

As we reach the end of another very busy term it is lovely to reflect on all the learning across the school. We are so proud of the successes of our pupils, and many are showing resilience every day within lessons. It has been another difficult few weeks with COVID still causing staffing issues! Our pupils and staff have made me really proud as they have worked hard to deal with all the changes.



We have enjoyed being able to start to invite visitors back into school again. The school advisory board came for an engagement morning and were really impressed with the pupils and how they are now using technology to support their learning. Reverend Chris has been in to do some face-to-face assemblies which has been great. We hope to invite parents and carers into school in the coming weeks!

We are busy preparing for the summer term. We will continue to focus on our high expectations for all pupils to ensure the children make as much progress as possible.

We hope that this year we can have events that we have missed in the last couple of years such as sports days, transition events and the Year 6 end of year production! I

It is great to be getting back to some sort of normality!

Kind regards

J Andrews

Mrs J Andrews
Headteacher

Key Dates

SUMMER TERM 2021/22

School Opens

Monday 25th April 2022

Bank Holiday
2nd May 2022

Year 6 SAT's Week
9th—13th May 2022

Year 6—2 Group Swimming
15th May—27th June 2022

Census Day
19th May 2022

Class Photos
20th May 2022

Queens Jubilee Picnic
27th May 2022

School Re-Opens

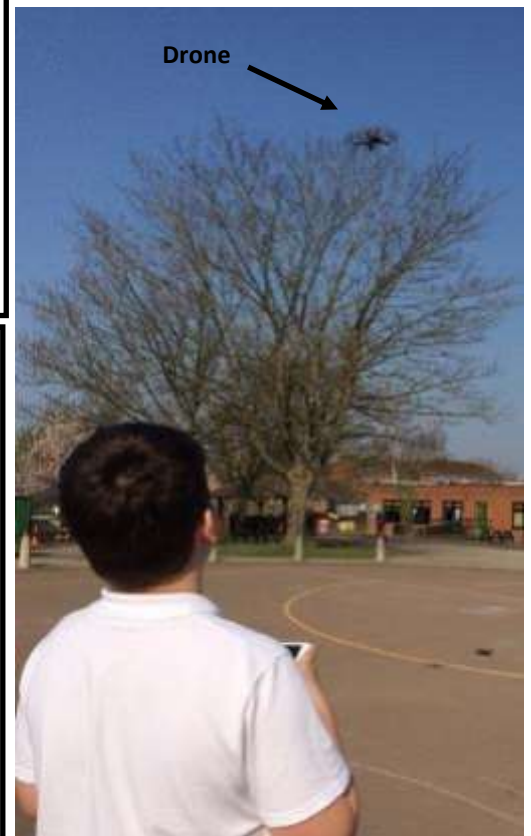
Monday 6th June 2022

Dates for summer events in school will be communicated after the Easter Break.

Easter Art Competition



Thank you to all those children that took part in the Easter Colouring Competition. We had some amazing entries!! All winners will get a chocolate Easter egg.



Having fun operating a drone in STEM week.

Pre-School

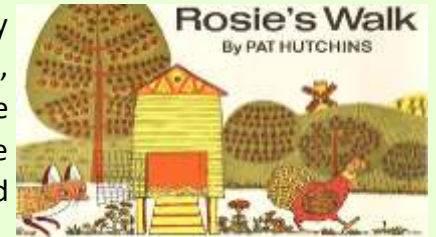


The preschool children have been busy exploring the changes during the springtime, we have found lots of creatures in the garden that we have used for discussion and information finding. We have introduced days of the week during our group times and the children are enjoying travelling to different countries to say hello in a variety of languages.

Next term we will be introducing a sound of the week, we will let you know via Tapestry which sound we will be working on so that you can support your children with this at home and find objects to bring to preschool.

Foundation

In EYFS this term our topic has been farming. Our literacy lessons have been based around stories related to farms such as, 'Rosie's walk, 'The Enormous Turnip' and 'The Little Red Hen'. We memorised and re-wrote the story of Rosie's Walk using a story map! We have also been singing some traditional nursery rhymes including, 'If you're happy and you know it' and 'She'll be coming round the mountain'.



We are getting very good at reading and writing because we have continued to practise our phonics every day! We have learnt new digraphs, trigraphs and tricky words.



In maths we have been comparing length and height, exploring the composition of 10 using manipulatives and have begun to work with teen numbers.

We have also learnt to automatically recall some number bonds to 10!



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about plants and trees in our topic of Enchanted Woodland. We've learnt about the different parts of the plants and trees and the jobs of those parts as well as learning about plants that grow in each of the different continents. Each class has planted a mystery seed which we are looking after by giving it water and exposing it to sunlight to help it grow.



During our English we have enjoyed reading, re-telling and acting out fairytales including Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Fee! Fi! Fo! Fum! We have focused on sequencing our sentences in order to re-tell the story in our own words. We also did our first non-fiction piece of writing by using adjectives to describe different garden plants, wild plants, and deciduous and evergreen trees. In Maths we have been learning about place value up to 100. We have been using our prior knowledge of tens and ones to help us be successful when we are identifying, ordering, and comparing numbers



Year 2 have continued their learning in their Secret Garden topic. We have been learning all about what plants need to grow in science and we planted some sunflower and pea seeds in class.

Year 2

Our investigation was to see if plants could survive without one of the elements we thought was needed – water, light and the correct temperature. The results were quite interesting! The children have now taken their seed pots home and we hope that they are going to keep looking after them! We would love to see some photos – who can grow the tallest plant?

We used our knowledge of seed planting to help us to write clear instructions. The children tried really hard to include time connectives and adverbs in their writing so that the reader was very clear about when and how to follow the next step. Our next English challenge was to write an acrostic poem for the title of our topic -SECRET GARDEN. The children worked incredibly hard to think of things that they might find in a secret garden, beginning with the correct letters. They published their work on some special paper and everyone was very proud!

In maths we have been learning about fractions and the children have grown in confidence. They can find fractions of shapes, numbers and groups of objects! This knowledge came in very useful when they completed some quizzes recently. We have now moved on to shape so the children have been looking all around them to find the shapes we have learnt about.



Our Secret Garden Learning Journey continues with some geography – learning about Brazil and how bananas grow there, before moving onto D&T where the children are designing a fruit kebab. We can see how excited they are at learning where all the fruit comes from!



This term, we have been all of a tremor!

Year 3

Following the devastating aftershock that hit Parkland Primary School at the start of the term, we have learnt all about the Earth, its structure and why earthquakes and other natural disasters happen.

**Do you know how many layers the Earth has?
Do you know why earthquakes happen?**

In English, we have used our experience of the Bradgate earthquake and the impact on our classrooms as the basis for a newspaper article. We learnt about the features of a news article, investigated the impact of the quake on our classes and interviewed Mr Hall before all writing our own articles.

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, understanding new vocabulary such as halves, quarters, thirds and tenths, unit and non-unit fractions, equivalents, numerators and denominators as well as decimals and how we can use our times tables knowledge to find out the fractions of amounts.

So please continue to go on Times Tables Rock Star (TTRS) or Maths frame over the Easter holidays to improve your fluency in 2's,3's,4's,5's 6's, 8's and 10's!



In STEM week, the children had the opportunity to use the VR headsets – they were absolutely amazed and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of watching an erupting volcano, a cross section of a volcano and some other cool videos.



We have also used our geography skills to think as scientists and architects when designing our earthquake proof buildings. We created our own tsunami and discussed why tsunamis occur and finally as a class we watched our very own volcano erupt!

We have all really enjoyed this term's learning but new term our learning journey will go back in time. Hopefully it won't be all Greek to us!

Year 4

This term in maths, year 4 have been looking at fractions. They have used their times table knowledge to support them with this. They began looking at what a fraction is, equivalent fractions, ordering fractions and converting mixed fractions to improper fractions. The children have persevered so much and we are proud of them for succeeding in math's this term!

For English studies, the Year 4 children have been creating their own narrative retell from a chapter in 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. They have embedded many Year 4 expectations such as direct speech with inverted commas, fronted adverbials and alternative pronouns to avoid repetition. The children have been extremely creative and have enjoyed sharing their ideas with one another.

In Science, Year 4 have been exploring states of matter. Did you know that gas has a weight? They have been conducting various experiments to support their learning. For wider curriculum, we have just moved on to an Art topic where the children have been looking at the abstract work of Frank Bowling.

It has also been STEM week recently, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed using technology such as VR head sets to enhance their learning!

We would like to say a big well done to the children who have consistently completed homework this term. The work is wonderful and looks great around our working walls! Please check your child's class dojo each week for homework tasks.



Year 5

Year 5 have been learning all about Pharaohs this half term. We have read 'The Ancient Egypt Sleepover' by Stephen Davies as a class text. It gave us lots of extra information about the Ancient Egyptians, for example, they loved figs - and there is a dead wasp in each one! We also learnt that the death mask of Tutankhamun was made from gold and a precious stone called lapis lazuli.

In English, we wrote a story based on Shirley Climo's 'The Egyptian Princess'. In our version, Rhodopis went to the Pharaoh's feast with the help of various gods. Our favourite goddess was Hathor, since she was the embodiment of a good party!

We wrote a postcard home from the point of view of an Egyptian pyramid worker, practising how to use subordinating clauses and commas for clarity. We will also be writing a persuasive text to convince our audience to be mummified! In Guided Reading, we have explored lots of different texts based on Ancient Egypt. From these we learned how a water boy actually discovered Tutankhamun's tomb, and not Howard Carter, as we know it! Did you know that Pharaohs stopped being laid to rest in pyramids?

Instead, they chose to be buried in hidden tombs, in the Valley of the Kings.

We have used these texts to practise our summary and inference skills, as these are particularly tricky!





In Topic, we have been learning both History and **Year 5 (cont.)** Geography. For Geography we have dived into modern day Egypt following the Nile as the heart of the country. We explored the biomes of Africa, looked at satellite imagery and modern irrigation; to understand how the Egyptian people live!

In History, we have loved diving into Ancient Egypt, discovering and analysing monuments and artifacts of the past to understand Ancient Egypt culture and customs. We know precisely how to carry out the process of mummification now too, be sure to ask us!

Year 5 have continued with their blended learning, during STEM weeks. Year 5 used drones to develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. We discussed the impact of wind resistance and how this affected control. We also explored Ancient Egypt and modern-day Egypt via VR headsets. The children were able to experience the inside of Ramesses II's tomb, Hathor's temple and the monumental pyramids of Giza. It was an amazing adventure!

In Maths, after experiencing division and its relationship with multiplication as its inverse, we explored short division. This half term we have started investigating fractions, looking at sequencing fractions on a number line and identifying those fractions that are equivalent to each other, before we move into addition and subtraction of fractions as well as multiplying them.

Congratulations go to 5AN for an amazing performance in the DSAT TT Rockstars challenge, they came 3rd out of 105 classes across the trust. Another congratulations to Louis who came first across the whole trust!



Year 6 Year 6 have been learning about the circulatory system this term in our topic 'Blood Heart'! We started by learning what the circulatory system is and why it is so important to us. We then had the opportunity to dissect a heart!



It was an amazing investigation and we got to see the chambers, veins and the arteries.

We have also been learning lots using the STEM week equipment: we learnt how to make pedometers with micro:bits, fly drones and we travelled around the world with our VR headsets!

In maths, we have been learning about measurement and shape; we have learnt about area, volume, angles and converting measurements. We are very excited to learn about algebra and ratio!

The Year 6 teachers would also like to say how proud we are of all of Year 6: their perseverance, resilience and attitude to their assessments this term have been amazing! We are so proud of all of them!



Year 6 were also very excited to show parents our Thriller dance on April 6th.

SWHS Benchball Festival

Our years 3/4 children learnt all about bench ball at SWHS this month, working alongside the SWHS sports leaders. The children worked on their defending and attacking skills, as well as learning why passing and moving into space is important in the game.

Ultimate Frisbee

This half term some children were lucky enough to have had some free ultimate frisbee sessions, lead by coaches from Cool Sports. During their usual PE lessons they worked on many different skills, such as correct hand placement for holding a frisbee, throwing, target practice and counting and adding up their scores. The children enjoyed trying this new and exciting sport. Hopefully some children have discovered a new found love for ultimate frisbee and it's something they'll look forward to playing again in the future.

Gymnastics

At the beginning of March, we took 3 teams of gymnasts from across Years 1-6 to represent Parkland at the local gymnastics' qualifiers at Aylestone Leisure Centre. Our years 3/4 performed some lovely, clean routines and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the finals, finishing in 2nd place.

Our years 5/6 team also finished in 2nd place and showed off their amazing vaulting. Our pan-disability group wowed the judges with their pointed toes and stretched legs and finished in 1st place, qualifying in 1st place to represent team 'Oadby and Wigston' at the school Games Finals on 30th March. Special mentions go to Summer (4VE) for finishing 2nd overall and Tayla (5CC) who finished 3rd place overall.

At the School Games Finals, Amelia (1AP), Imogen (2RD) and Skyler H (3DR) performed beautifully and finished in 3rd place overall, a massive achievement. Well done to all the children involved this year!



Dodgeball

We took a group of years 3/4 and year 5/6 children to Wigston Academy to compete with local schools in a dodgeball tournament. They dodged, dived and dipped to throughout the afternoon and had lots of fun throwing the balls as hard as they could to eliminate their opponents.

Our years 3/4 team also won the 'Spirit of the Games' award for their display of teamwork and sportsmanship, dodgeball has been 1 of our most popular clubs at Parkland again this year!



SWHS Netball Festival

Our years 5/6 netball club attended SWHS to take part in a festival to teach them the rules of 7 a side netball, as currently we play the 5 a side rules. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and working with the years 7 and 8 sports leaders.

Olympic Athlete Visit

March was a very busy month! We welcomed Olympic athlete Emily Lewis to our school to talk to the children about her participation in sport and how she got elite level and competing at the Olympics. The children really enjoyed her assembly and had lots of questions to ask her lifestyle and what it was like to be at the Olympics.

Emily also did a practical workshop with our years 4 and 5 children, and they learnt some of the drills Emily does herself to prepare for going out on her kayak. It was an amazing day and the children got so much out of the experience!



GALs/LADs

Some girls and boys from years 5 and 6 have been part of a martial arts club over the last 2 terms. Steve is a specialist martial arts coach and a brilliant role model for young people. As well as developing physical skills like strength and fitness, his sessions also aim to develop self-esteem and respect. The girls and boys who have been part of his club have loved working with Steve, and Steve has been really positive and encouraged by the progress that all the children have made over the last few terms. Well done to all of those who've been part of the group, we hope that you've all benefited from it.

The Great Big Dance Off Regional Finals

Our amazing years 5/6 dance team qualified again this year to represent Leicestershire at the Albert Hall in Nottingham. Competing against primary-aged children from other schools in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. This year, we decided that our theme would centre around the pandemic and the children were amazing at choreographing their own group sequences and thinking of ideas which captured key moments. We even managed to get Mrs Tebbutt out of retirement to come to the competition with us.

Girls Football Festival and League Matches

This year there has been a big investment across the country in girls football. As part of this we ran a number of different lunch time challenges and as a result, a number of years 5/6 girls attended a football festival at Aylestone Park FC to celebrate 'Girls Football Week.' Throughout the school year, our girls football team have also played a number of league and friendly matches against various schools from Oadby and Wigston. In their last 3 matches against Thythorn and Brocks Hill, they lost 3-0 and won 3-1, showing a big improvement from the start of the year, well done girls!



Attendance

We are beginning to see a reduction in positive COVID cases in school. Thank you for keeping vigilant and following guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Our School Attendance Target is 96%

So far this academic year we have achieved 93%



Sadly this is not quite at target but with a BIG effort and support from parents, we could reach target by the end of the academic year.

If you need help getting your children into school or would like to talk about the reasons for their absence, please contact:

Helen Brown—Attendance Officer: 0116 2782142

Pastoral Team—: 07709888001.

We have many tools to help families overcome difficult situations.

Collection Arrangements



We understand that from time to time you may have to collect your child from school before the end of the school day. Please could we ask that this is kept to a minimum and only for emergencies, or medical appointments, for which we will ask to see evidence.

If you need to ask another adult to collect your child from school, please contact the school office, 0116 2782142, before 2.45pm, in order that we can ensure your child's class teacher is informed.

Lost hours of learning, at the beginning and end of the school day, will have a negative impact on your child's learning and can be disruptive for the whole class.

Please work with us to help improve time keeping. School start and finish times are as follows:

	Start Time	Finish Time
Foundation Stage	8.40am	3.05pm
Key Stage One		
Yr 1, 2 & 3	8.40am	3.05pm
Key Stage Two		
Yr 4, 5 & 6	8.40am	3.10pm

Covid Update

We have continued to have high numbers of COVID cases this term. 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.



New Government Updates:

- Children and young people who are unwell AND have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.
- Free testing will no longer be available to the general public.

New Build

We are really excited that our new build will be finished over Easter.



We will still need some time at the start of the term to move into the new space, including the school office. **We will continue to use the office and door at the rear of the school until further notice.**

We hope that we can use the main front door again within the first week of the summer term and will communicate with you when this is. The new studio is looking great and will be used to support pupils through interventions.

We are pleased that it will also add much needed space to be able to invite parents and carers in for workshops and engagement events! It has been so long since we have opened our doors to you due to COVID and lack of space.

Please look out for invites in the summer term!

Fond Farewell

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Miss Pugh and Mrs Ellis. They have both been incredibly important members of the Parkland family for many years and have given so much to pupils and staff.

I am sure you would like to join me in wishing them all the best in their new roles.

They will be missed by us all.



World Book Day

What a fantastic day we all had on Word Book Day, on the 3rd March!

The children enjoyed dressing up and sharing their favourite books.



Ukraine Emergency Appeal

We have been overwhelmed by your support and generosity to the Ukraine Emergency Appeal, held in school last month.

As a school we raised over £879.00, which has been given to the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. The Red Cross are helping by providing clothing, food, shelter, first aid training, medical supplies and much more.

We'd like to say a giant thank you for your incredible kindness!



Red Nose Day



Another massive thank you to all those who donated to Red Nose Day on the Friday 18th March.

Together as a school we raised over £985.00.

Eat Them To Defeat Them



Over the last few weeks, Parkland have been taking part in the 'Eat them to defeat them' healthy eating campaign. The children had lots of fun trying the different vegetables we had on offer. The favourite being broccoli!!

Year 6 Thriller Performance



Year 6 showcased their Thriller dance work to parents and carers on Wednesday 6th April, we were overwhelmed with the amazing turnout of over 100!



The children have worked very hard over the last 10 weeks to learning, creating and choreographing these superb performances.

It was also Mrs Ellis's last show with the children and Parkland and was such a lovely high to finish on.

Well done to each and every one of the Year 6 children!



Where: South Wigston Congregational Church, Blaby Road (opposite Co Op), South Wigston.

When: 10.30am –11.15am

Dates: Monday 18th April. Alternative Mondays after these dates.

Contact Number: 07818603699

Food Bank



**primary
times**

Please click [here](#) for the Easter issue of the Leicestershire & Rutland Primary Times. Full of egg-citing things to do with all the family, including a tick-sheet of 20 activities, plus great competitions to win!

Plus there's free Easter eggs at Ninja Warrior, free children's tickets to Rocks By Rail, a free Kids Pass with Everyone Active and so much more...



EASTER PRE LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM EVENTS

Free Pre-Loved Uniform for families at
Parklands, Little Hill and
Fairfield Primary Schools

Wednesday 20th April

11:00am - 1:30pm

Salvation Army, Ladysmith Road,
Wigston, LE184UZ

Thursday 21st April

11:00am - 1:30pm

The Fairfield Inn, Gloucester
Crescent, Wigston LE184YE

For more info email:

emma@butterflybeacons.co.uk



Children's Easter Crafts

**Butterfly
Beacons**
LOVE - LEARN - LIBERATE

Have a lovely Easter

