PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 27th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and rewarding week at Parkside, with plenty of opportunities for our children to showcase their talents, celebrate their learning and continue to develop their skills.

Drama Club Performance

This week, we thoroughly enjoyed an engaging performance from the children who attend our after-school dance club, led by Truefitt Collective Dance Theatre. The children have worked incredibly hard to prepare for their performance and it was wonderful to see them share their creative learning with parents and carers. We are very proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and confidence. Thank you to everyone who came along to support and celebrate their achievements.

Writing Development

Alongside our wider curriculum experiences, this week has also provided an opportunity for us to reflect on how we continue to maintain high expectations and secure the very best outcomes for our pupils' writing. Our Year 6 teachers attended a writing moderation event, joining practitioners from schools across the county to share and review examples of children's writing. This provided a valuable opportunity to discuss how we effectively embed writing skills, develop children's stamina and make the most of our live feedback approach. We are particularly focused on ensuring that feedback is meaningful, motivating and manageable, so that children understand their next steps and can make the best possible progress.

Spelling Focus

Our ongoing work to strengthen the teaching of writing has also informed some adjustments to how we teach spelling at Parkside.

Previously, many children received weekly spellings to practise at home, followed by a weekly spelling test. However, evidence highlights that the most effective way to support children's spelling development is to secure their phonics knowledge and explicitly teach them how words are constructed, including the use of prefixes, suffixes and root words.

As a result, we will be placing greater emphasis on spelling within our everyday English teaching. This will include reviewing spelling choices as part of our shared writing process, capturing key learning on our classroom learning walls and providing responsive feedback through our live feedback approach.

Spelling remains an important priority at Parkside; it is the way in which we deliver this teaching that is evolving to reflect effective practice and ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Home learning

For those children who would like to continue their learning at home, please take a look at your child's class page on the school website, where you will find the home-learning menu for this half term.

The activities on the menu are entirely optional and provide opportunities for children to explore their interests, practise their skills and get creative beyond the classroom. If your child chooses to complete an activity, we would love them to bring it into school to share with their classmates. This gives us an opportunity to celebrate their hard work, creativity and enthusiasm for learning.

The Festive Season

Finally, with the festive season approaching quickly, there is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks! Please take a look at the next page of the newsletter for an overview of the activities and events planned for the remainder of this half term. We are looking forward to sharing these special moments with our children and wider school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to ensure that every child at Parkside has the opportunity to flourish.

Kind Regards,

Mrs May-Finnegan
Headteacher





Thank you so much to the PFA and of course to Conner for donating this year's tree. Head over to the Bell in Bedmond for great value, high quality trees! Delivery available too!

Upcoming Events

November

26th: 8:30am - 8:45am - Family Reading Morning
26th 10:30am - 12pm - NHS Flu Immunisations: Reception - Year 6

December

1st December: 9:00 - Year 5 Ash Class Assembly
10th: 8:30am - 8:45am - Family Reading Morning
10th: Christmas Jumper Day
10th: Christmas Dinner
15th: 9:45am - 10:45am - EYFS/KS1 Nativity
16th: 2:00pm - 3:00pm - EYFS/KS1 Nativity
17th 9:00am - 10:00pm - KS2 Christmas Around the World Concert
17th: 10:45am - I.Rock Concert
18th: 1:15pm - End of Autumn Term

Year 2 Swimming

Year 2 attend swimming lessons every Wednesday 9:00 - 10:30. Pupils may arrive at school with their swimming kit underneath their uniform for ease of changing.

Year 4 Swimming

From Spring 2027, Year 4 will be swimming instead of Year 2.

P.E.

Children should change for P.E. in school.

Pupils should bring their P.E. Kit into school in a bag and this will be stored in the cloakroom until the end of half-term. Kits will then be sent home to washed.



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Dates For Your Diary

Class Assemblies

(all of which will take place in the Hall from 9:00-9:30)

1st December 2026 - Year 5 Ash

19th January 2027 - Year 4 Aspen

9th February 2027 - Year 2 Alder

16th March 2027 - Year 1 Maple

13th July 2027 - Reception/Nursery Pine/Fir

Festive Celebrations

Tuesday 8th December - Hanukkah Story (EYFS)

11:00

Wednesday 9th December - Christingle Service

09:30-10:15

15th December 2026 - EYFS/KS1 Nativity (AM)

09:45-10:45

16th December 2026 - EYFS/KS1 Nativity (PM)

14:00-15:00

17th December 2026 - KS2 Christmas Around the World Concert

09:00 - 10:00







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