



Headteacher Message

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all our pupils back to school. I have loved seeing so much fantastic learning going on in the few weeks pupils have all been back. Many children have settled back into school routines quickly and are showing really positive learning behaviours. There are still new rules and structures to follow, and I would like to congratulate all the pupils who have followed these.



I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing the school for full opening and in supporting our pupils. Their commitment is wonderful and they go above and beyond to make sure pupils achieve in their learning. Staff have also worked hard to make sure pupils' wellbeing is supported. We all want our pupils to really feel they belong at Parkland and the team work together to make that happen.

We are still following our risk assessment and this brings its own challenges in terms of not being able to move freely across 'bubbles'. Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported us during these very difficult times. If we all continue to work together, we can help to keep our community safe. As parents and carers, you should be very proud of everything the children have achieved over the last 12 months.

Please communicate with us if you would like support with worries you or your child may have.

Best wishes

J Andrews

Mrs J Andrews
Headteacher

Key Dates

School Opens

Monday 12th April 2021

National Offer Day for Primary School Places

Friday 16th April 2021

May Day

Monday 3rd May 2021

School Closes for Half Term

Friday 28th May 2021

Spring has arrived



**After a long winter lockdown,
spring is finally here**

Please continue to stay safe and positive

School will be closed to all pupils during the Easter break from Monday 29th March to Friday 9th April. We will still be on call, however, for contact tracing purposes.

In order for us to continue to identify close contacts and advise self-isolation, please book a test as soon as possible if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus and inform school.

Please send information about positive cases to covid@dsatparkland.org throughout Easter as it will have implications for pupil absence when we return to school on Monday 12th April 2021.

Pupils will not be expected to continue with school work during the Easter break and work will not be uploaded to Teams or Tapestry. Enjoy the time with your family.

As restriction begin to ease please make sure you only meet others in permitted circumstances and follow the government COVID rules in order to keep our community safe. Thank you.



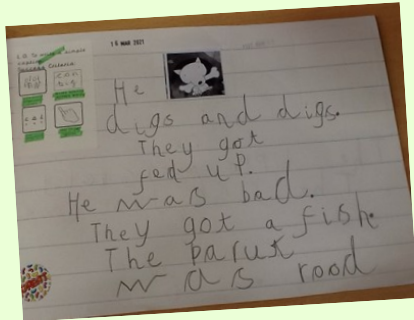
Pre-School

This term, we have been looking at new life. The children have investigated eggs and discussed what could have been inside. We have discussed the changes we are seeing in the environment and the children have created some amazing still life paintings using daffodils.



Foundation

Foundation Stage have been learning about Pets. In literacy, they have been reading lots of different stories such as Dear Zoo, Mog and FunnyBones. Every day the children have been writing independently. The teachers are very proud of how well they are applying their phonics to write simple sentences. Children have also started writing Super Sentences during the morning activity for the chance to wear the Superhero cape for a day.



In maths, they have been learning about teen numbers to 15 and using equipment to represent them. The children have really enjoyed being back in school with all their friends.

It has been wonderful to have everyone back!



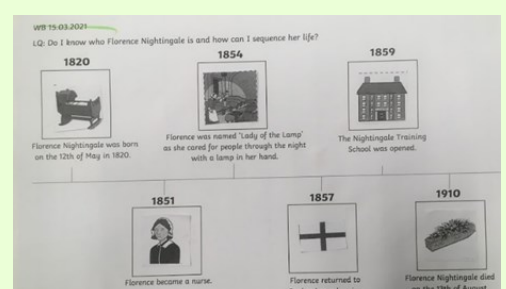
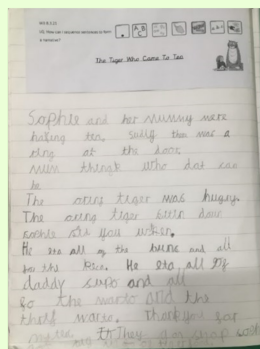
Year 1



Year 1, in maths have been solving problems involving length, height, mass, and weight. We have been measuring using rulers and comparing the measurements of objects using the words; long, longer, and longest. We have continued to improve our maths fluency through using the Numbots app .

The children have been enjoying the superhero topic this term. We have learnt about the real-life heroes, Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We have considered these heroes in relation to their historical significance and the impact they have had on hospitals today. In science, we have learnt the names of our body parts and the super senses associated with them!

In our writing we have been adding suffixes to words. We have used -ed to write in the past tense and -s or -es to make plurals. We have been working really hard on our letter formation and most of the children are getting neater and neater!



Year 2

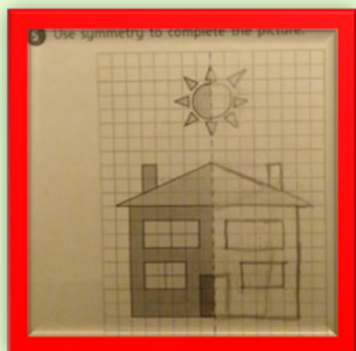
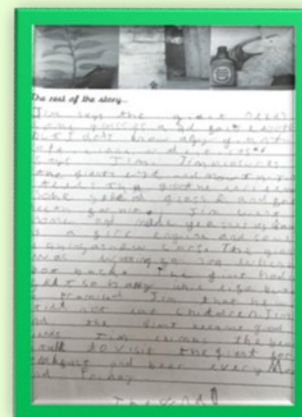
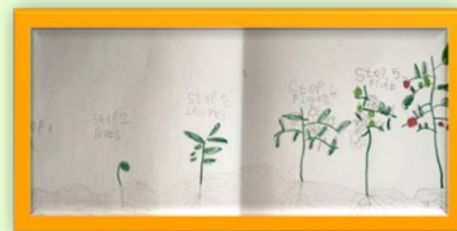
Year 2 have really enjoyed their Secret Garden topic. They have been learning about plants and this was linked to the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. The children changed the ending of another story, Jim and the Beanstalk using their creative minds to think about what might have happened!

The children have become very knowledgeable about plants and know what helps them to grow. They have planted a variety of seeds and are looking forward to seeing what grows! This week they have imagined

what it would feel like to be a seed.

Using their senses, they have written an explanation text using lots of adverbs, similes and conjunctions.

In Maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. They have learnt about lines of symmetry and really enjoyed finding the lines of symmetry in things around them.



Year 3



This half term our learning began online with our new topic "Tribal Tales" in which Year 3 have explored Britain's prehistoric past. In History we have investigated the changes that occurred between the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age; in lifestyles, homes, clothing, food and the use of tools. In our online English learning, we learned the story of "The Freedom Bird" so we could retell it orally, then we created our own stories based around it set during the Ice Age! In maths we have been looking at measuring length, converting between meters and centimetres and centimetres and millimetres, and this week have started looking at money and how we add, subtract and convert units of money in everyday life! Since returning back to school the children have been very enthusiastic about their blended learning and the chance to do some of their work using the new laptops in school! Online TT Rockstars challenges are becoming very competitive!

Year 4



Year 4's topic this half term is Potions. We have been working on including similes, expanded noun phrases and inverted commas in our narrative retells of Harry Potter. Alongside this, Year 4 have been exploring solids, liquids and gases and how these states of matter can change. The children have also been enjoying their Blended Learning sessions and using the new laptops to retrieve knowledge we've taught previously in the year.

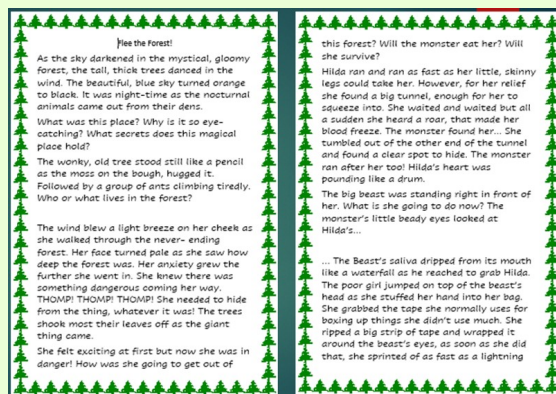
Some children have also enjoyed tag-rugby lessons with a coach from Leicester Tigers Rugby Club. During these sessions, groups have developed strategies to pass and move with the ball while working as a team.



Year 5

We have been really impressed with the way Year 5 have coped with their remote learning this term, and the way they have returned to being in the classroom.

In English, the children have learnt the poem 'Leisure' by W H Davies, off by heart. They used actions to help remember the different parts of the poem and they had lots of fun performing it. We also had World Book Day in March, so we enjoyed talking about and sharing our favourite books; we wrote book reviews to recommend books we had enjoyed reading. We are currently reading 'Bloom' by Nicola Skinner, as our class text, and the children are loving listening to this exciting and imaginative story. During the lockdown, Year 5 have also been introduced to MyON, an online reading resource. They have been able to access over 5000 new books which cover a huge range of genres – there's something for everyone!



In maths, the children have been working hard to understand different units of measurement and how to convert between units. During online learning, the children developed their mathematical understanding using Century and this is something we will continue to use within the classroom. Year 5 have also been learning about fractions, including equivalent fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions. Times Tables are crucial for fractions lesson so they are continuing to work hard on their fluency using Times Table Rock Stars.



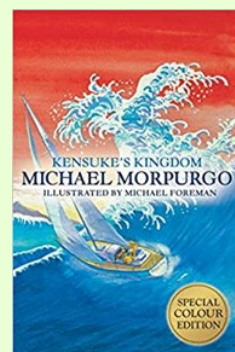
In Science, we have been learning about living things. We learnt about the parts of a flower and how they reproduce. We have learnt about seed dispersal in plants. We have also been learning about the lifecycles of different animals including mammals, insects, amphibians and birds.

Back at school, Year 5 have completed their first two Latin lessons. This is the first time we have learnt Latin and we have started by looking at the origins of words and how Latin has transferred into English. We have been looking at Latin root words and how we use them in English today.

Year 6

Year 6 have been very excited to be all back at school and seeing all their friends! This term, Year 6's topic has been 'Darwin's Delights'. In Science, we have been learning about fossils, inheritance, evolution and adaptation. We have very much enjoyed looking at how fossils have been made and what we can learn from them.

This term, we have also started Latin! We have had lots of discussion about the history of the English language, where it came from and how history has affected it. We have been learning how our language links to Latin and how we can understand lots of other languages by learning Latin.



In Maths, we have had some new learning: percentages! We used our Latin knowledge to know that 'per' means out of and 'cent' means 100; this knowledge helps us to understand and problem solve using percentages.

We have been reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and have very much enjoyed it. We are using our class text in our English lessons this term and we are looking forward to writing about our own island story!

We are also very proud of Luke for walking every day to raise money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital- well done Luke!



Virtual Challenges

Before Christmas pupils in Key Stage 2 all represented the school in a virtual basketball challenge ran by the school sports partnership. We've since had the results back and were delighted to find out that a number of our pupils came in the top 3 places for their year group across South Leicestershire;

Year 4 Boys - 1st place Duncan N, 2nd place Oliver P and 3rd place Freddie F

Year 5 Boys – 1st place Finlay R, 2nd place Archie C

Year 5 Girls – 1st place Holly C, 3rd place Lena L

Year 6 Boys – 2nd place Luke W, 3rd place Regan S

Year 6 Girls – 1st place Lacey-Nevaeh H

We were also ranked 1st place overall in the Oadby and Wigston area. Well done to all children in Key Stage 2 for taking part in the challenge, and congratulations to all of our winners who should've received their certificate.

This term we've taken part in three more virtual challenges, some children even took part at home during lockdown! Key Stage 1 and 2 had a go at the Boccia challenge, a target game using beanbags and hoops. Sitting in a chair pupils had to throw the beanbags and land them as close to the middle of the target as they could. Again, we had some great individual scores and we also **ranked 1st place for overall entries in Oadby & Wigston which is fantastic!**

Still ongoing this month is the Activity Tracker Challenge, all children should have received an activity tracker earlier in the term for recording each 20 minutes of physical activity that they've done. Children can log any physical activity that they do in PE, break & lunch time and outside of school on the tracker (colour in one icon every 20 minutes of activity). Once participants reach bronze, silver & gold activity milestones, they receive a certificate and points towards their Quad Cup area total (Bronze = 1pt, Silver = 3pts, Gold = 5pts). We look forward to finding out how we've done after Easter.

Finally, some Key Stage 2 classes have also had a go at the Virtual Rugby Challenge over the last few weeks.

This challenge has ran alongside the Six Nations Rugby Championship currently taking place. The challenge has consisted of a running relay and a passing relay. We've had lots of quick times so far, so hopefully after Easter we'll be able to let children know their results!

Leicester Tigers

Over the last few weeks Year 4 have been lucky enough to work with a Leicester Tigers coach during their PE sessions. Pupils have really enjoyed these sessions, developing both their physical skills and teamwork. For lots of pupils this has been their first experience of the game of rugby, hopefully it might be something they want to do again in the future!



Beat The Street



The Oadby and Wigston Borough Council are running the Beat The Street programme in Wigston and South Wigston. Beat the Street is a fun, free walking and cycling game which gets staff, pupils and their families out and about in the local area, having fun and keeping healthy.

The game is coming to Wigston & South Wigston this spring, from 21st April - 19th May, with materials being delivered to school the week prior. Developed by a team of physical health experts led by Dr William Bird MBE, a GP, Beat the Street is the perfect way to get pupils moving as lockdown eases.

Beat the Street is a fantastic opportunity to involve everyone in school and get staff, pupils and their families showing support – there will be hundreds of pounds worth of prizes and the chance to see which school can climb to the top of the leaderboard and be crowned winner of the competition. Small and large schools can compete against each other as there are prizes for 'total' and 'average' points. Beat the Street is being delivered by Intelligent Health on behalf of Oadby & Wigston Borough Council and is funded by Leicestershire & Rutland Sport.

Please look out for more details of this exciting initiative over the coming weeks.

Attendance

Welcome back to school!

It has been great to see children returning to school, smiling and ready to learn.

Attendance for the first week back was amazing and well above our target of 96%.

Helen Brown, our Attendance Officer, and members of our Pastoral Team have been engaging with families to ensure children are able to attend school. If you have any concerns about your child/children attending school, or issues that would prevent your child/children from attending, please contact the School Office, 0116 2782142 or Pastoral Mobile 07709888001.



If your child/children are going to be absent from school it is important that you call the School Office, 0116 2782142, option 1, by 8.30am. Please leave a message stating their name, class and reason for absence. If we do not hear from you we will contact you to discuss the reason for absence.

We look forward to seeing all children attending school in the Summer Term



Red Nose Day

On Friday 19th March, Parkland Primary School was full of superheroes as we supported **Comic Relief's Red Nose Day**. A massive thank you to those that gave to this worthy cause, we raised over £450, through your cash donations and the ParentPay site.



Fond Farwell



Mrs Tebbutt has been at Parkland for 35 years and has made the decision to retire at the end of this term. We would like to thank her for the wonderful support she has been to thousands of children, their families and the staff over the years.

Mrs Tebbutt is a much loved member of the Parkland staff and will be greatly missed by everyone. She has worked tirelessly over the years to help children both academically and with their well being, showing care and compassion to every child she has worked with.

We wish Mrs Tebbutt a very happy and relaxing retirement and we know she will remain a friend to us all.



New Arrivals



Congratulations to the following members of staff on their new arrivals:

Miss H West, Year 6 Teacher, on the birth of her baby girl.

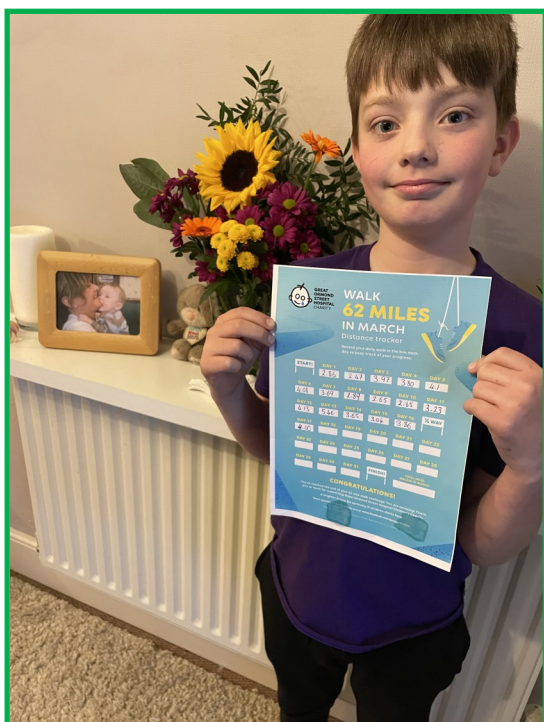
Miss A Allen, LSA and Wrap Around Care Manager, on the birth of her baby boy.

Well done Luke !

We are so proud of one of our Year 6 pupils, Luke Webb, who has been walking 62 miles in March, to help raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

Luke decided to take on the sporting challenge in memory of his nan, who sadly passed away over Christmas, after catching coronavirus. His nan, Yvonne Taggart, was a dedicated frontline NHS worker, who had worked for the University Hospitals of Leicester Trust for nearly 20 years. Luke together with his Mum thought this would be a fitting tribute to honour her memory and share memories when out walking with his mum of his nan, who had dedicated her life to helping others.

If you would like to donate and keep up with Luke's progress, please click here <https://www.facebook.com/donate/448202119842543/>



Year 6 Residential Trip

The PGL is due to take place from the 16th-18th June 2021, we are still awaiting the updated government guidance to tell us whether or not we are able to attend. We are hopeful that this will come out in the coming weeks. As soon as we know more, we will send out more information with regards to payments and we will arrange a meeting where you will be able to find out further information.

Food Bank

Please note that the South Wigston Foodbank will be open on Easter Monday.

South Wigston Congregational Church, Blaby Road (opposite Co Op), South Wigston, LE18 4SD

When: 10am –11.30am—Easter Monday (5th April 2021). Alternative Mondays after these dates.

Contact Number: [07818603699](tel:07818603699)

School Bank

We are pleased to announce that the School Bank will be up and running after Easter.

Run by Mrs Brown and Miss Ward, it will be **open every Wednesday**

8.30am – 8.50am

Situated in the Year 5 building in the Key Stage Two playground



School Dinners

A reminder that the cost of school meals is £2.30 per day, this equates to £11.50 per week. **Please remember that school meals should be paid for in advance and debts will not be permitted.**

Pupils in EYFS and KS1 receive universal free meals Pupils in KS2 should pay £2.30 in advance using ParentPay, unless your child is eligible for FSM. If you are not in receipt of free school meals but feel that you may be eligible, please call County Hall, on 0116 3055417 and have your National Insurance Number to hand.

Reminders

To adhere to government guidance, we ask that **only one parent** drops-off and collects from school. We also ask that **all** visitors to the site wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidelines including not gathering at the school gate.

Gates will open at 8.35am in the morning and your child will be able to go straight into class to minimise gatherings in the playground. Due to the size of the site we have allocated different gates to minimise groups. Please follow the one way signs to allow for social distancing. The gates will open at 3pm at the end of the school day. At the end of the day please queue 2m apart to collect your child from the allocated door.



If you need to contact the school



Have a lovely Easter

