

Parklands Primary Parent Newsletter

9.10.26

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Pupil group update







Parklands Press are excited to be completing interviews for our first addition. We are focusing on pupil voice and their thoughts on all the new and exciting changes within the school. The children have been given their first focus and are busy interviewing before pulling together the article together in the coming weeks.

Our Reading Ambassadors have been giving up their own time to make sure our Equality & Diversity reading crates are stocked with the right books for our children to access and enjoy. From Black History and neurodiversity to climate change, friendships and feelings, there's a fantastic range of topics for children to explore, discover and learn from! They're also so excited

about our new poetry books outside Year 5! Our reading ambassadors hope they inspire a love of poetry, spark imagination and encourage lots of children to stop, read and share! They've also topped every class's 5-signature boxes up so that each Monday, every class will have a winner for their reading efforts at home! Our reading ambassadors were also delighted to host the [@scholastic uk](#) book fair this term! It's been a very, very busy term for our children already and lots more is booked in for next term too!

Our Global Guardians have begun working towards the prestigious Green Flag Award. They are excited to take action to make our school more environmentally friendly and sustainable, while encouraging others to get involved. We look forward to seeing the positive changes they will make as they work towards achieving the Green Flag!

This half term, our fantastic Year 5 Play Leaders have been busy supporting children in Years 1 and 2 during playtimes. They have helped to organise games and activities, encouraged everyone to join in and made sure that playtimes are happy, active and inclusive. It has been wonderful to see the Play Leaders growing in confidence and showing such kindness, responsibility, and enthusiasm. Well done to them all for being brilliant role models!

The Little Legends have been working hard this term coming up with some fabulous projects that we plan on starting ASAP! Some of the ideas that we have collectively decided on will be a school litter pick, as well as helping to support the Forest School sessions for EYFS and Year 1. We will also be doing out annual Christmas gift bags for the teachers as well as Christmas cards for the residents at Squires Mews. A new addition to this annual tradition will be making some Christmas decorations to go in the teacher's gift bags...all super exciting! Watch this space!

Our United Parkland Pupil Group have been working hard to make a positive difference across our school community. We recently led an assembly about the Hope Centre and helped celebrate our Harvest Festival. We are proud of the work we have done so far and the way we have encouraged others to get involved and support our wider community. We are now looking forward to leading a school assembly for World Mental Health Day and start to spend time leading play during Wellbeing Club.

Our new Digital Leaders have made a fantastic start to the term. They are working hard to plan and gather pupil voice for our first podcast, while also helping to organise our new Chromebooks. They have been brilliant at supporting Year 4 and Year 5 pupils as they get to grips with new technology.

Story writing competition



500 Words is the UK's largest story-writing competition for 5-11 year-olds. This year, entries open from Tuesday 29 September and will close at 9pm, Friday 6 November. The competition celebrates children's creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to create an original story in 500 words or fewer.

- There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words, it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity!
- This year, the celebrity panel of judges include Malorie Blackman, Charlie Higson, Francesca Simon, Sir Lenny Henry, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Rose Ayling-Ellis.

Bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read by celebrities on the BBC in early March. They will also receive a framed illustration of their story, created by one of Britain's best children's illustrators. The illustrations, alongside the winning stories, will be published in a special 500 Words winners' book. Not only that, winners will take home a National Book Token to spend on books of their choice.

- Gold winners - £75 voucher. The gold winners' schools will also receive 500 books for their school library.
- Silver winners - £50 voucher
- Bronze winners - £25 voucher

The top 50 entrants (25 from each category) will have their story recorded and published on the 500 Words website.

PTA information



🎄 The Friends of Parklands Primary School Christmas Fair is back! 🎄

📅 Friday 27th November 2026, 4-6pm — save the date!

We're already busy behind the scenes getting everything ready for an evening of festive fun for all the family! 🎁🌟

There'll be plenty to look forward to, and we'll be sharing more details very soon — including some fabulous raffle prizes that you won't want to miss! 🎟️🎁

🎄 STALLHOLDERS & RAFFLE PRIZES WANTED! 🎄

We're looking for local businesses, crafters, makers and small businesses to join us and help make our Christmas Fair extra special.

Interested in having a stall? We'd love to hear from you!

✉️ friendsofparklands@parklandsprimary.org

If your business can provide a raffle prize (in exchange for some advertising) please get in touch!

📱 NON-UNIFORM DAY IN EXCHANGE FOR TOMBOLA ITEMS

Our tombolas this year are Chocolate and Bottles! Children are invited to wear their own clothes on Friday 13th November in exchange for a donation of chocolate or a bottle of any sort!

🌟 Keep an eye on our social media (Instagram and Facebook) for more Christmas Fair news!
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Mobile phones and smart watches



To ensure school is a safe place for our children and to enable them to be fully engaged with their learning, mobile phone use is prohibited throughout the school day which includes lining up before school, break and lunchtimes.

Smart watches which have the same kind of capabilities, technology and communication access as phones, will be treated in the same way as phones and are required to be handed in on arrival at school.

More information can be found here: [Safeguarding-Child-Protection-Policy-2026.pdf](#)

Low down services



We are sharing the Lowdown's Drop-In Services, which provide free, confidential and non-judgemental support for young people aged 8-25 and their parents/carers.

The service offers a safe and welcoming space where young people can access support with mental health and wellbeing, practical information and guidance.

Whether someone needs a listening ear, help managing challenges such as anxiety or low mood, advice about education, employment or housing, or support to access other services, the team is there to help.

One of the key strengths of the service is the ability to access immediate support, including for young people who may be waiting for counselling or other specialist services, or who need support between appointments.

Key Information

- Who: Young people aged 8-25 (sexual health support available for ages 14-25) and parents/carers.
- Where: The Lowdown, 3 Kingswell Street, Northampton, NN1 1PP.
- When: Monday to Friday, 1pm-6pm.
- How: Drop in, contact the team by phone or email, or pre-book an appointment.

Contact:

01604 634385

WhatsApp/Call: 07985 268134

Countywide drop-in support is also available through REACH Collaborative partners. To find a service in your area, visit: <https://reachcollaborative.org.uk/>

WNC online parent workshops

Online Safety

Online safety workshop to empower parents/carers to support their children in navigating the online world. This includes understanding risks of being online, based on latest research, social media, laws and legislations, AI technology and parental controls.

It will also look at the pressures young people face, increase their awareness of the grooming process, the risks associated with indecent image sharing and inform you on how to report online harms, so you feel equipped to support your children. They will also cover the upcoming law changes and the potential impact it could pose.

[Target online safety session for Parents/Carers Tickets, Monday, October 19 • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

There is also a workshop aimed at parents of children with SEN.

[Online Safety Session for SEN Parents/Carers Tickets, Monday, November 9 • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM GMT | Eventbrite](#)

Children's emotional development

These interactive two-hour sessions provide a practical introduction to the popular *Understanding Your Child from Toddler to Teen* programme and explore how children's brains develop, how emotions influence behaviour, and how positive relationships can support healthy development.

This workshop explores how relationships and everyday interactions shape a child's brain development from birth through to primary school age.



29 September 2026, 10am-12pm

Parents of Adolescents

This workshop focuses on teenage brain development, understanding risk-taking behaviours, managing big emotions and strengthening relationships during the adolescent years.

 20 October 2026, 10am-12pm

These free sessions offer practical insights and strategies to help parents and carers better understand and support their children at different stages of development. To book a place, visit the relevant Eventbrite pages or explore additional parenting support available through the Family Hubs in West Northants programme.

[Togetherness, Solihull Approach, 2hr](#)

[Workshop for Parents of Adolescents Tickets, Tuesday, October 20 • 10 AM - 12 PM |](#)

[Eventbrite](#)

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK





Remember, every second counts when someone calls the emergency services

Keep Clear of Fire Hydrants

Hydrants provide access to water and are an essential resource for the Fire Service

They are marked with a yellow H sign

Repeat offenders can be reported and could be fined up to £500 under the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004

You are putting people's lives and homes at risk by obstructing a fire hydrant

When parking, please ensure an emergency vehicle can access and pass safely.

Are you preventing a fire engine from attending an incident?

Follow these simple guidelines

- Ensure that there is adequate space for an emergency vehicle to pass
- Do not park in front of emergency service access points
- Do not park in front of fire stations
- Do not park over, or too near to hydrants
- Obey the Highway Code and road markings
- Park as close to the kerb as possible
- Park straight with wheels straight and fold in mirrors

- In narrow streets only park on one side of the road, unless there are official parking spaces
- Do not park too close to corners
- Leave extra room at tight junctions

Key dates



Autumn term 1 2026

Monday 12th October - Parent internet safety workshop - 2-3pm

Wednesday 14th October - Parent coffee morning 9am

Wednesday 14th October - PTA film night

Thursday 15th October - EYFS superhero day

Thursday 15th October - KS1 reading cafe (EYFS, Years 1 & 2)

Friday 16th October - **Wear red for show racism the red card**

WC 19th October - careers week

Tuesday 20th October - Parents evening

Thursday 22nd October - Parents evening

Friday 23rd October - Last day of term

Autumn term 2

Monday 2nd November - teacher training day

Tuesday 3rd November - Children return to school