



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

No 1 – 7th September 2018

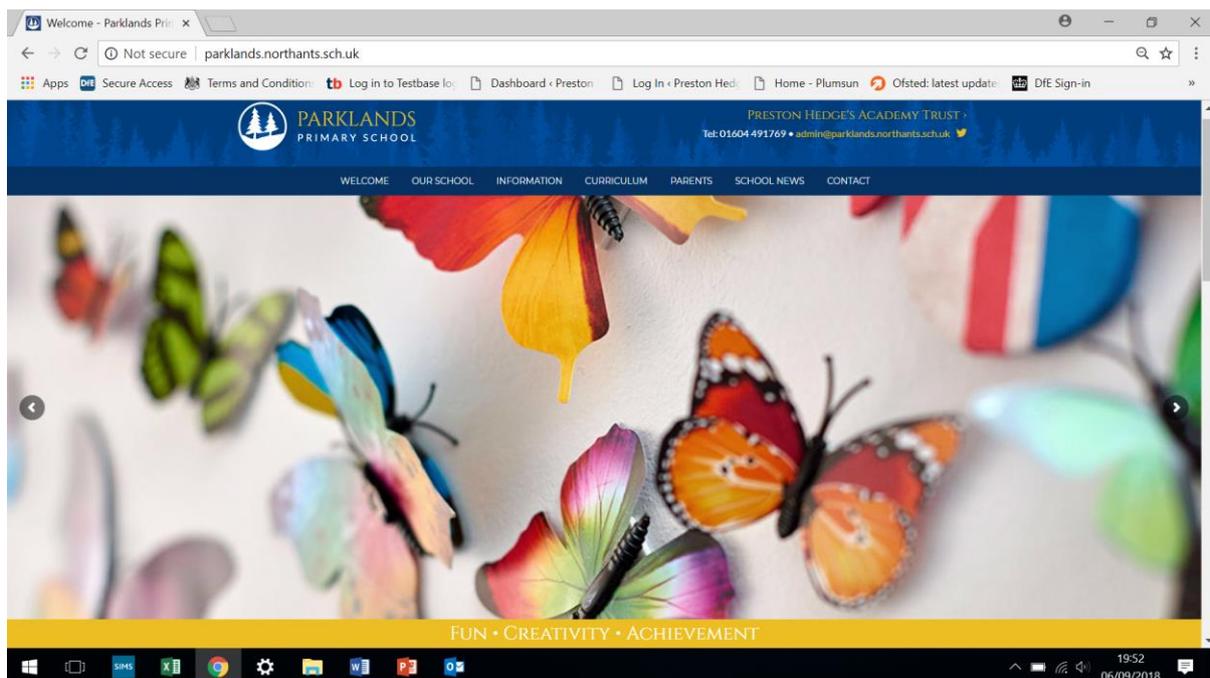
WHAT A FIRST WEEK BACK!

First of all, can I say how fantastic it has been to meet so many of you outside at the start and the end of the school day. It's a huge privilege to be the Principal of Parklands, and I'm so excited to be working with you all and the fantastic staff team to develop Parklands Primary into the school that we all aspire for it to be!

The children look simply fantastic in their new uniforms – thank you to you all for getting them all set for the start of their 'new' school. I have been so impressed with their behaviour both in and out of class. They have come back to school full of energy and smiles, and it's a delight to start getting to know them.

I will be sending home a newsletter each fortnight to update you on events and key dates at school. We are aiming for Friday to be our 'communication from school' day, so unless exceptional circumstances mean we have to get a letter to you straight away, look for any communication by the end of day on Friday. These newsletters will be emailed out to you all, but I will also make sure that they are on the new website under the 'parents' tab, in 'correspondence'.

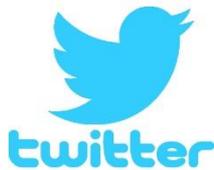
OUR NEW WEBSITE





If you haven't had a chance to visit our new website yet, please do have a look at www.parklands.northants.sch.uk. I have been taking some lovely pictures of our children in their smart, new uniforms, and plan to update the pictures on the site over the weekend.

TWITTER



We also have a new Twitter account that we plan to use as a 'broadcast service' giving you images of what's going on in the curriculum, and also to 'tweet' handy reminders of events. If you're a Twitter user, you can find us here: <https://twitter.com/PPSNorthants>

We are sending a letter home today requesting permission to tweet images of your child enjoying their curriculum sessions. If you do not want photos of your child to be on Twitter or on the website, please can you let the school office know by Friday 14th September. After that date, we will start tweeting images of the children and the lovely curriculum experiences that they are having.

OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Respect

Having a strong, values based ethos within the school is really important to us, and we have 6 new key values that are our focus in the school. They are: 'Respect', 'Kindness', 'Independence', 'Determination', 'Perseverance' and 'Aspiration'. Each term we will focus on one of the values, and aim to demonstrate this at every opportunity.

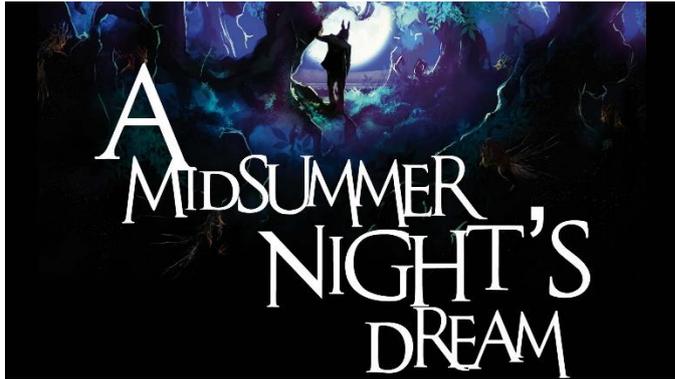
Our first value is 'Respect' and myself and Mr McDonald will launch it in assembly next week. The children will receive a special values sticker every time that they demonstrate that value really well, and at the end of this term, we will choose some 'Respect' role models who have represented the value to an exceptional level.



Having seen how fantastic our children are, I'm expecting to go through a lot of stickers and have some tough decisions at the end of term!

Keep watching this space to find out the new Values based reward system for children in Year 3 and above that we plan to launch later on this term!

SHAKESPEARE WEEK



We have a very exciting week planned for everyone on the week beginning 1st October. All of the year groups will be having drama workshops with Leigh Wolmarans from Okudala, all based around A Midsummer Night's Dream. The teachers are planning to integrate Shakespeare into their creative curriculum during this week, so the children should have some fantastic Shakespeare-based experiences.

More details will follow, but during that week, keep an eye on Twitter – I may even post some videos!

JUST A NOTE ON SICKNESS

All the schools within the Trust follows NHS guidance on childhood illnesses:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

NHS guidance is that if your child has any vomiting or diarrhoea, they should stay away from school until 48hrs after their symptoms are gone. We recognise that this can be a bit tricky at times to organise, but we do consistently apply this as it reduces the risk of anything spreading throughout the school.

WELCOME TO YEAR GROUP MEETINGS

We plan to hold 'welcome to year group' meetings beginning the week of the 17th September to give you details about the year group's plans for the curriculum, homework and any other expectations. As soon as those dates are set, we will add them to the 'Key Dates' section on the website, and let you know they are there. Until then, if



you have any questions at all, please just catch your child's teacher, or Mr McDonald or myself at the start or end of the school day, and we'll do our best to help you!

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Getting it right for the children is our key priority, so to help us focus on the right areas first, I am sending out a parent questionnaire with your child today. I'd be grateful if you could fill it out and return it back to school by Friday 14th September. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wb 1st October – Shakespeare Week

16th & 18th October – Parents' Evening (further details to follow)