



# Newsletter



## Spring Term 1

As we begin the second half of the spring term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic things happening at Parklands. This newsletter is a little later than planned, but I hope you'll agree that our wonderful children and school community deserve celebrating!

### **Adventures at Condover Hall**

Our Year 5 and 6 children had an unforgettable time on their residential at Condover Hall! From high ropes to team challenges, they showed incredible resilience, teamwork, and courage. The staff who accompanied them were so proud of how they represented our school. A huge well done to all who took part—and to the parents for trusting us with your children for two nights of adventure!

### **Poetry Recital – A School Full of Performers!**

The whole school took part in a fantastic poetry recital, with every class sharing a performance. We had powerful poems, fantastic raps, and even some impressive singing! The children showed great confidence and creativity—it was a joy to watch.

### **Community Spirit – Cake, Movies & Generosity**

A huge thank you to our parents and carers for your generosity in supporting our recent fundraising events. Between the cake sale and movie night, we raised much needed funds to support our school. We have also raised over £500 through Asda's Cash Pot for Schools initiative.

### **A Growing School Community**

Parklands continues to be a school of choice for many families, and we are delighted to have welcomed lots of new children this term. It's wonderful to see them settling in so well, and we know they are already feeling part of our Parklands family. Thank you to all our pupils for being so welcoming—you make this school the special place that it is. Most classes are now full, but we do have a few spaces left so if you know anyone who is new to the area or considering a school move, please ask them to get in touch for a tour.

We look forward to a fantastic half term ahead, with plenty of learning, hard work, and memorable moments along the way. As always, thank you for your ongoing support.



Well, even headteachers make mistakes, and I certainly proved that this week! Apologies for the confusion about last Monday's INSET day—I know some families had an unexpected extra school run this morning. The term dates were always there, but I didn't write the wrong start date on the bulletin, and I hold my hands up for that one! Thank you, as always, for your patience and understanding.

# Nursery

This half term has certainly been a busy one! The story of 'The gingerbread man' drew great engagement, as the children immersed themselves in the adventures of the gingerbread man; from concocting their own recipes in the mud kitchen to exploring ways of crossing the river to avoid the wicked fox! Making their own gingerbread biscuits, was a particular highlight of that week, too. Celebrating different cultures and beliefs, sparked the children's excitement and wonder, when discovering Chinese New Year. Tasting traditional Chinese cuisine, listening to music and learning about the annual celebration was enjoyed by all.

Outside provision has continued to be a popular part of the Nursery day, with the children exploring their love for construction, sensory play, and discovering the natural world in the woodland area, come rain or shine!



# Reception

What a fun half term Reception have had! They have enjoyed exploring outside and discovering changes in weather and nature. They have also enjoyed learning about real life heroes such as police officers; celebrating Chinese New Year; and having parents come in for a 'Stay and Play' focused on 'love'. During busy learning the children have used their imaginations, practiced turn taking and explored a range of resources. We have shared so many wonderful books which have inspired the children during their busy learning. They have created zoos in the small world, masks in the creative area, written books, painted pictures and so much more...



# Year 1

This half term, Year 1 has been full of excitement and discovery! The children have loved becoming authors, using their imaginations to write their own stories inspired by Hermelin, the little detective mouse. They carefully planned their tales, adding exciting details and illustrations to bring their ideas to life.

In Music, the class have enjoyed learning new songs and dances and even spent time learning the glockenspiel. Geography lessons have been just as engaging, with the children developing their map skills to explore different places. They learned how to read simple maps, spot key landmarks, and even create their own maps of the school.

The term ended with a brilliant DT week where the class planned, created and evaluated their own moving vehicles.



# Year 2

The children worked so hard in Spring 1. In English lessons, they focused on the book 'The Bog Baby' by Jeanne Willis. The children all thoroughly enjoyed narrative writing and focusing on using adjectives to describe creatures. During Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of shape and money. The class also enjoyed learning all about the late Queen Elizabeth II. History lessons taught the children about the role of a Monarch; they learned about the Royal Family history by studying their family tree; and kings and queens have to make important decisions for the country. They even came up with a class set of rules.

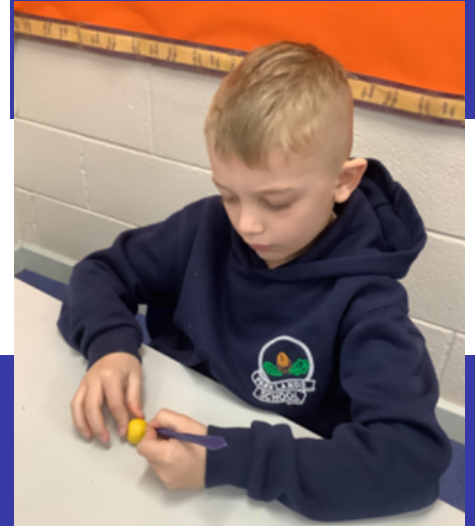
Other highlights this half term have been weekly dance lessons with Hayley, Languages Day and Number Day.





# Year 3

In English, the children have been studying the book, *Jemmy Button*, exploring the character of Jemmy and producing a return narrative. A key focus has been on improving handwriting, and the progress they have made is exceptional. In Mathematics, the class has continued developing their multiplication skills, with a particular emphasis on the 4 and 8-times tables. They have strengthened both accuracy and speed while identifying the connection between the two. In Design Technology, the children have been designing and creating pencil cases, learning to sew using a running stitch. In History, the children have been studying Ancient Greece, with a focus on Greek culture. They explored topics such as traditional clothing for men and women and the origins of the Olympic Games.



# Year 4

This term, Year 4 have been thoroughly engrossed in their magical class text, 'Arthur and the Golden Rope.' They have enjoyed describing mythical heroes, cunning villains and ancient lands, as well as masterfully retelling the story of the unassuming warrior, Arthur. Inspired by this bravery, Year 4 have worked hard to conquer multiplication, division, time and fractions in maths. Year 4 have remained resilient facing times tables ahead of the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June.

Year 4 have also tackled teeth, the digestive system and food chains in science. They have been wonderfully inquisitive when researching the workings of the human body and carefully investigating the effects of different liquids on our teeth in an egg-citing experiment using eggshells. The children have also shown their curiosity in their latest history unit exploring the reign of the Anglo-Saxons, learning about their origins, territory, leaders and impact on the place names we still use today.





# Year 5

Year 5 has had a fantastic start to the Spring Term, showing enthusiasm and eagerness across all subjects. In English, they have explored *The Promise*, discussing its themes and developing their writing, while *The House with the Chicken Legs* has sparked imagination and lively discussions. In Maths, they have tackled fractions with determination, growing in confidence and applying their knowledge in different ways. Meanwhile, in History, they have been fascinated by the Tudors, asking thoughtful questions and making great connections.

A highlight has been choir, with many children eagerly rehearsing for Young Voices. Their enthusiasm has been inspiring! Another memorable experience was the residential at Condover Hall, where they took on exciting challenges, built resilience, and had great fun.



# Year 6

Year 6 have had an exciting and busy term! Many of the children embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Condover Hall where they tackled challenges, built teamwork skills and made lasting memories.

In the classroom, pupils have been working hard to improve their arithmetic skills and have been mastering the use of colons in their writing while studying 'A Story Like the Wind' by Gill Lewis.

In Mathematics, they have explored the areas of shapes and practised using coordinates for reflections and translations. Meanwhile, in History, the children have been diving into the fascinating world of the Maya civilization, learning all about Maya houses, religion and the ancient wonder of the world – the Chichén Itzá. DT week was also very successful this half term – the children planned and made their own burgers which they thoroughly enjoyed eating and evaluating!



## School Term and Holiday Dates

2024-2025

INSET*	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September		
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	to	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Half Term Holiday	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	to	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Autumn Term 2	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	to	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Holiday	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	to	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Spring Term 1	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	to	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	to	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
INSET*	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February		
Spring Term 2	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	to	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	to	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May		
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	to	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
INSET*	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May		
Half Term Holiday	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	to	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer Term 2	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	to	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July
INSET*	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		

\* School is closed for INSET (In Service Training) days

## Term Dates 2025-2026

Staff Training (INSET)	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September		
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	To	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October
School Holiday	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	To	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
Autumn Term 2	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	To	1:30pm Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
School Holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	To	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
Staff Training (INSET)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	To	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
School Holiday	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	To	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Staff Training (INSET)	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February		
Spring Term 2	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	To	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
School Holiday	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	To	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Summer Term 1	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	To	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May
Staff Training (INSET)	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May		
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May		
School Holiday	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	To	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer Term 2	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	To	1:30pm Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July
Staff Training (INSET)	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		