

Headteacher Message

As we have now moved out of January, we are starting to see a little more light at the start and end of each day and that makes so much difference to us! Although Spring isn't with us yet it is on its way and there are some lovely signs to brighten the days.

This week was Wellbeing Week with many activities arranged across school. The theme of this year is 'Growing Together' and it gave pupils time to reflect on their own wellbeing.

They were also able to think who has helped them to grow and how they can help others to grow too.

We hope you enjoyed supporting your child with the activities sent home.

Kind regards



Mrs J Andrews
Headteacher



Key Dates

SPRING TERM 2021/22

School Opens

Monday 21st February 2022

Virtual Parents Evening
21st—24th February 2022
(Year Group Dependant)

Year 6 Swimming Starts
28th February 2022

World Book Day
3rd March 2022

Dance Off Competition
7th March 2022

Comic Relief
18th March 2022

EASTER BREAK
11th - 22nd April 2022

School Re-Opens
Monday 25th April 2022

New Build

We are really looking forward to seeing our new studio when it is ready at Easter!

Thank you to everyone for putting up with the new arrangements, as we continue to cope with no front door! Staff have been very accommodating in school as we have been really short of space. Hopefully it will all be worth it when the building is completed. We are planning on dedicating it for the pastoral team to work with pupils and families. The multi-media room at the back of school is currently being used by the admin staff. We are really looking forward to getting it ready for pupils to use to improve their technical skills.



Pre-School

This term the children have been extending their listening and attention skills. We have used our daily group times to play games where their listening skills are challenged. We have also introduced a new reading area for the children to have a communication friendly space for them to explore and extend their speech, language, and communication skills.

The children have also enjoyed experimenting with colour and observing the changes when they are mixed together, participating in sensory play and lots of outdoor learning.



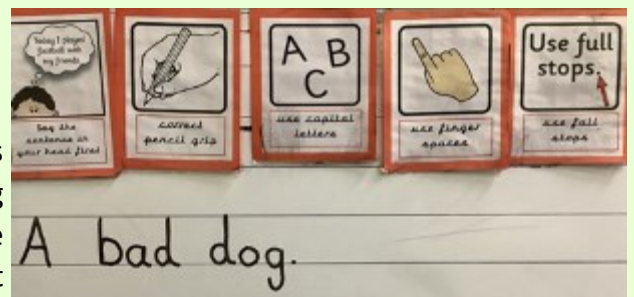
Foundation

In EYFS this term our topic has been, Pets. Our literacy lessons have been based around stories related to pets such as, 'The Great Pet Sale', 'Mog and the V.E.T' and 'Funnybones - The Pet Shop'. We have also been singing some traditional nursery rhymes including, 'Sing a Song of Sixpence' and 'Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush'.

We are improving our reading and writing because we have been practising our phonics every day! We have learnt some digraphs and even trigraphs. Every day we do some independent writing – writing sentences on our own – which has been challenging but we are getting better.



In maths we have been exploring the composition of numbers 6, 7 and 8 and we have continued to practice subitising numbers up to 5 (the ability to instantaneously recognise the number of objects in a small group without the need to count them).



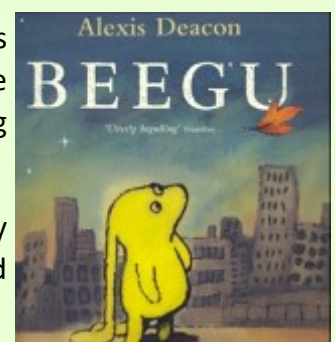
Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about outer space and astronauts in our topic of Moon Zoom. We've also learnt about different materials, their properties and the objects that are made from these materials. We enjoyed carrying out two experiments to discover whether objects float or sink and whether they were absorbent or waterproof.

During our English we have enjoyed reading stories such as The Space Tortoise, Beegu, Way Back Home and The Smeds and The Smoos with a focus of using different punctuation marks.



In Maths we have been learning about place value within 20 and have recently moved onto addition and subtraction, using our knowledge of number bonds and tens and ones to help us be successful.





Year 2 started their new topic “Secret Garden” by learning a story called “Emily’s Bees”. They really enjoyed writing the end of the story.

Did they choose a happy, sad or cliffhanger ending? The children loved learning about the language within the story – learning actions to go with some of the phrases! Ask them to show you the action for “a patchwork of fields” or “drifting in the wind” Their learning in English was supported with a new science unit where they have been learning about living things.

They can talk at length about things that are alive, dead or have never been alive. They used the acronym MRS GREN to remind themselves of all the things a living thing needs to do to survive. They then moved on to talk about habitats and why animals and plants are suited to living there. Food chains sparked some interesting discussion about what eats what!



M *ove*
R *espire*
S *ensitivity*
G *row*
R *eproduce*
E *xcrete*
N *utrition*

In maths we started to look at multiplication. The children are proficient counters in twos, tens and fives.

They can now recognize equal groups and how to use this information to solve word problems involving multiplication. Their favourite word this half term has been “commutativity” – ask them to explain what it means! They are just beginning to learn about division, the inverse of multiplication, so they will still need to use their multiplication table facts to support their learning.



Computing has been interesting as the children learnt how to write algorithms to get a robot to find places on a map. Their left and right turns have caused some problems, but we think that their de-bugging skills are improving.

In PSHE we have been learning about the Zones of Regulation, which has been introduced across the school. The children are becoming much more aware of their feelings and how to use some of the strategies they have been taught when they need to regulate their feelings.

This term, we have learnt more about our Tribal Tales topic. We learnt about rocks, soils and fossils. We investigated the durability and density of rocks and permeability of rocks and soils recording and analysing our data. We explored how fossils are formed and used this knowledge to create our own fossil mould.



Do you know how many types of rocks there are? Do you know how long it takes for a fossil to form?

In English, we have used oral story telling to memorise and write a version of the narrative “Mammoth’s Freedom.” We included in our narrative similes, inverted commas to punctuate speech, contractions and possessive apostrophes as well as our previously learnt skills.

In Maths, we have continued to use our knowledge of our times tables to multiply and divide. We have been learning to compare equations and solve related statements. We are now using partitioning and the column method to solve 2-digit by 1-digit multiplication as well as partitioning for 2-digit by 1-digit division. So please continue to go on Times Tables Rock Star (TTRS) or Maths frame over the holidays to improve your fluency in 2’s, 3’s, 4’s, 5’s, 6’s, 8’s and 10’s!

We have been learning all about architecture and an architect in Art.

Do you know who Martin Prince-Parrott is?

We have designed our home for the future and created a floor plan. Next, we will use oil pastels to draw a building in the style of Friedenreich Hundertwasser.



We have all enjoyed this term’s learning and are trembling in anticipation for our new topic!

Year 4

This term, year 4 have been looking at multiplication and division within maths. We are so pleased that the children are using vocabulary such as, quotient, product, multiplicand and dividend in their written reasoning. They are currently learning a range of strategies and will then establish which method is most efficient for them to use moving forward. As always, Year 4 have been drilling their times tables facts and the progress so far is phenomenal.



In English, the children have been learning skills to embed in their persuasive leaflet such as persuasive openers, rhetorical questions and the rule of 3. The children are aiming to create an insightful persuasive text to inform their readers of the impact that plastic is having on our beloved oceans which are homes to many sea creatures. We have found that the students are extremely passionate about this which is evident in their writing.

vertebrates



invertebrates



For wider curriculum, the children have been learning how to effectively group animals dependent on their characteristics. They have used Venn diagrams and classification keys to name a few. They are confidently able to distinguish between vertebrates and invertebrates as well as reptiles, birds, fish, mammals and amphibians.

We have been thrilled with how much they have engaged with this topic at home, too, seeing wonderful fact files and information leaflets that they have produced in their own time.

Year 5

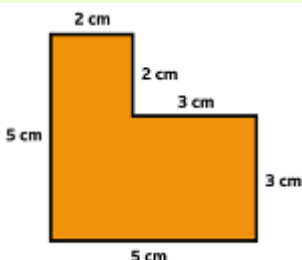
Year 5 have been learning all about Chemical Changes this half term. We have read George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl, where George (who is fed up with his grumpy Grandma) concocts a new medicine for his Grandma. We wrote our own alternative ending to this well-loved classic! In our version, Grandma turned into a zombie! Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed this and are currently writing a set of instructions on how to survive a zombie apocalypse!



We have also investigated the lives and discoveries of famous chemists. Did you know that the wonder-drug Penicillin was actually discovered by accident in a notoriously messy laboratory?

In Science, we have been exploring both reversible and irreversible changes in solids, liquids and gases. We used our previous knowledge of electricity and built circuits to test everyday materials and their properties. Ask us about which everyday materials are insulators and which are electrically conductive!

In Maths, we learned how to measure and calculate the Perimeter and Area of rectangles and rectilinear shapes. This got a little confusing but we persevered! Currently, we are learning about Multiplication and Division, and are using our knowledge of times tables to multiply and divide up to 4-digit numbers. We will also be hosting a Year 5 TTRS battle. May the Rock Gods be with you!



Year 5 have really embraced blended learning, both in school and when children have had to isolate. Please encourage the children to take advantage of TTRS, Spelling Shed, Century and MyOn, at home.



In our topic lessons, Year 6 have been learning about the ancient Maya! We have found out all about this ancient civilization: how they lived, what they ate, their society and their rituals and religious beliefs. We are now learning about the geography of South America and its human and physical features.

In English and Reading, we have been reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf. We have all enjoyed this book so much, as it has taught us all about different points of views and how we should do all we can to help people and be kind. We can't wait to find out what happens at the end!



In Maths, we have been learning fractions and decimals! We worked incredibly hard on learning how to multiply and divide fractions; it needed a lot of perseverance and resilience!

At Forest School we have been learning how to lash sticks together, using the square and shear lashing techniques, which allows us to improve our den making skills and be able to make picture frames and shapes.

Forest School News

We have also learned a new team game called Giants, Wizards, Dwarves which everyone loves to play!

Excitingly, we have also been lucky enough to watch foxes run around the field.



Wellbeing Ambassadors

Our wellbeing ambassadors have been meeting regularly over the last half term to plan various activities to promote and support pupil wellbeing at school. They have put together a virtual assembly to be shown in school, as well as running a competition to design a poster promoting internet safety.

Each of them has written a short article to introduce themselves.



Mya Roberts 5RR: Hi, my name is Mya I am in year 5. I think I was chosen because I am a good representative for the school and a good role model for other pupils. As a planning event ambassador my job is to plan meetings and all wellbeing events. As a wellbeing ambassador I hope to make some lunch time clubs so that all pupils feel included and happy. As a team our goal is to spread awareness about lots of different wellbeing topics, such as online safety.

Cara McIntyre 5AN: Hi, I am Cara and I am in year 5. I am your Administration Representative for KS1 and KS2. As a Wellbeing Ambassador, I would like to help people to stay safe on the internet and to make sure everyone doesn't spend too much time on electronics as it can have a negative impact on your mental health. I think I have been chosen for Wellbeing Ambassador because I care for people's mental health and enjoy sport. Our mission is to make sure everybody has a positive mind set each day. Over the year we are planning to set activities to improve your mental wellbeing. We are planning to set up a competition for you to create a poster so we can put some around the school to spread awareness.

Oliver Churcher 6LG: Hello, my name Oliver and I am in 6LG. I think I was chosen to be a wellbeing ambassador because whenever people are sad, I try to help them maintain their wellbeing and healthy mind. I can help them to find new friends to play with. I will try to be an excellent role model and inspire my peers to maintain a healthy mindset and promote health and wellbeing. My role is a media, marketing and promotions representative. Some of the things I will be doing are producing posters, letters and other promotional materials. During my time as a Wellbeing Ambassador, I hope to help pupils at Parkland spend less time on the internet and more time being outside and active to keep a healthy and a positive mind.

Oscar Morely 6LP: Hi, my name is Oscar. I'm in year 6 and I am your president and I represent KS1 and KS2. I think I have been chosen to be wellbeing ambassador because I am very passionate about other people's wellbeing and care about other people's mental health. I am the leader of the group so I decide on many roles and different responsibilities that everyone will have on the committee. I also think of ideas to help with pupil's mental health. As a wellbeing ambassador I would like to make sure that everyone around me has a healthy mind set and feels safe and welcome to our school. To do this I am going to make sure all pupils feel safe and happy on the internet.

In order to promote and identify our ambassadors and school council members, hoodies have been purchased for them all with money raised by the PTA. They are looking very smart and all of our pupils now know who to speak to when they want to discuss any issues or suggest ideas.

Our Wellbeing Ambassador hoodies have been kindly purchased by Wellbeing Therapy Solutions, a local company who have been supporting us in school.



We will be running some after school sports clubs after the half term.

After-school Clubs

Please click on the link for more information.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7cXzqZdY-kCCZ246vAAaNFC2niREa7JAsPVyoDJAmI9UMFE5MEI5RE1XNUQzUU51UFVSR-FoxVo1SSC4u>





Here

Everyday

Ready

On time

A BIG thank you to all parents/carers for working with us at this difficult time. Since returning to school this term, we have seen a rise in the number of children absent from school due to COVID reason. We are very pleased to report that the level of absence for this reason is now falling. This is due, in part, to your diligence in following the Government guidelines, thank you.

Whole school attendance, year to date is 92.85%, which is a long way from our target level of 96%.

Please encourage and support your child to attend school every day. If you are encountering problems getting your child into school for any reason, please talk to us, we have many ways in which we can help and support families. Please contact Helen Brown, Attendance Officer, 0116 2782142, or a member of our Pastoral Team, 07709888001.

Government guidelines regarding COVID have changed recently.

If your child received a positive COVID test result they must isolate at home for 10 days. If they are well and received a negative COVID test result on day 5 followed by a negative test on day 6 they can return to school, before the end of the 10 day period.

If there is COVID in your household, everyone in the household should take a Lateral Flow Test daily. Provided your child receives a negative COVID test result they can continue to come into school.

We will update all parents/carers after the half term with the latest government advise regarding Covid.

Covid Updates

We have had some high numbers of COVID cases since returning to school in January. Staffing shortages have certainly been a daily challenge! I would like to thank all the staff in school for their flexibility and resilience during the last few weeks. We are still following our risk assessment and ensuring rooms are well ventilated and additional cleaning is in place. Staff have continued to wear masks in communal areas due to our high COVID numbers.

Thank you to all of you who have followed our request of completing lateral flow tests. This is advice we are given when numbers in particular classes or year groups are high. It has helped to make sure children isolate when they test positive which helps to keep our community safe. Please continue to communicate COVID cases with us and do not send children to school if they have COVID symptoms.

Could we also reiterate that we would like parents to wear masks in the school grounds, particularly when waiting to collect children.

We will update all parents/carers after the half term with the latest government advise regarding Covid.

Finally, a reminder that children should be dressed appropriately for the weather. It has been a chilly start to the new term and, due to Covid, classroom windows and doors remain open. PE will also take place outside (when practicable). So, it may be worth popping additional warm clothes into bags.



Congratulations to Mrs Carney who had a baby boy in January and to Mrs Pryor on the birth of her baby daughter!

We hear they are doing well and look forward to seeing them soon.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a new site manager, Mr Hall, we wish him all the best in his new role.



Parkland staff have been working hard to ensure that children make as much progress as possible during their time at school. We have been developing the use of Microsoft Teams for a while and KS2 children are starting to become more confident with the use of OneNote.

Teaching & Learning



We use a variety of platforms that are used regularly such as TTRS, Century and Accelerated Reader. Technology has given us lots of opportunities to enhance learning such as connecting virtually all over the world and taking part in virtual Pupil Parliament.

It has been a fantastic addition throughout the pandemic, allowing pupils to continue with their education when being face to face has not been possible.

We can support you with ed tech - please contact the school office if you would like more information.

Car Parking and Road Safety

There have been several incidents reported to staff regarding children running around the staff carpark before the gates open in the morning.

Can you please ensure that pupils stay on the paths and not run around the carpark as it is a safety risk.

Please also remember:

- No parking on single or double yellow lines
- No double parking
- If using the public car park, please park considerably and use the car parking bays
- No stopping, dropping or parking on the school
- Keep Clear yellow zig zags
- No parking on corners or junctions especially near the school entrances
- Please do not block driveways



We thank you in advance for helping us to keep our surroundings and our children as safe as possible.



We have had an overwhelming response to the Usborne's **Ready Steady Read sponsored reading challenge** that took place earlier this month. It really has been amazing and has proved, yet again, just how much our pupils love to read!

We are still counting the money, the total raised will be announced after the half term. In addition to the sponsorship money, Usborne also will donate up to 60% of the total raised in **EXTRA FREE BOOKS** for the school!

A massive thank you to all the children and families who took part in the event.

We are also delighted to announce another Parkland reading event— **RED** (Read Every Day) March. Next month, your child will bring home a **RED** booklet that needs to be signed each time your child reads to you, a family member or a friend.

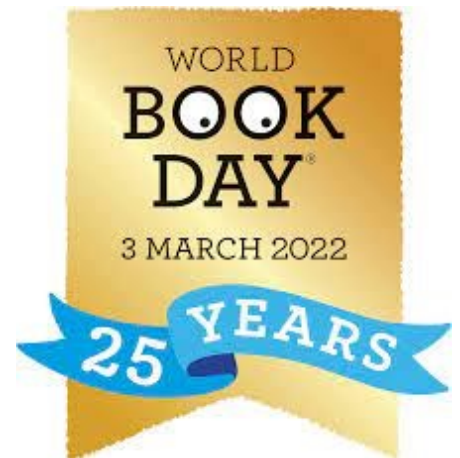
All those that complete the RED challenge will be awarded certificates and a prize!

On Thursday 3rd March 2022 it is World Book Day!

All children will have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite author or favourite book character and bring in a book of their choice to share with their peers.

Children can choose their World Book Day outfit from a wide variety of characters from a range of genres. This could be a character from Harry Potter, a character from the Wimpy Kid books or even from David Walliams' books where they wear jeans and t-shirts.

Your child will also be bringing home a World Book Day £1 token this week, to be redeemed at a retailer of your choice



School Dinners

Our catering team are still experiencing high levels of staff absence, therefore the simplified 2 choice dinner menu will still be continuing after the half term, with just a few changes to the menu. The re-revised version will be emailed out to all parents this week.

We hope to reinstate the normal 3 choice menu starting from Monday 14th March 2022.

Thank you for understanding, we will keep you updated with any changes. **Specials diets will be catered for.**

To check your eligibility for FREE SCHOOL MEALS, please visit

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals>

Did you know that 80% of children are not eating enough vegetables with a third eating less than one portion of vegetables a day ?

We have signed up to the campaign '**Eat Them to Defeat Them**' which aims to get children eating as many new vegetables as possible. Each week starting week commencing the 28th February there will be vegetables on offer for the children to try when they go into the dining room .



To find out more visit EatThemToDefeatThem.com



This year marks 70 years of The Queen's reign.

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations will centre around an extended weekend in 2022 on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June. The Queen came to the throne on 6 February 1952 and her coronation took place on 2 June 1953. Her Majesty celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25years) in 1977, her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002, and her Diamond Jubilee (60 years) in 2012.

Never has a British monarch celebrated a Platinum Jubilee, so this really is a historic and momentous occasion!

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur OBE, would like to encourage children to participate in the Platinum Jubilee activities and with this in mind he wishes to create an exhibition of Jubilee themed paintings, produced by children in Leicester and Leicestershire.

The brief is simple: please express in a painting what The Queen's Platinum Jubilee means to you!

Winning entries will be displayed at County Hall or City Hall with a reception planned and certificates to be presented by the Lord-Lieutenant. All entries will also be displayed in a Virtual Gallery hosted by the County Council, which will go live once judging has been completed.

The maximum size for entries is A3. The competition is open to children in both KS1 and KS2 year groups with a Winner and Runner-Up Award for each group.

Please bring your entries into your class teacher by Monday 28th March 2022.

Parkland have a number of job vacancies at the moment, please click here to find out more.

<https://www.parklandprimary.co.uk/our-school/#jobvacancies>



Interested in becoming a teacher?

Please look at the ILTT website for further information about Inspiring Leaders Teacher Training <https://inspiringleadersscitt.com/> . Providing a direct training route into teaching , the teacher training programme have been judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

- Don't forget to book your Virtual Parents Evening slot
- Year 5 Parents/carers : Kingswood Residential Trip—If your child would like to attend please complete the forms and make a payment as soon as possible.
- Year 6 Swimming—Please make a payment by the 21st February
- All Terms Dates can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.parklandprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/11/Leicestershire-School-Term-Dates-2022-to-2027.pdf>

Reminders

Have a lovely half term