

Parkhill Junior School December 2025 Head Teacher Newsletter 4

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

Welcome to the last Head Teacher newsletter of 2025! During the final days of this term, we look forward to seeing miles and miles of cheery smiles – do remember that the weather may be miserable outside but the sun always shines...at Parkhill Junior School!

As we look forward to a peaceful, happy and healthy holiday, I take the opportunity to thank you for all your support and generosity of heart, spirit and mind during the term just gone. As an accredited High Performance Learning *and* Gold Rights Respecting School, we believe in working *happily* together. Above all, we want our learners – your children - to feel safe and happy.

Please read the important information and guidance included below. It will 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

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.



Safeguarding

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

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.

Parkhill Debating Team



Zaynah, Zoeya, Yunus, and Simran and their loyal supporters!

They went and they conquered! Our phenomenal team has done it again. They ranked in the top three, of competing Redbridge schools, in the interschool debating competition. We are so proud of you...and no one can argue with that!



Year 5 Performance

We had a very jolly time watching the Year 5 performance 'No one Wraps like an Elf!' Singing, dancing, jokes and a great script had us enthralled and in stitches!



Christmas Fayre

What an extravaganza! What an experience! Shopping with friends, is guaranteed fun and laughter! Especially with so much to choose from! We raised a fabulous £2,457. All goes towards buying books for classroom book corners.



It was all hands on deck, including the governors! Thank you, governors!



A very special *Well Done* to, Dragosh, Ayyub and Issa who demonstrated entrepreneurial skill in creating a game and raising over £47:00 for their school! They are Business people *extra ordinaire*! Ms

Reeves, our School Business Lead, was very impressed!



Santa's elves were nowhere to be seen. They were far too busy rehearsing for their performance!

Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Nithyasri (6P) and Lilianna (4A). Their Christmas card designs are our official Parkhill Junior School Christmas card 2025! The standard was sky-high and the entries were truly difficult to judge! Our young artists do us proud every year. Cards will be sent to schools in the local authority.



In first place.



In second place.



In third place.



Ornament At The Top Of The Christmas Tree Competition (HPL standard!)

A fabulous display of ornaments sparkled in reception as this year's competition showcased our learners creativity, flexible thinking and imagination. The two deserving winners, Zahra and Kirat had the honour of switching on the Parkhill Junior School Christmas lights! All entries were remarkably eye-catching and beautifully crafted. Well done to everyone.



Winners of the ***Ornament At The Top Of The Christmas Tree Competition*** – Zahra (4G) and Kirat (3D).



Super Sparkly Shiny Day and Christmas Jumper Day – and Christmas Lunch for Children!

Thank you to Chef Santosh and her team for a wonderful Christmas lunch!



Crafternoon and Festival of Light

On Tuesday 9th December, Parkhill Junior hosted the Festival of Light Crafternoon. The children who attended were able to participate in a range of fabulous and creative crafts that linked to different religions. Alongside their parents, the pupils showed their originality and problem solving skills in the different activities. Look at those smiles!



After School Clubs

You do not need to re-register your child for an after school club in January 2026. Breakfast club runs every day, all year round and provides a delicious and healthy breakfast.

Christmas Parties – 17th December 2025.

Please be reminded that children must bring their own party bag and drink, to the class party. Food **cannot** be shared. This is also a non uniform day when children can dress in their party clothes!



*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 fresh fruit daily. No other food is permitted.

Attendance and Punctuality

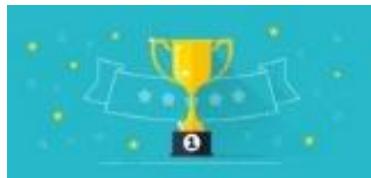
**‘A day away from Parkhill is a day lost.’
Miss education... and you miss out!**

This term’s attendance champions

are 3PN and 5MA

**‘A minute late for Parkhill is a minute wasted!’
Every second counts!**

This term’s punctuality champions are 4H and 6P



Each of the above classes has won a Superplay Session – congratulations!

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 receiving 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
16th December 2025	<u>Year 3 and 4 Family Crafternoon from 3:35pm (places must be reserved in advance)</u>
17th December 2025	Christmas Parties for all – non uniform 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
2nd February 2026	National Storytelling Week <u>and</u> Children's Mental Health Week
11th February 2026	International Women and Girls in Science Day
11th February 2026	Parents Evening 1
17th February 2026	Chinese New Year Begins.
16th to 20th February 2026	Half Term Holiday
25th February 2026	Parents Evening 2
23rd to 6th March 2026	Fairtrade Fortnight
2nd March 2026	Book Week
World Book Day	World Book Day (dress up day – dress as your favourite book character)
9th March 2026	British Science Week
16th March 2026	Last week of after school clubs for this term.
23rd March 2026	Big Pedal Week (cycle or scoot to school)
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 November/December 2025 High Performance Learners.
Well done to everyone!

3PN Zayyan	Zayyan Malik showed creativity and empathy when designing and making a healthy pizza at home. Zayyan made links with his learning in science about a healthy diet and different food groups and analysed his ingredients very carefully to ensure a balanced meal.
3C Emilia	Emilia demonstrated precision by carefully practising her texture techniques, and she showed perseverance by taking her time and not rushing the process.
3RN Kubra and Maira	Kubra and Maira demonstrated creativity and enthusiasm when making a healthy pizza. Both carefully thought about the ingredients that would make their pizza healthy. Maira and Kubra were also able to identify the different food groups when adding the ingredients to their pizza.
3D Roan	Roan uses his meta-thinking skills by explaining the new knowledge he has learnt during class discussions to help others remember new concepts.
4W Eesa	Eesa Ahmed has been a hard-working mathematician and has been using the correct formula for solving area in maths.
4G Aleena	Aleena has used the linking skills generalisation and connection finding to support her conclusions in science. She has also used her precision skills by including scientific language in her explanations.
4A Riona	Riona has demonstrated creativity when completing the narrative for 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' in the style of the author. She used interesting adverbs and expanded noun phrases to make her story entertaining for the reader.
4H Elif	Elif used the HPL skill of creating to make a clay pinch pot in art. She was inspired by the Ancient Greek vessels from our history lessons.
5MA Ibrahim	Ibrahim has been phenomenal at completing his reading record - he is already on his third one! He has demonstrated skills of realising by working with speed and accuracy in his reading. Now he is signing off the Parkhill Reading Tree books too!
5J Inaaya	Inaaya demonstrated hardworking and a love of learning new synonyms to improve her writing skills. She showed that she can edit her writing to improve its cohesion and effectiveness whilst fully understanding the non-fiction text to link her ideas.
5S Lorik	For demonstrating agility and linking skills by debating on a key issue in English, showing reasoned arguments for his views.
5WA Hoorain	Hoorain has used her linking and hard working skills during maths to apply her division and multiplication knowledge when solving equivalent fractions problems.
6H Mahathi	Mahathi has shown Meta-thinking in her artwork by using self-regulation to make improvements to own practice and able to set goals for improvement in the future. She has also shown hard working by using her time effectively and persisted with her printing to ensure it was completed.
6P Safa	Safa has shown resilience in her writing, taking time to analyse her work and make appropriate edits. She has made links between English and history lessons to give context to her writing. Her hard work and determination to improve is excellent!
6S Dua	Dua has shown the HPL behaviours of resilience and determination in her maths work. She is striving to be the best mathematician she can be. Her dedication is evident in her mathematical learning journey.
6I Aryan	Aryan is an HPL learner because he consistently analyses his work, identifies what needs improvement, and applies feedback to deepen his understanding. He also demonstrates agile learning skills by adapting quickly to new challenges and adjusting his strategies to keep moving his learning forward.



Year 3

This month has been filled with inspiring moments of progress and discovery. Our pupils are actively embracing every learning opportunity and demonstrating the qualities of high-performing learners. Their hard work and positive attitude are shining through, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth.

Music

This term, we have been learning to sing and perform the song 'Bring us together' by Joanna Mangona and Pete Readman. This is a Disco song about friendship, peace, hope and unity. We have used warm-up and flexible games to make our lessons more engaging.

"Our music lessons are so much fun; we start with a vocal warm up and a tongue twister. We do activities where we have to find the pulse. The song talks about friendship and being kind, it is a very nice song with a disco beat"

-Halima 3C



Art

This term, children have been able to research and study the works of the famous Dutch artist Willem Kalf. His expertise in capturing and presenting 'Still Life' has inspired children to use line, tone and texture to create realistic sketches.

"We have been learning about still life through the painter Willem Kalf who used realistic tones and textures to make ordinary objects look special. We enjoyed seeing how shadows and lines bring everything to life."

Nahim 3D



Science

This term, children have been learning about forces. They identified *push and pull* by investigating the equipment in the outdoor gym. They also carried out a fair test to investigate which surface material would offer maximum friction for the toy car. For outdoor learning, they predicted and compared the rate of friction on concrete and grass.

"Using the ramps and investigating friction was the best science lesson ever! I felt like a real scientist carrying out a fair test"

- Humza 3PN

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



Year 4

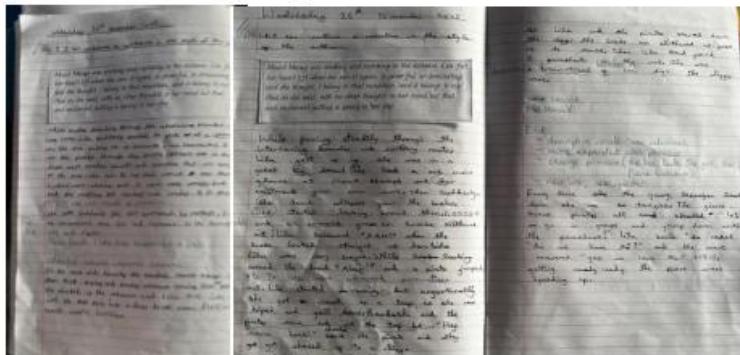


The winter holidays are drawing near, and the children of Parkhill are feeling very festive! Amidst all this joy, Year 4 have been keeping busy—analysing scientific experiments, honing their precision skills through dramatic storytelling, and practising their multiplication tables. Their learning journey continues with energy and enthusiasm...



English

We are continuing with our class text, *The Firework Maker's Daughter*. Lila has now reached the mighty Mount Merapi and is about to step inside! Inspired by her adventure, the children wrote their own cliff-hanger stories imagining what might happen next in the jungle. They are now busy creating fact files about the legendary Mount Merapi, combining creativity with fascinating real-world knowledge. *"It's very exciting! We were deciding whether Lila would make it to the top of the mountain or not!"*— Prusoth, 4W



Maths

In maths we have been exploring the concept of area. Children are finding the area of rectilinear shapes and compound figures using square centimetres and square metres. They are calculating areas by counting squares and by multiplying length by width, then applying these skills to real-world tasks like looking at the area of our classrooms.

"It is a bit challenging because you need to remember to count all of the squares." — Hussain, 4A

Science

Our topic this term in science is *States of Matter*. The children have enjoyed observing a range of experiments that demonstrate how substances can change state through different processes—for example, melting a solid into a liquid or condensing a gas into a liquid. This active, hands-on learning has given the children valuable opportunities to deepen their understanding of these concepts. *"I learnt that the gases in a liquid can push solids up and down. I really enjoyed touching the different liquids after they were placed in a freezer."* — Aleena, 4G



Art

We extended our learning about Ancient Greece through a hands-on pottery project. Children designed, shaped and painted their own clay pots, using traditional Greek forms and decorative designs. They practised joining techniques, surface smoothing and slip-decoration before applying painted designs seen on Greek pots. *"I enjoyed painting my pot because I got to create my own design - it looks nice."* — Abdul-Hadi, 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

Year 5 has just wrapped up their wonderful Christmas production, and it was a blast! Our production was filled with laughter, and the festive tunes really warmed our hearts. We're so grateful to have shared the magic of the season with you! As we finish off our first term, we're looking forward to what 2026 will bring. Stay tuned for more updates!



English- Holes

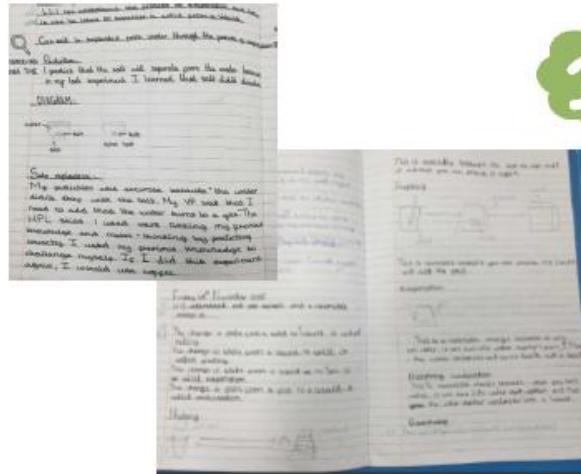
The children wrote a postcard from Stanley at Camp Green Lake, showing their understanding of the novel, by reflecting on his experiences and growth throughout the story. This task highlights key themes like friendship, perseverance, and the importance of inner strength as they channel Stanley's voice and perspective. We are thoroughly enjoying reading 'Holes' and cannot wait to see what happens next.

"In English we created a postcard to write to Stanley's mum. We had to lie a bit to ensure Mr Sir would approve the letter. The HPL skills we used were creativity because we had to change the story a little bit to meet Mr Sir's approval." Raees 5MA

Experimenting in Science

The children conducted an experiment to test the dissolving properties of a range of substances in water. They mixed substances such as salt in water, noting how they dissolved and discussing factors that affect solubility. After allowing the solution to evaporate, the children examined the remaining salt crystals, reinforcing their understanding of the water cycle and changes in states of matter.

"I plan to try dissolving other substances at home using a sieve and filter paper. I wonder how using hot chocolate granules will work?" Hamza 5J



No one wraps like an Elf

In their Christmas production titled, *No One Wraps like an Elf!*, Year 5 showcased their creativity and talent through a lively performance telling the story of two of Santa's very mischievous elves. The performance featured vibrant costumes, catchy songs and engaging choreography; captivating the audience with its festive spirit. Each child played a unique role, contributing to the overall narrative and emphasising themes of joy and togetherness. The production not only highlighted their hard work and teamwork but also brought the school community together in celebration of the holiday season.

"It was very challenging practising the lines but we learned them all and in the end it was great. It now feels very Christmassy!" Taran 5WA

Santa Dash

It was an exciting day for Year 5 this month when they all took part in a Parkhill Santa Dash! Wearing their festive accessories and ready to run, they dashed along the length of the school building, thoroughly enjoying every minute. What a wonderful way to build up their fitness and stamina outside of the classroom!

"The Santa dash was hard but really fun to participate in." Aiza 5S



Reminders

P.E- Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit with them on their allocated days and that their drawstring bags are labelled.

Reading Records – please ensure that your child uses their reading record each day to reflect on their reading.

Homework – weekly homework tasks are uploaded to Google Classroom. These must be completed and 'turned in' so your child's class teacher can see.

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

Year 6



It's been a fun-packed half term filled with fantastic HPL learning opportunities, including anti-bullying week, a healthy eating assembly and first-aid training. We used our connection finding skills to make links between lessons to inform how to keep our body healthy.

Science

This month we had a fantastic time exploring the fascinating world of the human body! We used stethoscopes to listen to our heartbeats and also read our pulses using pulse meters. It was an engaging hands-on experience that sparked curiosity and discussions about health and fitness!

"Making blood models and find our heart beats was fascinating. I have learnt so much!" (Malika 6S)



DT

We have been using our sewing skills to complete the tote bags we designed in our art lessons last half term. We began with using our HPL skills of linking to recap the stitches we know. We utilised plenty of our hard-working HPL skill to persevere and remain resilient when practising on a piece of binca. Once we were ready, we moved onto sewing the handles of our bag and refining our ink print by adding embroidery.

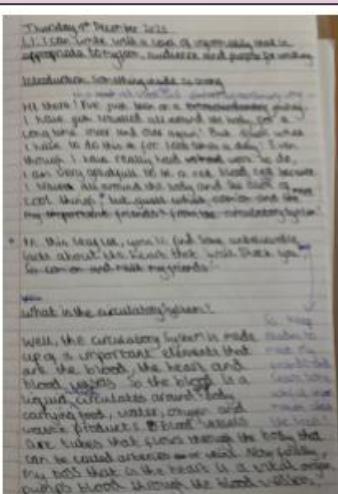
"I used my HPL skills to find connections in my prior knowledge of printing from Year 5. I used this knowledge to improve my technique." (Mahathi 6H)



RE

In RE, we have been learning about Judaism. We made links across our learning and through our analysing skills, used a range of sources to find out information about Jewish religious festivals. Working together, we learnt about Hanukkah, Shavuot and Passover and used our knowledge to create informative leaflets. We were also able to make links across subjects to English and history!

"We explored Jewish beliefs and how Jewish people celebrate religious festivals. We learnt about Passover and Hanukkah and traditions that are carried out during celebrations." (Fatima, 6P)



English

We have started to plan and write a leaflet for English. We are using our knowledge of the heart, from this half term's science unit, on how to keep healthy. When our leaflets are finished, we will be sharing them with Year 4. We have used our HPL skills by using linking and our enquiry skills to plan and carry out research unaided, and collect relevant information.

"I used my hard-working and linking skills to start writing an informal leaflet about the heart for Year 4 children. I chose engaging language to interest my audience, and I used my creative skills, through flexible thinking, to make the information fun and easy to understand." (Issa, 6I)



Keep up the fantastic work. 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.



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