

Parklands Primary

Parent Newsletter - 9.1.26

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[Happy New Year!](#)



Welcome back to Spring term 1 and the start of 2026! We hope that all of our families had a wonderful restful break, the children have come back wonderfully, ready for a busy term ahead! Wishing all of our Parklands families a happy and healthy New year!

Competition winners



We are delighted to share that we had a very special visit from our MP, Lucy Rigby at the end of last term. One of our very talented children, won her Christmas card competition. Their design

was selected out of all the children who entered across Northamptonshire. The card was sent locally but also nationally - not to mention our Major and Keir Starmer himself!

PK Press didn't miss the opportunity and they also interviewed Lucy to understand her inspiration behind her role as an MP to further inspire our children for Roots & Wings. We explained our school-wide democratic vote to elect our very own Pupil Parliament which she was really impressed with.

PK Press have also been busy judging another competition, they were delighted to present the road safety poster prizes to our KS1 and KS2 winners. We had a fantastic selection of entries handed in and some really creative ideas, so it was a tricky decision to choose from! All children who entered received a reflective key ring for their book bags as an extra safety precaution in these darker months.

Road safety



If your children walk home alone in Year 5 and 6, please remind them about the importance of road safety. At the end of term we have spoke to them about this at school but we have had concerned members of the public contact the school regarding upper KS2 children who walk alone, crossing roads unsafely, running across crossings without checking for on coming traffic. If your child does walk home alone, please can you also remind them about the importance of road safety.

Parking



Unfortunately, we have had further concerns raised by local residents of unsafe parking on the first week back to school. Once again, some driveways had been partially blocked and cars have been parked on grass verges, making it difficult for cars coming out of driveways or passing traffic.

If crossing across the staff car park at the start of the end of the day. Please use the pathway. We had a number of near misses, with staff arriving or leaving in cars and children running across the car park, please stick to the paths to ensure everyone's safety.

School drills

Next week we will be completing our usual termly drills, including fire drill and lock down drill so that children are completely prepared in the event of an emergency.

Online Safety

We know that many children may have received a new device over the Christmas period. Whilst access to tech can be a very beneficial resource, personal devices such as phones also come with some dangers. Please see the attached guidance about how to keep your child as safe as possible online, particularly around the risk with apps such as Snapchat and Whatsapp.

What's the risk?

The current risk is children photographing/filming/discussing inappropriate content and posting it in group chats. We are aware this can cause embarrassment, increase tensions, and create further issues for the children directly involved and encourage peers to exacerbate the situation further.

How do we support children in managing online risks?

Encouraging children and young people to leave groups is a good starting place. Having regular conversations with children and young people about online safety will also help. Young people can report and remove harmful content on Snapchat by pressing 'hold' and then 'report'. The more we can teach children about the risks of sharing inappropriate content online, the better.

We have highlighted some resources you could use at home to help manage the risky content children are sharing on apps. Many of the safeguarding concerns we are seeing online are about healthy relationships. The content being shared could stem from peer pressure or the absolute need to fit in. Children are also reluctant to report their peers online, at the risk of being labelled a 'grass' or a 'snitch'.

Some children and young people might not fully understand the risks of posting dangerous content online, so we need to ensure we educate them on how to manage online risks. The following resources may support this:

[Childnet International Resources](#)

[CEOP Resource Library](#)

[Snapchat guide for parents and carers](#)

Key dates



Monday 5th January - Teacher training day

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school

Friday 16th January Reading Ambassadors and Pk press at Squires Mews

Tuesday 20th January - Year 4 think Tank

Thursday 22nd January - Year 3 / 4 football team at Parklands

Tuesday 27th January - Year 5 / 6 football team at Preston Hedges

Thursday 29th January - SEND coffee afternoon 2:30pm - all parents are welcome

Wednesday 4th February - Year 3 trip

Friday 6th February - KS1 Reading cafe

Friday 13th February - KS2 Reading cafe

Friday 13th February - Last day of term

Spring term 2

Monday 23rd February - Return to school for Spring 2