. We have even learnt to read some tricky words.

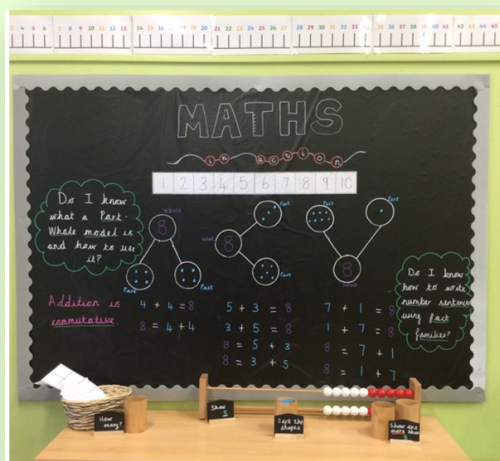
In maths we have been matching, sorting, and comparing amounts. We have also been comparing size, mass, capacity as well as exploring pattern.



Year 1

In English this term we have been writing sentences, remembering the key ingredients which are writing on the line, capital letters, finger spaces, correct letter formation and full stops. We have been writing sentences all about several stories such as Rosie's Hat, Sere-n's Seasons, After the Storm and One Stormy Night. Through our English lessons, we have also been exploring the different types of weather and the seasons in which they commonly appear.

Children have also been discussing what clothes are appropriate to wear during the different weathers.



In Maths, Year 1 have just started to explore part-whole models and have been using them to write addition number sentence



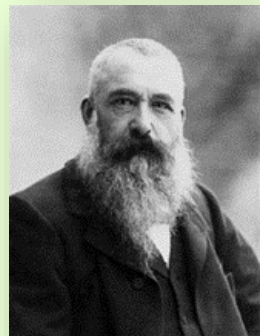
Year 2 have loved our Street Detectives topic this half term.

Year 2

They have been Geographers, Historians and Artists whilst learning about map symbols and directions, how buildings have changed and how to mix colours.

They loved to see how an aerial view could be changed into a map and really enjoyed creating their own maps of South Wigston, highlighting buildings that were important to them.

During our history lessons, the children looked at local buildings and how they had changed over time. With some clever tools on the Interactive whiteboard, the children could see how a building had evolved from over 100 years ago to how it looks today. The highlight of our history topic was our special visitor Mrs Tebbutt. She engaged the children with tales of school life from over 40 years ago, including the Punishment Book she shared with them. They are very pleased that the cane is no longer allowed in schools!



In Art the children have learnt about the life of Impressionist painter Claude Monet. They are really enjoying mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and have impressed us by their creation of shades, tints and tones. They will soon be painting their own pictures linked to our class text "A House That Once Was" using a variety of tools, paint mixing and imagination!



What an amazing start to the school year we have had!

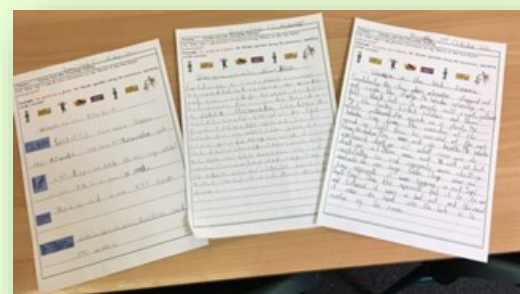
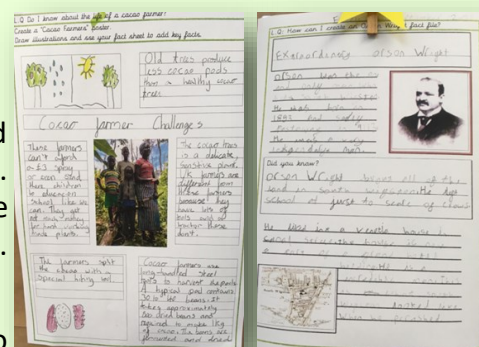
Year 3

As part of our Fantastic Factories Learning Journey, we learnt all about the industrial landscape artist LS Lowry. We used a range of painting and drawing techniques and create our own Lowry inspired art. We then moved on to History and learnt all about Orson Wright, the father of South Wigston.

Did you know he built many of the houses and factories in South Wigston?

Now, we are learning about how chocolate is made and is transported from across the Tropics to the Biscuit Factory in South Wigston. In English, we have learnt to retell and write 'Veruca in the Nut Room' (part of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl). Then, we will be adapting this to create our own Biscuit Factory story.

Whilst in maths, we have been learning to use 'place value knowledge' to help us add and subtract 3-digit numbers. We have been using dienes and counters to support our learning as well as our number bonds facts. We are also becoming more fluent with the 2, 5 and 10-times tables. Could you answer 60 questions in 3 minutes?



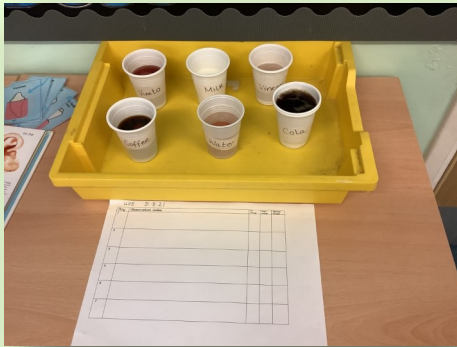
We are looking forward to a rest over half term so we can get back to more exciting learning in the next half term.

Year 4

Year 4 have made an amazing start to the new academic year. Children have taken on new routines, challenges and expectations with ease.

Our topic focus this half term has been **Burps, Bottoms & Bile**, in which we have explored teeth and the human digestive system.

We've enjoyed researching the different types of teeth we have, the layers which make up our teeth and how to take care of them. Everyone has been amazed by how clever our digestive system is and used their new knowledge to present facts in groups to the rest of the class.



Our class text is *Demon Dentist*. This story inspired us to write our own narrative about Alfie's shocking experience at the dentist and write instructions of how he should have taken care of his teeth!

Year 5

Year 5 have been extremely busy with their Stargazers topic this half term. They started by learning about Earth and Space in Science. This knowledge then allowed them to write their own non chronological report about Space in English. Next in English they have been writing a narrative about the Apollo 13 space mission. They have used fronted adverbials, dialogue, and prepositional phrases as part of their writing.

In Maths, they have been learning about the place value of numbers up to 1,000,000. They have then moved onto addition and subtractions with renaming and using numbers with 5 digits.

Our class text this half term has been *George's secret key to the universe* by Stephen and Lucy Hawking. We have then used this text in our guided reading lessons.



Also, in Science, we have been learning about forces such as friction, gravity, air resistance and water resistance.



Finally, it has been great to see the children becoming involved in blended learning.

They have been using TTRS, spelling shed, Century and MyOn at school and as their homework.



Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the year! Our topic has been Frozen Kingdom and we have been learning all about our world including the Arctic and Antarctic. In maths, we have been learning about numbers to 10 million and using the four operations to problem solve.

Year 6

In English, we wrote fantastic non-chronological reports on the Arctic and Antarctic, explaining about biomes, climate zones and the similarities and differences between the Arctic and Antarctic. Now, we are starting a speech to persuade leaders to take action against climate change.

Year 6 also had a fantastic time a PGL!

We used our perseverance, resilience and team work to tackle challenges such as ziplining, raft building, archery, a blind folded obstacle course, giant swing, abseiling, vertical challenge and orienteering.



Forest School has arrived at Parkland

We are very pleased to announce the start up of a new provision and opportunity for children at **Parkland Primary School - Forest School**. Forest School is an educational and inspirational process that offers children regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in the outdoor environment. It has been shown to provide many benefits to children, both socially, physically and emotionally.

At Parkland, sessions will be taught by Miss Brown, who is currently undertaking her Level 3 Forest School Leader qualification. The sessions take place outdoors around the school grounds, and include a range of activities, such as den building, invertebrate hunts, knot skills, outdoor arts and craft, campfires and many more.



So far this term, some sessions have already taken place with a group who have been thrilled to be able to explore the woodland area and play some games, as well as build a den, create some ideas to help identify leaves, and practise some lashing techniques.

Donations of coats and gardening equipment

If you have any warm and/or waterproof children's raincoats that your child no longer needs, we would love to create a small stock of spares to ensure all children can access Forest School whatever the weather.

If you are able to donate these, please hand them into the office or to Miss Brown. The same goes with any old gardening tools, such as spades, trowels, forks and buckets.

This would be very much appreciated. Thank you.



Cross Country

Many children from years 3-6 have taken part in the cross country competitions at Manor High School this half term. Many of the pupils who have taken part have been attending lunch time or after school cross country clubs to develop their stamina and fitness. Pupils have then raced against other children from schools all across Oadby and Wigston, pushing themselves to achieve the best position they can. Mr. H and Mrs. Ellis have been really proud of all the pupils who have taken part, as they've all displayed great determination and resilience to finish their races and try to improve their position. Any parents or pupils wanting to check their position in the race can do using the following link;



RESULTS, PHOTOS AND REPORTS ON FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/groups/549002599565724>

Well done to all those who have taken part so far, years 3 & 4 have their final race on Thursday 28th October.

Boys & Girls Danone Football Cup

Both our boys and girls football teams have played their first fixtures in the Danone Cup, a round-robin tournament against other teams from local schools in Oadby and Wigston. These tournaments have taken place after school on the newly opened 4G pitches at Beauchamp College. The boys team had their tournament first, and despite not winning either of their two matches, still played with great spirit and determination. For the majority of the team this was the first time that they had played together, so it was a great opportunity to play with some new faces. Hopefully with more practice the results will soon come as well!

The following week it was the girls' turn to show what they could do, and once again they didn't let us down! For many of the girls this was their first time playing competitive football, and it was great to see them all enjoying their games and developing their skills and teamwork. There was some spectacular goalkeeping, fierce tackling and plenty of attacking flare! The girls even won their first match of the evening against Brocks Hill Primary, before two narrow defeats to the other schools.

Well done to all those who have represented the school football teams so far. Plenty more matches still to come!

Boys Team; Finley S, Jenson E, Daniel H, Jacob T, Duncan N, Oliver P and Max C.

Girls Team; Georgie C, Kelsie G, Maisie O, Sophie S, Theia D, Methuli G, Holly C, and Eva R.



Sports Ambassadors

Our four amazing new Sports Ambassadors are now fully trained in their roles following the Sports Ambassador conference at the Wigston Academy. Theo S, Kelsie G, Finley S and Sophie S all took part in a variety of different practical and theoretical workshops to learn about the role of a sports ambassador, and the kind of things they'll be able to do this year to help promote PE and school sport at Parkland. All four have been chosen because of their leadership qualities, and Mr. H and Mrs. Ellis are looking forward to having their much needed help to lead lunch time clubs and activities, assist with after school clubs and help to update the PE noticeboard. They will each introduce themselves and talk a little bit about their role in the next newsletter.



Attendance

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

At the beginning of this academic year, the Government changed its guidance regarding COVID cases and attendance.

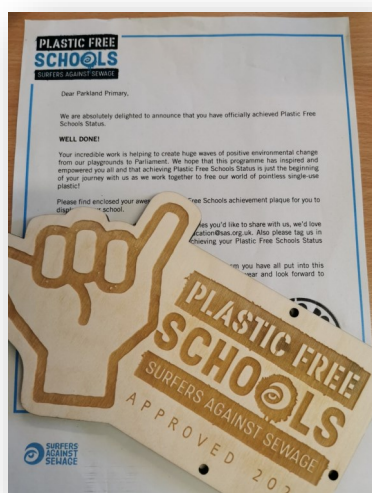
The reason for the change was to ensure that, if a pupil did have symptoms or tested positive for COVID, the rest of the class would not have to isolate, so that their learning did not suffer. We are aware that many children have been off with symptoms or other illness, and we thank parents for getting PCR tests when they have been asked. This has ensured the safety of all pupils and staff within school.

Last year, we were very proud of our pupil's attendance as we finished above the **national target of 96%** despite the challenges we faced. As a school, we want to build on this success. We understand that, at the moment, attendance is lower than we would like but understand the reasons behind it. We would ask that parents and carers continue to work with school staff to ensure that children regularly attend school.

This will help us to increase our overall attendance figure which currently sits at **94.62%**. If your child is ill, please remember to contact the school office by 9am each day, to inform us of the reason for absence.

Thank you for your continued support

Plastic—Free School



We are pleased to announce that Parkland have achieved **Plastic Free School Status**. Plastic Free Schools is a pupil-led initiative designed to help guide schools through the journey of eradicating single-use plastics.

Uniform

Thank you to all the parents/carers who have ensured pupils are in the correct school uniform. Many of our pupils look really smart.

If you need any support with uniform we can help, please ask a member of staff.

New Build

The new build at the front of the school is due to start over half term. We will communicate its progress with you, as it develops. We are excited to have a brand new room and will share photos as it progresses.

Work will take a few months and we hope it will be completed in March 2022.

Covid Update

We have seen an increase with COVID cases over the last couple of weeks and we hope that a break over half term will help to stop more positive results. Thank you to all the parents who have worked with us to take pupils for a PCR test and for helping us to keep our community safe. We understand that it is never easy to have children stay off school and it interrupts your busy lives. We do want, however, to ensure all our staff and pupils are kept as safe as possible. Please continue to work with us during these continued difficult times.

We will still be on call, over the half term, for contact tracing purposes. In order for us to continue to identify close contacts and advise self-isolation, please book a test as soon as possible if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus and inform school.

Please report all positive cases of coronavirus to us at school by emailing covid@dsatparkland.org

Pupil Voice

We are very excited to announce that we have a newly elected school council who are ready to help us hear the views of our pupils. They are: Sergio N, Lennon H, AJ Winston, E Creed, Lois C, Isabelle D, Piper-Sophia C, Marc C, Jacob T, Jimmy S, Isabella P, Masie L and Isabel H. Each class from Y3 to Y6 has their own representative who will attend meetings and feedback the ideas from their class. The school council will be involved in either an ECO, learning or online safety group.



School Council Members

Each KS2 class also has a class ambassador who welcomes visitors and shares information about their learning. They are Phoenix J, Ruth R, Oscar C, Phoebe T, Noah & Freya J, Lilly-Mai M-S, Leo B-H, Kesia B, Lexie B, Hazel G, Connie-Rae G-H, Evelyn M-S, Modesire T, Max M, Keelan R, Tyger M-C, Cian F, Alex B, Layla A, Alyssa H and Mia P.

We also have wellbeing ambassadors (Oliver C, Oscar M, Cara McIntyre and M Roberts) and sport ambassadors (Kelsie G, Sophie S, Theo S and Finley S) who will support important work across the school with Mrs Ellis and Mr Hackfath. We have ASHA ambassadors (E Hunt, Liana L and William B) who will help Parkland to learn about the ASHA charity in India. Some of these pupils will take part in the Trust Pupil Parliament meetings each month. We are excited to provide opportunities for our pupils to share their thoughts and ideas about school life.



Well-being Ambassadors



ASHA Ambassadors



- Don't forget to book your online parents evening slot, these will be taking place after the half term.
- Please remember to label all school uniform and other items of clothing, as well as water bottles.
- As the colder weather is fast approaching please bring your child into school with appropriate coats/jackets and footwear.
- Just a reminder that there has been a change to the term dates for this academic year. The school will now close at the end of the school day on **THURSDAY 7th July 2022.**

Have a lovely half term!