

Parkhill Junior School October 2026 HT Newsletter 2

Article 32: You have the right to be protected from work that harms you and is bad for your health and education.

HPL: Linking through connection finding.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As summer finally became autumn, the sun continued to shine, at Parkhill Junior School! With no time to waste, we have embarked on our high performance learning journey, with endless energy. Themed days and weeks are on the horizon so please ensure that you check the Calendar of Learning and Celebration.

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.

We thank you for your continued support, cooperation and kindness.

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	Ms G. Uppal Deputy Headteacher
Safeguarding Deputy	Mrs N. Tanner Inclusion Lead
Safeguarding Deputy	Ms N. Reeves School Business Lead
Safeguarding Deputy	Mrs M. Ahsan Associate Senior Leader
Safeguarding Deputy	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.

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you for your generous contributions for this very important cause. We raised £130 and loved wearing our jeans!

Harvest Collection

All donations go to a local food bank and are deeply appreciated.



Black History Month



October is Black History Month and we are fully immersed in the history, music and culture that it brings. More to follow in our November HT newsletter. We still have so much more high performance learning to enjoy during this exciting month!

After School Clubs

Afterschool clubs are fully up and running. If you wish to apply for a place in a club, including Breakfast Club, please email the admin team. The last week of clubs for this term will be **30th November 2026**.

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 ask you not to distribute birthday food, in the playground.**



No Nuts!



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 Champs are 3C and 6H

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

Every second counts!

This half term's Punctuality Champs are 3N, 5MA and 5P



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/2026/09/attendance-policy-2026-2027.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/2026/09/Parkhill-Junior-School-Uniform-Policy-2026-27.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/2026/09/Home-school-Communications-Policy-2026-28.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 platforms 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.

Walk, cycle scoot to school

Please try to come to school on foot. Dangerous parking on the yellow zig zag lines, across residents' driveways and in the middle of the road, have already led to several near accidents. It is unlawful and hazardous. Parkhill campaigned for Safer Streets around the school to keep your children and you, safe and stress-free.

We expect all in our community to respect this. For everyone's sake.

CALENDAR OF LEARNING AND CELEBRATION

DATE	LEARNING and CELEBRATION
23rd October 2026	Day Glow Day (Dress up Day) Dress Brightly!
26th to 30th October 2026	Half Term Holiday
16th November 2026	Road Safety Week
16th November 2026	Anti bullying Week Begins... with Odd Socks Day.
20th November 2026	Children in Need (Dress up day) Dress Spotty and Dotty!
3rd December 2026	Christmas Fayre (for children only)
15th December 2026	Christmas dinner for children plus Christmas Jumper Day or Dress Super Shiny Sparkly!
16th December 2026	End of Term Children's Parties
18th December 2026	Big Breakfast for Parents and Carers in the hall
21st December 2026 to 1st January 2027	Christmas Holiday
4th January 2027	Professionals Training Day – school closed to children
5th January 2027	Children return to school
27th January 2027	Pupil Voice Fair
10th February 2027	Parents Evening
15th to 19th February 2027	Half term Holiday
24th February 2027	Parents Evening
1st March 2027	Book Week Begins
8th March 2027	British Science Week
26th March to 9th April 2027	Easter Holiday
3rd May 2027	Bank Holiday
28th May 2027	Professionals Training Day – school closed to children
31st May to 4th June 2027	Half term Holiday
23rd July 2027	Summer Holiday Begin...and not a day sooner!



Every child can.

***Our September 2026 High Performance Learners
Well done to everyone!***

3N Elisia	Elisia, for being hardworking and persevering with her first publishing task in Year 3. She also used precision when selecting vocabulary to engage with her reader.
3C Giana	Giana used linking through generalisation to connect hunter-gatherers' needs with farming, and was agile, exploring how and why people changed their way of life.
3P Ruzain	Ruzain has used his analysing skills to contribute to a class discussion about the main character in the story. He was able to infer and offer an original suggestion about the character's feelings.
4G Ibraheem	Ibraheem has used his creative revolutionary skills in order to create a quiz on Roman numerals for his class teacher to answer! He also used his automaticity skills to recap on previous learning in order to make it accurate.
4J Laith	Laith has shown that he can link his understanding of the text to decipher which issues can be used to decide arguments for and against. He used paragraphs and suitable sentence starters in his writing. Laith also took pride in his presentation.
4H Aarav	In Aarav's spare time, he researched Ancient Greece, using his enquiry skills . He then created a wonderful poster. Because of this project, Aarav had the confidence to share the facts that he had learned with his class.
4N Vlada	For using her enquiry skills and showing willingness to learn towards writing a diary entry. Vlada demonstrated confidence in experimenting with grammar, to engage the audience based on the intonation she used to read her work.
5MA Romilda	For using her hard working through practice skills, to round bigger numbers. This was a task Romilda found difficult to begin with, but she persevered and was able to confidently round numbers by the end of the unit.
5I Kanishka	Kanishka used her empathy skills through confidence to understand how others might experience the setting. She carefully considered their feelings and perspectives, which helped her create a vivid and descriptive setting that readers could connect with.
5SA Freya	Freya used her linking skills when writing her setting description of an antique shop in English. She used her prior knowledge as well as her five senses to write an effective description.
5P Mabrur	Mabrur used his linking skills in maths through connection finding to help him complete his maths work when rounding numbers up to 1,000,000, using his previous knowledge and learning to help him.
6H Izzah	Izzah begun the year using her linking skills when doing the first lesson of history. She was able to reflect on her historical learning from Year 5 and not only recalled facts but she was able to make comparisons.
6A Riann	Riann has used his creativity and linking when writing his diary entry for 'The Silver Sword'. He independently applied the rules for creating a diary, manipulating them to achieve an effective outcome. He also edited for cohesion using previously taught grammar rules.
6P Maryam	Maryam has used her creativity to think fluently when writing a blurb for 'The Silver Sword'. She has used her analysing skills to make logical predictions about the novel and made links to her knowledge of WW2 to add context to her blurb.
6S Aisha	Aisha demonstrated her HPL skill of intellectual confidence when she shared how she solved a difficult mathematical problem. She clearly articulated her thought process and used examples to support and enhance others' understanding.



Year 3

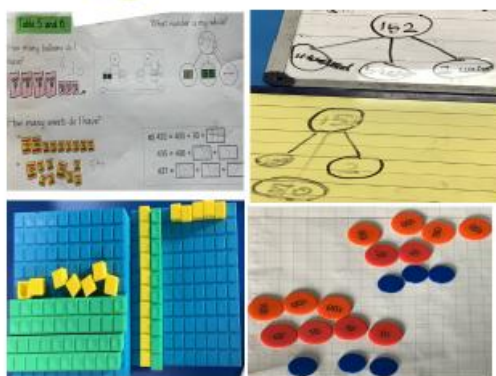


It was a fantastic start to the school year, and we are delighted to share some of the exciting learning that has been happening across our classrooms! The children have settled into their new routines and have shown great enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude towards their learning. Many have already impressed us with their achievements, earning a special mention in our 'Wow Book'! We look forward to celebrating many more successes as our learners continue to develop their skills and grow as high performing learners.

Science

This term in science, we have been learning about skeletons in humans and other animals. We explored the different bones in the human body and discovered how our skeleton supports us, protects our organs and helps us move. We also investigated the skeletons of different animals, identifying similarities and differences between them. Through practical activities and discussions, we developed our scientific knowledge and used our HPL skills of comparing, observing and making connections.

"I enjoyed labelling body parts, it helped me learn where the bones are in a human body." Aiyana 3N



Maths

We have been developing our understanding of place value by exploring different ways to partition numbers within 100. We used practical resources, including counters, Base 10 equipment, place value grids and part-whole models, to represent numbers in different ways. Through these hands-on activities, we have strengthened our number skills and used our HPL skills to make connections and explain our mathematical thinking.

"I liked using the base 10 and counters to solve the problems. The resources made it easier (and more fun) to work out the answers. We used our analysing and linking skills to solve the problems" Sara 3P

History

We have been exploring what life was like during the Stone Age. We have investigated ancient artefacts and discovered how archaeologists use evidence to learn about the past. We have enjoyed finding out how early humans lived as hunter-gatherers, before gradually becoming farmers and settling in communities. Through discussions and practical activities, we have developed their historical understanding and used their HPL skills to make connections between the past and present.

"I enjoyed learning about the Stone Age because I discovered how people survived without the things we have today. I was surprised that they used stones to make tools and that they changed from hunting animals to growing their own food!" Adam 3C



Enjoy learning and growing together
Ms Castell, Mrs Nangia, Miss Pang

Year 4

October is in full swing, and Year 4 have certainly hit the ground running! From embracing new challenges and thinking creatively to showing curiosity, resilience and independence, the children have been putting their High Performance Learning skills into action in all sorts of exciting ways. There's been plenty of exploring, discovering and achieving along the way, so take a look at what we've been up to and celebrate the fantastic learning happening across the year group!

Science

This term in science, our topic is *Teeth and the Digestive System*. We have been exploring how to care for our teeth and what causes tooth decay, including the importance of brushing regularly and making healthy food choices. This links to our PSHE unit on nutrition and dental health. We have also been learning about the different parts of the digestive system and how they work together to break down food and absorb nutrients.

"The digestion experiment was very messy but also very interesting" Zayyan 4H



PE

In PE, the children have been developing their football skills. They learned how to dribble the ball and then played in matches against each other!

"In P.E we are learning football skills. To play a good game we have move around, pass the ball and encourage each other. It's my favourite sport!"

Alam 4N

French

Bonjour! This term, Year 4 are learning the names of different animals in French, as well as how to tell the time. They are building on their previous learning by using their automaticity skills to recall numbers and apply them in new contexts.

"I like learning about different languages – French is my favourite!" – Nahim, 4J



RE

This term, we are focusing on Hinduism. The children explored a range of artefacts and discussed what they thought each one might be used for. We also explored the symbol and meaning of *Aum* and learned about the three aspects of Brahman. Through stories, the children considered the messages they conveyed and what these might teach Hindus about their beliefs..

'We annotated the different artefacts, signs and symbols. I learned that Aum represents Brahman..!' Ibraheem, 4G

Reminders

- *Remember to bring in your PE kits every Monday, and take them home to be washed 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 by January in order to take part in their music lessons.

Mr Hansen, Mrs Nayak, Miss Jarvis and Ms Gay.

Year 5

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.



English

A journey back in time! The children brought history to life as they acted out a scene from their English text, 'Tudor Rose'. Three characters - Rosie, the Queen and the Soldier- took us on an exciting adventure when Rosie suddenly woke up in Tudor times. With fantastic acting, imagination and a little Tudor drama as the children stepped into the past and made history come alive!

"I really enjoyed doing the role play because I was the Queen and I used my creating skills through originality to act out how I think the Queen would." – Praise SMA

Science

In science this half term, we have been learning about the properties of different materials and the importance of them. We have sorted materials according to their properties and carried out an experiment to investigate which material would be the best thermal insulator.

"It was interesting to think about the different properties and use my skill of agility to think about a problem and explore the different paths." Violet 5P



History

In history, children have explored the Tudor monarchs, investigating their reigns and the causes and consequences of the Spanish Armada. They have developed resourcefulness by analysing historical sources, reciprocity through collaborative discussion, and reflectiveness when considering different perspectives. Children have shown resilience when answering challenging historical questions and making evidence-based judgements.

"I used different resources to understand what life was like for people during Tudor times and thought carefully about the evidence." – Aizah 5I



RE

In RE, children have been learning about why prayer is important for religious believers. They have understood that prayer looks different in different religions and can be silent or spoken. The children have made connections and recognised the similarities between different faiths and shown empathy towards each other in class. As well as this, we have been open-minded in understanding that some religions pray in congregation, and some alone.

"I understand that different religions have different ways of praying and no one should judge how others pray and everyone should be respectful of each other." Riona 5SA



Keep up the fantastic work. Enjoy Learning!
Mrs Ahsan, Mrs Patel, Mrs Ibrahim and Mrs Ahmed

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. These must be completed and 'turned in' so your child's class teacher can see.

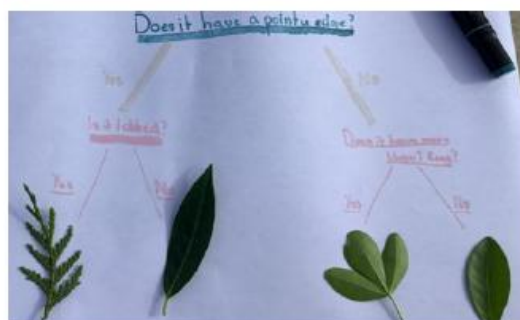
Year 6

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 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 notice key details and from this, we inferred what it was like at that time.

"We learnt about different sources- primary and secondary. We analysed objects and took an educated guess on how they were used during the Blitz." Umairah 6H



Science

Over the term, we have enjoyed a hands-on approach to our science learning. We went into the Parkhill garden and gathered different leaves. Then we applied our knowledge to create classification branching diagrams by using their physical characteristics.

"We found out we had to use closed questions as this gave us definite answers and we had to use characteristics of our organisms rather than opinions for them to work." Aaliyah 6S

English

In English, we've been reading 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier, writing our own 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 and learnt about different word classes, looking at how these can be brought together to create descriptions that are engaging and entertaining for our reader.

"Acting helps me to understand the character so I can use emotive language to engage the reader," Emilia 6A



Art

This October, Parkhill participated in *The Big Draw*. This year's theme 'Make a Mark,' explored how drawing can foster connection, collaboration, and shared expression. We explored drawing through experimentation with unconventional tools and materials such as sticks, spatulas and pinecones. We used our HPL skills to discover playful exploration and expand our definitions of what drawing can be.

"The Big Draw activity was fun because we got to explore different ways of creating art." Shayan 6P



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 Alveranga, Mrs Simms and Miss Pover