

Parkhill Junior School HT Newsletter February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and High-Performance Learners

Welcome back. We are now at the midpoint of the academic year and have so much more learning to enjoy! Outdoor learning, hands-on learning, educational visits, visitors to share their learning with us, themed days and weeks...and we continue our High Performance Learning (HPL) in every nook and cranny of the building! It was wonderful to share our HPL recently, with Year 5 parents– inside the Wonder dome. We thank you for your support, in joining us on educational visits and hope that you enjoy them as much as our learners do.

Please take a moment to read the information and year group pages below.

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.

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

Children's Mental Health Week

This year we combined CMHW with Storytelling Week and the combination was perfect. Listening to a story is soothing as well as educational. With the National Year of Reading underway, there will be more opportunities for you to read with your child during our summer Hot Chocolate Mornings. Further information to follow next half term.



Global High Performance Learning Competition



We are absolutely delighted to announce our participation in the Climate Action Initiative - HPL Student Competition! This year's entries were nothing short of exceptional, and the creativity, passion, and environmental commitment shown by learners across our HPL global community truly inspired us. Although we did not win the competition this year, we were very proud of our hedgehog sculptures. (pictured) We competed against schools in many different parts of the world! What a feat.

Well done to everyone!

After School Clubs

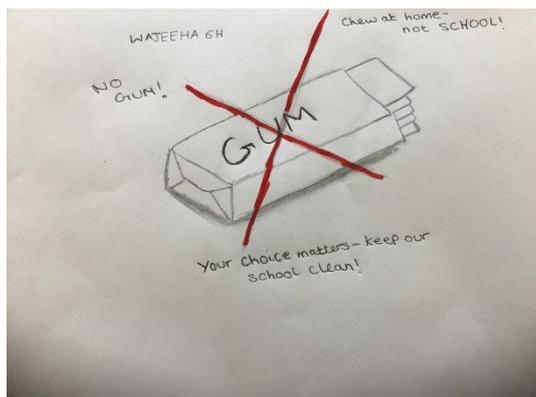
Afterschool clubs continue weekly until Thursday 19th March 2026. You **do not** need to re-register your child for a club in April 2026. Breakfast club runs every day, all year round and provides a delicious and healthy breakfast.

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)



Chewing gum is strictly forbidden at Parkhill Junior School and must never be brought into the building or the playground. We are very proud of our school and want to keep it clean and clear of all that is unpleasant and unhygienic.

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

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!

Last half term’s attendance champions are 3PN and 5WA

‘A minute late for Parkhill, is a minute wasted!’

Every second counts!

Last half term’s punctuality champions are 3PN and 6S

Well done to all the above classes!



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.



Our January- February 2026 High Performance Learners.

3PN Inaya	Inaya has successfully demonstrated the HPL skills of hardworking, self regulation and automaticity when independently writing and editing the middle of a fairy tale. She was able to reflect well and improve her work to show consistent progress.
3C Akira	Akira showed creativity by writing a rhythmic poem using imaginative language. She demonstrated empathy by writing from Rhodopis' perspective and understanding her feelings and experiences. Akira also used evolutionary and revolutionary thinking by transforming the original story into a poem with fresh ideas.
3RN Jayden and Avneet	Jayden and Avneet for working collaboratively to complete a maths puzzle. They demonstrated the ability to transfer knowledge from one activity to another. They used and analysed the problem by breaking down the task.
3M Ambar	Ambar demonstrated excellent linking skills by connecting screen time to real-life consequences, particularly how it can affect friendships, family relationships and emotional wellbeing. She also showed strong realising skills, recognising the wider impact of behaviour beyond the immediate situation.
4W Prusoth	Prusoth for demonstrating an excellent understanding of multiplication and division in maths, and for always working hard to keep his presentation neat.
4G Aliyah	Aliyah has worked incredibly hard in the last two months, breaking her learning down into smaller steps in order to succeed. Her analysing skills have progressed as a result!
4A Aydin	Aydin for working hard across all areas of his learning. He has shown a great effort to work independently, especially in maths and history.
4H Violet	Violet created a vibrantly descriptive recount in English. She used her HPL skills of hardwork and creativity to bring the reader along with her to the ancient Roman streets of Ostia.
5MA Hareem	Hareem has shown excellent HPL skills of hardworking to read all of the Parkhill Reading Tree books. Her dedication and resilience to reading is commendable.
5J Safaa	Safaa has demonstrated her creativity by sensitively addressing the issue of handling loss of someone who is close to you in a guidance leaflet which she created in PSHE. She showed empathy when discussing the issues of grief and identifying strategies to cope with bereavement.
5K Aisha	Aisha has demonstrated creativity through originality and agile through risk-taking in English. She has utilised her own ideas to create imaginative metaphors to help describe the atmosphere of her story.
5WA Izaah	Izaah consistently shows her creative (originality) skills in English. Producing cohesive, considered narratives which use a range of figurative language to set the tone and atmosphere of the story. They are a pleasure to read.
6H Zara	Zara has shown agility by independently conducting additional research on our English topic of Antarctic animals. Her strong enquiry skills are evident in the thoughtful questions she asks about her own learning and her proactive approach to discovering answers.
6P Teodor	Teodor has demonstrated excellent standards of high performance learning this term, especially in science. He has used his linking and analysing skills to generate enquiry questions about our current topic, light.
6S Zuha	Zuha has embraced her learning responsibilities by independently taking notes, applying meta-thinking to challenge herself in mathematics, and enhancing her formal writing skills through cohesive language and cause-and-effect adverbials.
6I Ilyana	Ilyana has demonstrated a resilient and growth-focused approach to learning through sustained perseverance when writing her non-chronological report in English. She has independently refined the cohesion and fluency of her sentence structure, responding positively to feedback and showing a commitment to continuous improvement thus, using her hard-working skills!

Well done, to everyone!

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



CALENDAR OF LEARNING AND CELEBRATION

DATE	LEARNING and CELEBRATION
25th February 2026	Parents Evening 2
23rd February to 6th March 2026	Fairtrade Fortnight
2nd March 2026	Book Week
4th March 2026	Fairtrade Fair (in the hall for children only)
5th March 2026	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)
27th March 2026	Big Breakfast for all our parents and carers.
30th March 2026 to 10th April 2026	Easter Holiday
13th April 2026	Hurray! Children return to school today...and not a single day later!
20th April 2026	Clubs Resume This Week.
30th April 2026	HPL Take Over Day. (Our learners are in charge!)
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)
8th June 2026	My Money Week
11th June 2026	Enterprise Day
15th June 2026	Healthy Eating and Active Week
17th June 2026	Sports Day
25th June 2026	Summer Fair
29th June 2026	Last Week of Clubs
17th July 2026	Last day of term...and not a single day earlier!

Year 3

As we embark on a new half term, the children will continue to dive into new topics, build confidence in a range of subjects and develop independence and resilience in the classroom. We are looking forward to happy and busy weeks, full of learning and progress.



Music

In music, children are learning to play the glockenspiel as well as the ocarina to familiar tunes. Great excitement and enthusiasm has been demonstrated from the children to learn these instruments!

'When we have music, I feel very excited. Music makes me feel calm. I am learning to play the ocarina but I feel confident even if I make mistakes. I like the song that we are practising for our Generation Celebration.'

Anaya S (3RN)

English

Poets in 3C have been very busy writing poetry and performing their poems. They incorporated rhyme, repetition, and rhythm into their poems. The children based their poems on the character *Rhodopis*, focusing on the many chores she was required to do.

'I liked writing poetry because I could put Rhodopis' feelings into my own words.'

Zaynab (3C)



PSHE

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the children took part in a range of engaging mindfulness activities.

We encourage them to continue practising these at home to help them relax, manage their emotions, and build healthy wellbeing habits.

'I love meditating, journaling and listening to music to feel calm and relaxed.'

Eason (3PN)

French

In French, the children have learnt about colours and parts of the body. Through practice and self-regulation, they have learnt to say full sentences to describe the colour of their eyes and hair using adjectives.

'I have learnt how to say that my hair colour is brown and my eye colour is brown, in French. I have enjoyed learning about colours and parts of the body in French. I have used my hardworking and linking HPL skills.'

Nazdar (3M)



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



Year 4



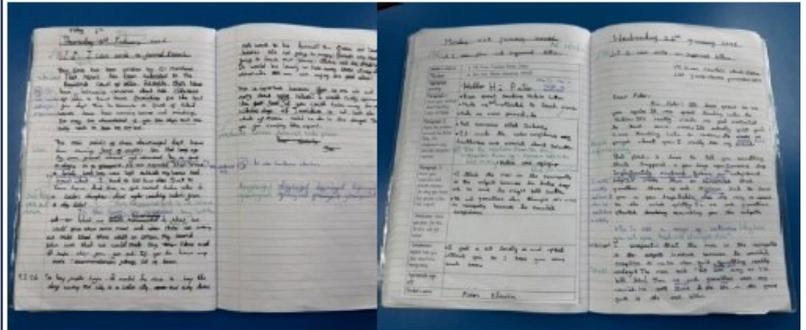
As we enter the new half-term, we reflect on the incredible activities and liveliness of life at Parkhill Junior School. Year 4 took part in *No Pens Day*, carried out a range of experiments, and used their High Performance Learning skills to create new designs and evaluate them. Read on to find out more!



English

'The Thieves of Ostia' is Year 4's class text for the term. Our main characters, Flavia, Jonathan, Nubia and Lupus are trying to find out who is killing the dogs in Ostia! We have created detective boards, noted letters to Flavia's father about the current events and written reports about the issues taking place in Ostia. Year 4 are thoroughly enjoying the story!

"When we read chapter 12, we made a prediction as to what we thought would happen next." - Varoon, 4W



Maths

Multiplication, division and perimeter were the main focus this half term. As a result, on *No Pens Day* the children were encouraged to apply this. Some classes played multiplication games using dice and digit cards — all without using a pen or pencil.

"I found learning about perimeter interesting, because we had to measure the outside of the shape, whereas area is the measurement of the inside." - Zahra, 4G

Sound

In science, we have been learning about how sound travels to our ears. We explored the journey sound takes through the different parts of the ear and how this allows us to hear and recognise different noises. We learned that sound is made when objects vibrate - these waves then reach our ears. *"I liked testing to see which material was better at stopping sound. I was shocked at the winner of our experiment."*

- Mustafa, 4A



Mosaics

In art, we have been learning about Roman mosaics and how they were used to decorate Roman homes and buildings. We discovered that mosaics were made by carefully arranging small pieces of coloured stone or tile, called tesserae, to create patterns and pictures. *"I really liked making the mosaics because it was a bit challenging to glue the tesserae in the right place."*

- Inaayah, 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

Apprends en t'amusant! Enjoy learning!

Year 5 have had a great start to the new year! We continue to be incredibly proud of how they are 'Enjoying Learning and Growing Together' every day. Please read on to find out what our fantastic high performance learners have been up to.



Children's Mental Health Week

We were proud to take part in Children's Mental Health Week 2026, with this year's theme 'This is My Place.' Throughout the week, children explored self-awareness, emotions and wellbeing through assemblies, PSHE lessons and daily mindfulness activities such as yoga, breathing exercises, visualisation and mindful drawing. Classes completed the Parkhill Mile, reintroduced their Worry Monster boxes and kindness jars, and reflected on empathy and confidence in line with our HPL learning behaviours. The week ended with our colourful "Dress to Express" day, which celebrated individuality and encouraged open conversations about mental health across our school community.

'I enjoyed the short tasks we did every day in class, it helped me to learn different ways to feel calm. I think it is very important to learn about mental health.'

Mishel 5MA

William Morris

Linked to our Victorians topic, we explored the work of prominent designer William Morris. We practised his technique of repeating patterns, drawing inspiration from nature. The children considered the colour choice for their design to help ensure a true reflection of Morris' style. We developed our High Performance Learning skills of creativity and hard work with creating our print, and look forward to building the rest of our book next half term!

I enjoyed making my tile and using the printing ink to create a cool design – Derek, 5KH



Earth and Space

In science, we have been looking at the topic *Earth and Space*. We explored Earth's rotation, its axis in relation to the North and South Pole and how this causes us to have seasons. We were very agile and open-minded when learning new words and concepts such as longitude and latitude. We finished our topic with a very special visit by the Wonder Dome, where we were able to 'see' the galaxy.

We got to see how the astronauts landed on the moon and find out that one of Jupiter's moons is full of water – Izzah 5WA

Victorian Day

Year 5 stepped back in time for an exciting Victorian Day, immersing themselves in the experiences of the 19th century. The children discovered what school life was like during the reign of Queen Victoria, even trying their hand at calligraphy. Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated excellent HPL skills, showing empathy as they explored life from different perspectives, collaboration in group activities and resilience when tackling new challenges. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring history to life and deepen their understanding of the Victorian era.

I liked the Victorian times even better because it was very strict - Ceyda – 5J



Reminders

P.E.– Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit with them every Monday and that their drawstring bag is 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.

Keep up the fantastic work. Enjoy Learning!
Mrs Ahsan, Miss Jarvis, Mrs Alveranga and Mrs Khanam-Haque



Year 6



Enjoy Learning! We can't believe we're now half-way through the year! We're pleased to say that we've continued to be incredibly impressed with the hard-work, resilience, empathy and meta-thinking shown by our amazing Year 6 pupils. Please read on to find out more about their learning and achievements.

P.E. Dance

In PE this half-term, we focused on linking skills, flow and movement. This helped us during a Chinese dance workshop, where we developed our understanding of other cultures through dance. We enjoyed working together to learn a Chinese dance, focusing on timing, balance and expression to create smooth, flowing sequences.

"It was great when it all came together and we added our props. It made the dance feel really special and exciting." 6I Ismail



CMHW

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we were given short daily activities to do. One of these was mindful drawing. This activity helps on focusing your awareness on the present moment. We also did some yoga that can increase attention spans and allows more oxygen to circulate around our body and brain.

"I feel more focussed and calmer after doing the 5 minute activities. I think it can really help children and adults with dealing with stress and help them get though the day easier." Ada 6H



Geography

In geography, we created a model of the Earth's layers using plasticine. We shaped the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core, learning about each layer's characteristics and composition. This hands-on activity helped reinforce our understanding of the Earth's structure and its components through the HPL skills, collaboration and big-picture thinking.

"We used our linking and creating skills to think outside of the box when making our presentation. I used my notes from geography lessons to make my project informative." Mason 6P



PSHE

In PSHE, children debated whether street lights should be switched off, linking arguments to light pollution. They used creative skills through flexible thinking and applied analysing skills, by researching evidence, weighing viewpoints, and using information to support informed, respectful debate with peers collaboratively.

"We used our empathy skills to listen to our team members and the opposition in our debate. I enjoyed taking part and finding reasons to counter the opposing team." Saif 6I



Keep up the fantastic work. Enjoy Learning!
Mrs Hansen Mrs Ibrahim, Mrs Simms and Miss Pover



Special Feature!



Spring really is in the air
You can feel it all around....!



Inaaya, Imaani and Heba worked their magical green fingers to bring this beautiful flower, from a bulb to a stunning bloom! Their dedication and care, over several weeks, led to this breath-taking amaryllis. Look at their photographs below, to see the flower grow before your very eyes.



We made this happen!

LABEL YOUR UNIFORM



- Saves money
- Helps us return them to you
- Saves time

**LABEL IT NOW, SAVE YOURSELF TIME
LATER!**

Thank you, from **The Official Helpers** (Years 3 to 6)