

Parkhill Junior School October 2025 Newsletter 2

**Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.
HPL skill: Meta thinking through self-regulation.**

Dear Parents and Carers

The half term break has arrived, at a remarkable speed. Our learners have squeezed an absurd amount of hard work and high performance learning into the first weeks of this academic year and have enjoyed every moment of it! The year group pages below will provide you with a flavour of their achievements and...they are just getting started! We look forward to the second half of the autumn term and all the exciting high performance learning that it will bring.



The Parkhill Vision

At Parkhill Junior School, we passionately believe in the potential of our children, regardless of their starting point. They are at the heart of everything we do.

Everybody in our culturally diverse community is valued, celebrated and encouraged, in a positive, safe, happy and caring environment.

Through our rigorous, systematic and holistic approach, we aim to empower every child to recognise that there are no restrictions on learning and anything is possible. We constantly explore new approaches to teaching and learning, in order to encourage them to become global citizens.

Our goal is to ensure that children learn how to learn and barriers to success are overcome. Our vision is to equip each child with advanced cognitive skills and the essential values, attitudes and attributes that they will need for lifelong success. Every child can be a high performance learner.

We encourage everyone in the Parkhill community to make a positive contribution to our world class school.

Please read the important information and guidance below. It is intended to support you and your child throughout the year. Please pay particular attention to our uniform and communication policies.

Enjoy Learning!
Mrs D. Hughes-Mulhall
Headteacher

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please act on it. School is here to help and support. We all share the responsibility of safeguarding children.

Safeguarding Lead	Mrs D. Hughes-Mulhall Headteacher
Safeguarding Deputy	Mrs N. Tanner Deputy Headteacher and SENCO
Safeguarding Officer	Ms N. Reeves School Business Lead
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs M. Ahsan Senior Leader and Phase Lead
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs N. Hossain Senior Leader and Assistant SENCO

Pupil Voice Fair (Rights Respecting School Event)



Our annual Pupil Voice Fair was lively and exciting! Learners, from different pupil voice groups, confidently explained their critical roles and the impact of these roles on school life, at Parkhill. Well done to all our high performance learners who make our school a unique wonderland of learning!

If you have not seen it already, our Pupil Voice display in Reception is a must!

Black History Month



Black History Month brought music, dance, food, mask-making and so much discussion and research across the school. A fabulous time for all to celebrate black history, achievements and culture.



The *Big Draw* was a fabulous event, with parents and children collaborating at its Coffee Morning launch. So much creativity in the room!



Harvest



A huge 'Thank you,' to everyone in our community for the generous contributions made to the Harvest collection this year. It all goes to a local foodbank and to those most in need.

After School Clubs

Afterschool clubs continue weekly until Friday 5th December 2025. You **do not** need to re-register your child for a club in January 2026. Breakfast club runs every day, all year round and provides a delicious and healthy breakfast.

Birthdays and all other Celebrations

We all love birthdays and want to share the joy of this special day with friends, at school! Should you wish your child to give a gift to members of their class, **please ensure that it is not any type of food/sweets. All birthday food will not be distributed and will be returned to the parent/carer. We respectfully remind you not to distribute birthday food, in the playground.**



We have many children with severe nut allergies. Please ensure that any snacks and packed lunches do not contain nuts or nut products. (Always check the label)

Fruit Time

A mid morning energy boost for our learners. Please provide a piece of fruit daily. No other food is permitted.



Attendance and Punctuality

We work hard to ensure that our young learners hold high, the value and importance of attendance and punctuality. Core values instilled at this stage of their education and life, remain with them as they grow into citizens of our world and of the future.

'A day away from Parkhill, is a day lost.'

Miss education... and you miss out!

This half term's attendance champions are 3PN & 6I

'A minute late for Parkhill, is a minute wasted!'

Every second counts!

This half term's punctuality champions are 4H & 5WA!



Absences before or after a school holiday

If your child is absent before or after a school holiday, you must provide evidence explaining the absence. This may be medical evidence if your child is unwell or evidence of flight delays or circumstances beyond your control. **Without this evidence, you risk being issued with a penalty notice.**

Appointments

Dental appointments, optician appointments and GP appointments must be booked, outside school hours. **Appointments booked during school time will be unauthorised.** Hospital appointments, with supporting evidence, are routinely authorised.

<https://parkhilljunior.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/attendance-policy-2025-2026.pdf>

School Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform. Please adhere to our school uniform policy. It can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://parkhilljunior.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Parkhill-Junior-School-Uniform-Policy-2025-26.pdf>

Communication with our Learning Community

It is crucial that we have your up-to-date contact details i.e. mobile number and email address. All letters and messages are sent via email. You risk missing important information if School has not been given accurate details. **You can find our Communication Policy on our website. Please take a moment to read it.**

<https://parkhilljunior.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Home-school-Communications-Policy.pdf>

Thinking of Employing a Private Tutor?

Please visit the website below for more information and guidance.

<https://www.redbridgescp.org.uk/parents-carers-and-the-public/private-tuition/>

Online Safety

On more than one occasion, it has come to our attention that, without their parents' knowledge, children are using chatrooms, social media and other forums to communicate. We cannot emphasise enough, the danger of this or any unsupervised online activity. We send you a monthly online safety newsletter to advise you about the risks and dangers that our children face. Please ensure that you know what your child is doing at all times, when they are online.

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO SEE THE SUPPORT MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO YOU, FOR THE ONLINE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD

Our Website – www.parkhilljunior.com

Important dates, information and so much more can be found on our website. Please pay regular visits. Updates are frequent and feature aspects of our school curriculum and daily school life.

CALENDAR OF LEARNING AND CELEBRATION

DATE	LEARNING and CELEBRATION
1st October 2025	Black History Month Begins
24th October 2025	Day Glow Day (Dress-up Day) Dress Brightly!
27th to 31st October 2025	Half Term Holiday
10th November 2025	Anti bullying Week Begins... with Odd Socks Day.
14th November 2025	Children in Need (Dress up day) Dress Spotty and Dotty!
4th December 2025	Christmas Fayre.
8th December 2025	Last Week of Clubs for the autumn term
9th December 2026	Parkill Christmas Lunch – wear a Christmas jumper or dress super shiny sparkly today...or both! (dress-up day)
22nd December 2025 to 2nd January 2026	Christmas Holiday
5th January 2026	Professionals Training Day 3 (school closed to children)
6th January 2026	Hurray! Children return to school today...and not a single day later!
19th January 2026	After School clubs resume this week
16th to 20th February 2026	Half Term Holiday
30th March 2026 to 10th April 2026	Easter Holiday
13th April 2026	Hurray! Children return to school today...and not a single day later!
4th May 2026	Bank Holiday
7th May 2026	Local Elections – school used as a polling station. (Closed to children)
25th May to 29th May 2026	Half Term Holiday
1st June 2026	Professionals Training Day 4 (school closed to children)
17th July 2026	Last Day of Term...and not a single day earlier!



Our September 2025 High Performance Learners.

Well done, to everyone!

3PN Abdul Rehman	For working hard to present his work neatly, analysing the problems carefully, using clear steps to solve and providing reasons for his answers.
3C Alam	Alam has improved his handwriting, using his self-regulation skills, he understood that errors are part of learning and with hard work and practice he has improved his handwriting and presentation.
3RN Anaya.P	Anaya used the skill of self-regulation to evaluate and monitor her work. She included all the ingredients to make her writing of a high standard.
3D Kain	Kain persevered to complete their autobiographical text in English. Across many subjects Kaian has shown determination, resilience and a growing focus when collaborating with others.
4W Esa	Esa has worked hard on maths this week and collaborated with another child in the class, supporting learning. He has also made links with previous learning to help him answer the questions.
4G Feranmi, Fatiha, Amira, Ibrahim, Shayaan	The children took part in a collaborative task during maths, in which they had to explain their reasoning using an 'Answer, Explain, Summarise' model. All five contributed to a great discussion and wrote a clear answer to their question.
4A Arun	Arun used his precision skills, by focusing hard on the vocabulary and language needed to write an effective newspaper story. He worked really hard!
4H Mia	Mia has worked very hard since the beginning of the term and has shared her enthusiasm about many subjects, Her portrait has been chosen due to the focus on details, modelling her precision skills!
5MA Shreyen	Shreyen has worked so hard in his English to write a detailed setting description. He used his linking skills to use vocabulary he already knows and apply this in context. His writing has really helped create an image in the readers mind. Well done for working so hard!
5J Leonard	In his maths learning Leonard demonstrated the HPL skills of agile by being open-minded to try new methods of calculation when rounding numbers within 100,000 and meta-thinking by accurate and precise in his calculations.
5S Aisha S.	For an amazing portrait of a Tudor monarch. Aisha used her observation skills to carefully sketch, then add watercolours to this piece of art, demonstrating her artistic skills!
5WA Umairah	Umairah used her Meta-Thinking, strategy planning skills, when researching Tudor facts to recognise and extract interesting and relevant facts.
6I Lamees	For creating a blurb that is based on the cover of The Silver Sword and using her own imagination through using flexible thinking .
6H Kanesha and Ehan	In maths, we did an investigation in pairs to identify the rules of divisibility. Kanesha and Ehan worked together and used their linking skill of generalisation to find rules that applied to different numbers.
6P Dylan	Dylan showed resilience in English by working hard to include descriptive literary devices in his narrative. Dylan found connections across prior pieces of work and thought fluently to adapt and build on them in his writing.
6S Rishi	Rishi applied his agile -enquiry skills during a science lesson. He was able to successfully navigate a range of resources to extract the correct information to classify the characteristics of the five vertebrate groups.

<https://parkhilljunior.com/hpl-high-performance-learning>

Year 3

We are delighted to give you a glimpse into the wonderful learning, taking place in our classrooms so far this term. The children have settled in well and are working hard in all areas of the curriculum – some children have already earned a place in the 'Wow Book'! We are looking forward to seeing many more achievements from all our learners who are on their journey to becoming high performing learners!

Imagine going back to the Stone Age period! That's exactly what our pupils have done – through the art of monologue writing. They have created a script including emotions, expressions and motives to express how a character might have felt and thought during the Stone Age time.

"I felt nervous writing the monologue but also I worked hard to complete my writing."
Abdul Rehman -3PN

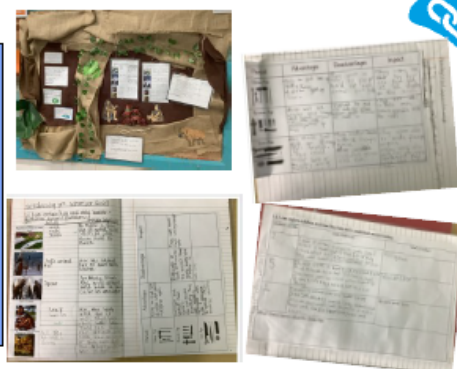


This term, Year 3 have been deepening their understanding of place value, through the use of concrete manipulatives by getting hands-on with learning. This practical approach truly helped them see the value of each digit in 3-digit numbers.

"I enjoyed the carousel activity and using objects to partition numbers. I learnt to work in a team."
Eva - 3RN

In history, children are diving into the fascinating world of the Stone Age. Pupils are learning how early humans survived using stone tools, built shelters, and hunted for food. Through further activities, children will discover how life has changed — and what we can learn from the past.

"I like history because we learn about tools from a long time ago."
Laith – 3D



In science, children have been learning all about the amazing human body — starting with skeletons! Pupils have been discovering the names of key bones, how joints help us move, and why our skeleton is so important for protection, support, and movement.

I enjoyed learning about the bones in our body and different types of skeletons, and I used my linking learning skills to understand how they help us move and stay strong.
Akira - 3C



Enjoy learning and growing together
Ms Castell, Mrs Nangia, Mrs Nayak, and Ms Dissanayake



Year 4



Year 4 has enjoyed a flurry of activities, from exciting experiments, to showcasing their creative skills and, as usual at Parkhill Junior, working hard! Join us as we celebrate the brilliant work and adventures from across the year group...

Science

Our topic this term in science is 'Teeth and the Digestive System'. We have focused in on tooth decay, which is also linked to our PSHE unit of nutrition and dental health. We discussed how we could look after our teeth and what causes decay. We are also learning about the different parts of the body that are involved in the process of digestion.

"We are learning all about teeth and the other parts of the body. I learnt about tooth decay and we did an experiment using eggs and vinegar."

— Eesa, 4W.



History

We have travelled back to Ancient Greece! Secondary sources were used to help us deduce what Ancient Greece was like. We have looked at the difference between Athens and Sparta, the democracy system and influential people from that time. We even used wax tablets!

"We were comparing Athens and Sparta. Athens was ruled by a democracy where the people were able to have their say!"

Arun, 4A



Maths

Our topic for maths is place value. To warm up, the children completed several problem-solving tasks and took part in games to recap previous learning. They then had the opportunity to create their own mathematical place value questions and swapped with a partner to test each other's knowledge.

"I like number lines in maths because they help me a lot!"

Ismaeel, 4G



DT

The children have been learning all about bread and making healthy sandwiches. They have discussed the types of bread they have eaten and tasted a variety of different types. They then designed their own bread and created a healthy sandwich!

"The bread was delicious and it was fun to make."

Ahmed, 4H



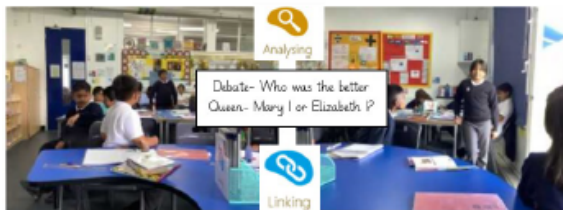
Reminders

- *Remember to bring in your PE kits every Monday, and take them home on Friday.
- *Homework is uploaded every Friday on Google Classroom and it must be completed by Wednesday
- *All children will need to purchase a recorder in order to take part in their music lessons.

Ms Gay, Mr Hansen, Mrs Wright and Ms Andaya.

Year 5

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school full of excitement and showing curiosity through HPL enquiry-led learning. We have immersed ourselves into Tudor times using our melting curriculum to study Tudor Rose in English, explore the Tudor monarchs in history and sew Tudor 3D portraits in art.



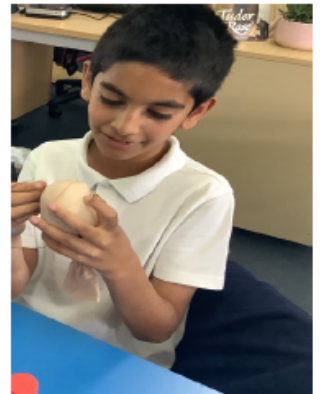
History

In our recent history lesson about the Tudors, the kids had a blast learning about Queen Mary I and Elizabeth I! They jumped into a fun debate, exploring the different choices these queens made and why they mattered. This not only helped them understand the time period better but also let them practise some great skills. The high-performance learning (HPL) skills we used included teamwork, persuasive speaking, and active listening. It was great to see their excitement and engagement, making history feel real and relevant! *"I think that Elizabeth would be a good ruler as she was a kind hearted and lovely person. I analysed by researching about Tudors all of this term."* Inayah 5MA

Art

We've been busy creating 3D Tudor artwork, using our HPL creative and enterprising skills to tackle challenges along the way. As we work on our projects, we're not just focusing on making amazing pieces; we're also practising and improving our skills. By the end of the half term, our masterpieces will be ready, and we can't wait to share them with everyone! The excitement in the room is contagious as we bring a piece of Tudor history to life through art!

"I practised my stitches to make them as neat as possible." Paola 5WA



Science

This half term, Year 5 have been finding out about the properties of materials as part of their science lessons. They have investigated why objects are made from certain materials and carried out experiments on magnetism, electrical conductivity as well as investigating what kind of material would make the best thermal insulator. Pupils used important skills such as observation, analysis and comparison during their investigations.

"I enjoyed using different materials and collaborating with others." Aaliyah 5S



Indoor PE- Dance

In our indoor PE sessions, we've been learning a fun dance for our upcoming Christmas production! The children are fully engaged, picking up the moves and really working on their rhythm. This activity not only helps them build their coordination and teamwork skills but also gets them into the holiday spirit. As we practise, their excitement grows, and we can't wait to see their hard work come together for the performance. It's going to be a fantastic way to share some festive cheer!

"I really enjoy the dance we're learning. It gets easier the more you practise the steps and take part as a group, I can't wait to perform it at the production!" Aissata, 5J



Keep up the fantastic work. Enjoy Learning!
Mrs Ahsan, Mrs Alveranga, Ms Suppiah & Ms Jarvis



Year 6

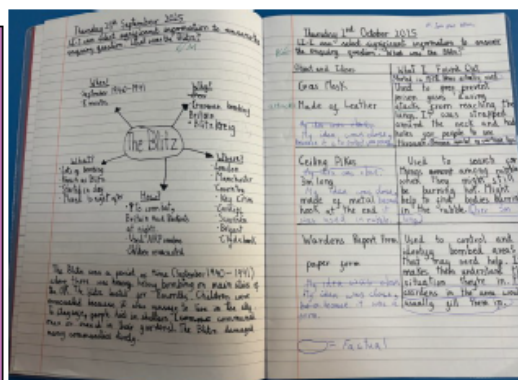


It has been wonderful to see the children full of excitement and showing curiosity through HPL enquiry-led learning. We have immersed ourselves virtually into the Blitz and are looking forward to visiting the Imperial War Museum later in the term.

History

As part of our high performance skills approach to learning, we were given the question, "What was it like to live during the Blitz?" We used a range of historical sources to answer the question above. As historians, we used our observation skills to note key details and from these we inferred what it was like at that time.

"I used my enquiring skills to research about the Blitz, and it helped me understand what it was really like from someone who lived through it." Zoeya 6I



PE- Dance Workshop

We participated in a workshop centred on Sinte, a traditional West African dance, to celebrate Black History Month. This engaging activity allowed us to explore cultural heritage through movement and collaboration.

"We had so much fun while dancing and then we worked in smaller groups to think of our own ending." Areeg 6S

English

In English, we've been reading 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier. We have been using the book to write our version of the Balicki children's escape from their home after German soldiers arrested their mother. We used a range of drama techniques to help us develop our HPL skill of empathy. We are also learning about different word classes and how these can be brought together to create descriptions that are engaging and entertaining for our reader.

"We acted out scenes from The Silver Sword to empathise with Edek, Ruth and Bronia. This helped me in my writing as I was able to consider how the children were feeling and what they were thinking." Khaylan 6P



Art

We are designing a tote bag based on our history topic. Using our enquiry skills, we researched different images related to WWII. We drew these carefully in our sketchbooks. Then we had to put our ideas together to create a cohesive design. Next we had to consider colour. As we are printing, we are only allowed to use three different colours. It has been challenging to decide which ones to select.

"I am enjoying printing because I am learning many new skills such as knowing when the ink is ready to use and printing more than one colour. The HPL skills I am using is linking, by using my previous knowledge from Year 5." Nethrra 6H



For homework, please ensure daily reading is recorded in planners. Weekly spellings are assigned on Google Classroom and in addition to this, a targeted activity of maths, SPaG or comprehension will also be assigned. Enjoy Learning!
Mrs Hansen, Mrs Ibrahim, Mrs Simms and Miss Pover



Spare room feeling a little empty?

Do you miss conversations after school around the dinner table? Miss helping with homework and seeing that lightbulb moment when they understand something they have been struggling with? And although you repeated yourself hundreds of times to tidy things away, are you now, ever so slightly, missing the mess?

Bring conversation, laughter and love into your life and provide a safe, stable and nurturing environment for our most vulnerable babies, children and young people that they can call home.

If you are considering fostering and would like to know more, please visit our website on <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringschools> or call 020 8708 6068.



LOCAL COMMUNITY
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Spare room feeling empty?

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020 8708 6068
www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering

