



PARKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER
Friday 11th September



It has been so exciting to see all of the children coming back into school, and we are so impressed at how well they have returned! Your children have come into school excited, eager and ready for all the experiences that school has to offer.

As a staff team, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of you for your support and cooperation over this difficult time. It felt very much like any normal September start, and we are confident that our children should be able to quickly get back into the swing of it all.

It has been so lovely to see the children with huge smiles on their faces! Long may it continue!

PE

Thank you for bearing with us whilst we look at the safest way to provide PE sessions to your children.

From next week, all PE session will be outside (weather permitting).

Having looked at various ways that we can get children changed for PE, we feel that the safest way to avoid any possible risk is for the children to **come to school dressed in their PE kit** on their PE day, rather than their uniform.

Please see the table below for your child's PE day:

Year group	PE Day
1	Monday
2	Wednesday
3	Friday
4	Tuesday
5	Thursday
6	Monday





Reception will be given a PE day once they have settled in full time! As it will be outdoors, please feel free to send your children in with their winter PE kit, ie. tracksuit bottoms and fleece/jumper as they will be in it all day. We will be sending all PE bags home today.

Apologies again for taking our time with this, but it was necessary to get it right and keep it safe for the children. We will make every attempt to ensure that your child has their allotted PE lesson however as it is outside, they may need to miss their session if the weather is bad. We will be ensuring that there are many other active elements to the school day as possible, in order to keep our children fit and healthy!

READING

For the time being, our library will become mobile! From next week books will be taken to the classroom for children to choose their “reading for pleasure” book!

A polite reminder - please return any classic texts or reading scheme books that you may have at home from before/during lock down.

LUNCHES

Hot lunches, as well as sandwich options, are once again up and running and can be ordered on Parent Pay. If you have any questions regarding lunches please do not hesitate to get in touch with Kate or Rachel in the school office.

PARKING

A polite reminder; please make sure that when dropping off and collecting that you do not double park in front of the school gates or crossing. We also ask that you do not block the driveways of any residents, even for a very short time. We appreciate your support with this matter.

CURRICULUM

RECEPTION

Our new children are settling in really well and have made a fantastic start to their time in Reception. This term's theme is '**Under the Sea**' linked to '**The Rainbow Fish**'. This



topic will help them to learn all about themselves, and celebrate how different and unique we all are! Our various learning areas are based around our theme from our engaging indoor and outdoor writing stations, our in class submarines, to the Under the Sea exploratory Mathematic provisions. Continuing outdoors, we are building boats in the construction area, and creating some beautifully decorated sea creatures for the Reception Art Gallery! Later this term, once the children are in full time, we will start our Wild Walks into the Nature area, where we will explore the great outdoors, natural surrounding

habitats, finishing off with a bonfire and a delicious hot chocolate!



YEAR 1

This term our curriculum topic is '**Daring Dragons**'. We will have the opportunity to complete lots of fiery dragon artwork including making dazzling dragon eyes and shields.

To make the eyes the children will use clay and have the opportunity to manipulate, carve, roll, join and secure the clay. In order to create their super shield, the children will focus on mixing experimenting applying the paint. All their artwork will then create a new eye-catching display between the two classrooms.



As well as producing some amazing artwork, they will be hunting for a dragon and exploring the book '**Zog**'. We will be looking at describing the dragons from the text and also writing about ways we could catch and train one.

YEAR 2

This term, in Year 2, we will be going on a journey all around **Europe!** We will start in our home land; United Kingdom and from there, "visit" multiple different countries. We hope to learn all about how their culture and how their lifestyle differs from ours. Looking specifically at famous landmarks, mountains, rivers, climate and cuisine. We shall learn this through imagery, videos and some first-hand recounts. We can't wait to start immersing ourselves in the different countries and see what they each have to offer. Towards the end of the topic, when we have been able to gain a broad



understanding of this continent, we will then be making a case study comparison and pitch our dream European destination to the class. We are also so excited to learn Spanish each week with a specialist teacher! Muy Bien!



YEAR 3

This term, Year 3 will be exploring the amazing phenomena of **Mother Earth!** We will build our knowledge of the Earth's landscape and investigate how earthquakes and



tsunamis are formed and measured. We also examine the affects of earthquakes in different continents and areas of the world, due to their economic status. We look at why some countries are less affected due to protections they have in place, compared to poorer countries that suffer from destruction of buildings and farming. Year 3 will also discuss how volcanoes are formed and why they only occur in certain areas of the world.

We will also observe the structure of a volcano and the affects they have on the world if they erupt. We cannot wait to become scientists and learn how to monitor volcanic eruptions and identify patterns of volcanic activity.

Finally, using our fantastic geographical knowledge, we'll explore the contours of a volcano and identify areas on a map where natural disasters occur.

YEAR 4

This term, Year 4 will be working on the topic of **climate change**. To explore this important global issue the children will be learning and developing a connection with the planet, understanding and responding imaginatively to scientific and creative stimuli. The children will be focussing particularly on two different biomes, The Rainforest and The Polar regions; and will be investigating the causes and impact of climate change as well as identifying what can be done to slow this process down.



The children have already visited our own Parklands Rainforest to gain an understanding of what life would be like in the Rainforest and the opportunity to build a shelter using natural resources. They will also have the chance to debate differing points of view on this subject, building up their own argument with supporting evidence and sharing it with each other. As well as this, we will be using computer technology to create interactive weather reports and producing a David Attenborough style voiceover to explain the effects of climate change on these habitats. Finally, we will be creating some fabulous artwork based around rainforest creatures using the colour wheel to explore complimentary colours and different techniques to blend contrasting colours.



YEAR 5

This term, Year 5 will be focusing on how and why Britain declared war in 1914. This is a fascinating topic to kick off an exciting year for our children. We will be exploring not only life during the war but also how it affected everyday life not just for the people of Britain but from all of the leading powers of Europe at the time.

Additionally, the children will also be focusing on different perspectives of the war, looking at how different countries not only prepared for war but how their Homefront supported the war effort and how they managed life on the front line. Furthermore, the children will also be taught the sacrifices women made during the crucial period of 1914 – 1918 and the impact they had not only in battle but how they revolutionised rights for women in the 20th Century.



In order to be able fully immerse the children in this exciting topic, we will be creating trenches in the classroom and using Virtual Reality to reiterate what men up and down the country faced fighting for their country. To end this exciting topic, we will be focusing on remembrance to commemorate all of the people who sacrificed themselves for our country.

YEAR 6

Year 6 will be kicking off this year with the very exciting topic of the Vietnam War and the Sixties! In the first term, the children will study the causes of the war and learn key facts about the wider background of the Cold War. They will investigate the geography of the country, finding out about major cities and the reasons for the political division of North and South as well as finding out key information about how the war was fought and who the leading figures were at the time.



In the second term, the focus will move to the anti-war movement, where children will learn about the change in mood of the US public and reasons for opposition of the conflict. Through art and music, they will explore the rise of the peace movement which will give the children great understanding of the power of music and art in working for a peaceful world.