

🌸 Park Hill News – Spring 2 🌸

Welcome to our Spring Park Hill Newsletter.

What a busy term it has been! We had Ofsted in January, various family events, a visit from a storyteller, Year 4's class assembly and we celebrated Easter with bonnets and decorated eggs. Thanks for working with us. Park Hill families are the best!

Now, it's time for Easter eggs and time with the family.



We wish you a happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 13th April.

★ Mrs Logan and Mrs Boardman ★

Concerns During the Holidays If you need anything out of school hours, please email office@parkhillprimary.co.uk and someone will get back to you. If you are worried about a child out of school hours, please email NSPCC on help@NSPCC.org.uk



Our REACH value next term is Respect



We will be thinking about how to show Respect inside and outside school. Respect will be our 'superpower!'



★ School Matters ★

Site Security

Our new electronic gates at the front of the school are helping to improve our security. We continue to practise our emergency plans and procedures.

New Staff at Park Hill

We welcome Miss Mynett to the Park Hill family. She is an apprentice and is working in Early Years. Miss Mynett is a former pupil and we are glad to have her back!

Park Hill Personal Development

Our Park Hill Passport and Park Hill Pennies scheme continue to support our children's personal development. It was great to see that Ofsted graded our personal development as a strong standard. We totally agree and are so proud of our children and their developments. Keep it up.

Dog Mess

We have had a lot of dog mess outside our school recently and we have reported this to Sandwell. We always try and pick it up if we see it in advance and I have put up signs for dog walkers, reminding them to respect our school. If you notice it, please report it as well via <https://my.sandwell.gov.uk/>

Fundraising

As some of you will have seen, we are dismantling our 'pirate ship' on Key Stage 1. It was found to be unsafe when we had an inspection. In the future, we will be talking to children and seeing what we can build and how we can fundraise. Watch this space!

📖 Storyteller Visit – John Kirk 📖

Earlier this week, we enjoyed a wonderful visit from John Kirk – a professional storyteller. From The Sly Fox to Shakespeare, we all heard and joined in with his expressive retellings.



A few of our pupil librarians and our pupil journalists interviewed John and found out some interesting things about his career and what inspires him:

Thank you to Cora, Logan, Toby, Joey, Anna and Cam for asking your thoughtful questions!

He trained as an actor but has done lots of other jobs, including bricklaying. Now he has travelled the world as a storyteller, from Beijing to Brasilia!

John's favourite childhood story is *The Hobbit* because he has fond memories of his dad reading it to him and he loves fantasy action stories.

His favourite stories to perform are ones with a twist, where you don't see it coming.

He has won awards for his poetry but his 9-year-old daughter has won more!

John's favourite things to write are poems – ones that tell a story or are a bit silly! Here is our favourite:

Feeding time at London Zoo

When the supermarket delivered to London Zoo
it caused an awful hullabaloo.

There were bars of soap for the antelope,
croissants for the deer.

Spaghetti for the spiders
and the pandas all got beer.

Tins of peas for tamarinds
and pints of milk for camels.

The penguins got some sausages,
the lions, bags of apples.

The animals were furious
and all started complaining;
why was dinner muddled up
and who should they be blaming?

The zookeepers apologised
for the mess they'd made of tea.

What did they expect,
the online shop

was done by a chimpanzee!





World Book Day

What a fantastic time we had celebrating World Book Day in school! The excitement was clear from the moment the children arrived, dressed as their favourite book characters. From classic story heroes to modern favourites, the costumes were creative, imaginative and full of personality.

Throughout the day, children had the opportunity to share books with one another, talking enthusiastically about their favourite stories and authors. One of the highlights was choosing which stories to listen to, as different teachers across the school opened their classrooms to read a range of exciting texts. This gave children the chance to explore new books and enjoy being read to in a variety of settings.

Our “Book Talk Bistros” were a great success, creating a relaxed and inviting space for children to discuss books, recommend stories and develop their love of reading. Alongside this, book quizzes brought a sense of fun and friendly competition, allowing children to test their knowledge of well-known stories and characters.

This year’s celebrations also linked closely to the National Year of Reading, reminding us all the importance of developing a lifelong love of books. We are excited to continue this momentum, with increased opportunities for children to access literature: using the mobile library and taking part in a range of reading-inspired events. Our local libraries are showcasing several events, designed to foster a strong reading community. For more information visit the Sandwell library website.

World Book Day was a wonderful reminder of how books can bring us together, spark imagination and open the door to new worlds. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special!





Personal Development

This remains a key strength at Park Hill, with a particular highlight being the work of our pupil journalists (Cam and Anna) and our school photographer (Ben). This dedicated group of children have taken ownership of creating their own school newsletter, reporting on events and sharing important moments from across the school. They have planned, written and edited articles independently, developing key skills in communication, teamwork and leadership while writing for a real audience.

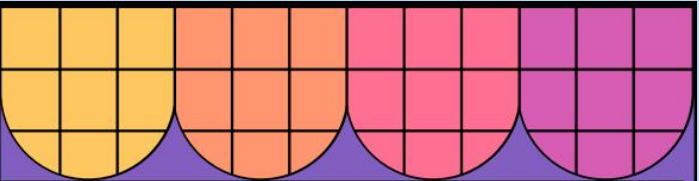


Weekly Star

Bouncing Back

Yet another week starting with a Year 5 and 6 event. Sham and Leah taught us all about bouncing back. We learned of what we could do if we encountered any of our own triggers and gave us strategies to help control our emotions. Everyone really enjoyed the sessions.

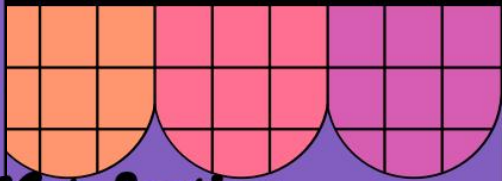
Amoraè told us that, "The ladies were nice and it was very helpful to talk about what could change our emotions. It gave us strategies to use drawing and writing to help when we feel triggers." Skylar added, " I really liked the breathing exercises we could use; especially if you are finding something difficult and how to refocus on it." Everyone had a great time and all feel better prepared to bounce back after any challenges.



Sarah (Year 6) told us to feel excited about one of Year 6's key texts called Crater Lake. She said that the book, "makes you feel excited so you just want to keep reading more. It makes you feel happy when you get to find out what is going to happen next."

Elliott added that he loves the new graphic novels we have in school, especially Dog Man because it just makes him laugh all the time!

If you wanted to read one of these books, go and check with our librarians who can help you choose even more to enjoy.



Art Section

How to make a flower bouquet

You will need white paper for beginners or any colour paper for less new people, yellow and green card, a glue stick, and another sheet of white for the holder. A glue stick and scissors are also needed.

To make this, first grab the holder sheet and cut it into two pieces shaped like a cone. Then cut your chosen colour of paper or white paper and make a flower shape. Repeat

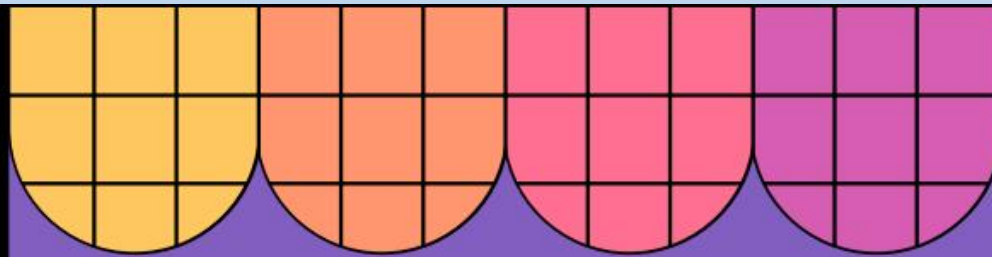
this multiple times. Next, using the scissors make yellow circles and green strips. Make as many of these as your flower tops. Glue the circles on the

top of the flower tops and the strips on the bottom back. Then put glue on the cone shape and glue the cones together with the flowers in the middle. Done!



Look out for next week's edition of the

Weekly Star



National Year of Reading 2026

This year, 2026, is the national year of reading. There are lots of reading events that can help us "Go all in!" with our reading. One of the aims is to make sure every school in England has a library by 2029. They are also trying to distribute 72,000 books by 2029 and we can help by donating old and unused books. We interviewed a few people to see what their favourite things to read were.

Lola (from Nursery) told us her favourite book was Humpty Dumpty because her mum makes noises to make it fun.



Aria (Reception) enjoys reading Meesha Makes Friends because she enjoyed the story's ending where Meesha is able to make her own friends.
Some children enjoy reading books more than once, Bella (Year 1) said, "I love reading Beauty and the Beast because I know the story and get to share it all the time."
Darcie in Year Two told us how she likes reading non-fiction books to learn extra information - she was currently reading all about Elvis Presley!

Netball Competition

Well done to our Park Hill netball team, who proudly represented the school at a recent competition and achieved an excellent **3rd place finish!**

Throughout the event, the team demonstrated fantastic determination, teamwork and skill in every match they played. What stood out most, however, was their outstanding attitude. The children always showed great sportsmanship, encouraging one another, celebrating successes together and showing respect to other teams.

Their positivity and support for each other was a real highlight of the day, reflecting the strong values we promote at Park Hill. Whether winning or facing a challenge, the team remained resilient, kind and focused.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented our school. Well done to all involved!



Dates for your Diary



April

13th – Children return to school

14th – Curiosity Club starts

15th – Forest School Club starts

15th – Story Club starts

16th – Year 5 swimming begins (every Thursday)

16th – Dental Checks for 5 year olds

May

4th Bank holiday Monday – school

11th – 14th KS2 SATs

15th – Year 6 Drayton Manor Park

22nd - Baggie Bird Penalty Shootout assembly

22nd – Break up

June

1st – Inset Day

2nd – Children return

1st – 12th Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

8th – 12th Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

11th – Parent/Carer coffee afternoon – Brook Advisory



12th – WBA Baggie Bord Penalty Shootout competition

17th – Sports Day – weather permitting

19th – Sports for Champions – athlete visit

24th – Sports Day if cancelled 17th

July

1st – Year 6 High school inductions

2nd – Year 6 High school inductions

3rd – Science Workshops – Assembly & Workshops

7th – SATs results

9th – Ukulele concert

15th – Rocksteady concert

17th – Children break up

20th – Inset day



PE and Forest School Days – Summer Term 2026

There are no changes to PE or Forest School days after Easter.



Please ensure your child is in the correct PE kit on their PE day: navy tracksuit or leggings, a navy jumper or hoody, a white t-shirt and plain black or white pumps / trainers. Children cannot take part in PE in crocs or any pumps that have a platform, due to health and safety risks, and long hair must be tied up. Thank you.

⚽ PE ⚽

Nursery – Monday am
Reception – Monday am
Year 1 – Monday pm
Year 2 – Monday pm
Year 3 – Tuesday am
Year 4 – Tuesday am
Year 5 – Tuesday pm
Year 6 – Tuesday pm



🍁 Forest School 🍁

Nursery – Wednesday pm
Reception – Wednesday pm
Year 1 – Wednesday am
Year 2 – Wednesday am
Year 3 – Thursday pm
Year 4 – Thursday pm
Year 5 – Thursday am
Year 6 – Thursday am



Attendance Matters with Mrs Boardman

Our attendance keeps on improving and is now 95.6% - up 1.2% from this time last year! As always, we want to work together to support good school attendance so please get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Attendance Competition

After Easter, we will launch another of our attendance competitions: Never Miss a Day in May. Every child who comes in on every day that school is open in May will be entered into a raffle to win a hamper of goodies!



Leave of Absence Forms

Please can I remind you that a purple Leave of Absence form must be completed for any planned absence, no matter how short or what the reason is? These can be collected from the school office.

Page 1 and page 2 must be completed by a parent with whom the child normally lives. If one parent is not accompanying the child on the trip, this needs to be ticked on page 2.

Although we can't authorise holidays during term-time, these are needed for safeguarding.

September 2024

Sandwell
Municipal Borough Council

Schools Attendance Support Service
Leave of Absence Request

Before completing this form, please read the Guidance Notes for Parents

Section A: Child's Details

All actions must be fully completed – Please complete a separate Leave of Absence Request for each child

School			
Child's Name		Date of Birth	
Child's Address			

Section B: Reason for Leave of Absence – THIS MUST BE COMPLETED

I would like to request a Leave of Absence for the above-named child:

First date of Absence from school		Last date of Absence from school	
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Head Teachers can only **authorize** a Leave of Absence Request if they consider that the detail and information you provide is an exceptional circumstance. You **MUST** provide all the details and information you would want the Head Teacher to consider in deciding if your request can be granted.

Is the applicant (named below) accompanying the child for the requested Leave of Absence? No Yes

By signing this application, I understand and agree with the following:

- I have read the Leave of Absence Request Guidance Notes and understand if the Head Teacher declines the Leave of Absence, the school can request issue of a Penalty Notice (a fine of up to £100 in respect of each child) and I will be subject to further legal proceedings in the Magistrates Court.
- I am a Parent/Carer with whom the child normally resides.
- I understand it is the Head Teacher's decision as to whether or not it is an 'exceptional circumstance' and I should discuss any questions I have regarding the decision made by the Head Teacher prior to the absence starting.
- It is my responsibility as a parent / carer to ensure I know whether the leave has been authorized by the Head Teacher.

Parent/Carer Applicant PRINT NAME	Middle/Initial (optional as appropriate)	Date of Birth	
Parent/Carer Applicant SIGNATURE		Date	
Relationship to child			Parent / Carer telephone no.

Please turn over for Section C

Punctuality

Please remember that school start times are:

Reception to Year 6: 8.55am

Nursery am and 30 hours: 8.30am

Nursery pm: 12.30pm

Children arriving after these times are missing valuable time to settle into the school day and important learning. Thank you for your support.

