

The Park Schools Federation

Junior, Infant & Nursery

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Monday October 21, 2024

Autumn Term Newsletter 6

Dear Mums/Dads/Carers,

Year 3/4 Residential to Mount Cook Adventure Centre

What an amazing time we had! As you will be well aware we took 86 of our Year 3/4 children away on residential last week and had a fantastic adventure. I view residential experiences as essential opportunities to expand the profound personal development of every child. They encourage participants to 'push' their personal boundaries in a safe and supportive environment and create life-long experiences/memories that are cherished well into adulthood.

These kinds of trips can have a hugely positive effect on developing children's self-esteem, independence, teamwork and wider experiences which, in turn, have a positive impact in school on attitudes to learning, behaviour, pupil well-being and academic achievement.

Another big element to these kinds of experiences is staying away from home for a night. Some of our children were very familiar with staying away from home with other relatives and family friends, but many of our children had never spent a night away from home and will have benefited immensely from this development in their independence.



As always with a residential trip, there are a few bits of lost property which weren't claimed. These will be stored in our lost property area, in the corridor next to our infant hall. If you have any missing items which are not in the lost property, please let us know as they might turn up in another child's bag. It is important to bear in mind that we are working with 7 and 8 year olds on this trip and this was their first time away. So, it is perfectly reasonable to expect that a few items may have been mixed up in children's bags who were sharing their bedroom.

We have had a question from a parent about their child's spending money. Families were informed that children should not take more than £5 and that the children would be responsible for their own money.

Our Year 3/4 children who stayed behind also had a fabulous time, enjoying non-curriculum experiences, with lots of outdoor Forest Schools adventures.

Parents' Evenings

By now, as long as you have handed in your request form, parents/carers should have received your parents' evening appointment timings. If you've not done this yet, please make sure you give your form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Your child's workbooks will be available for you to look through while you are waiting or after you've met with your child's teacher.

Please be aware that we are not able to offer a creche facility for families this time. We sincerely apologise if this causes any inconvenience.

Harvest Assembly

Thank you so much for your generous donations for our Harvest collection. These are all being sent to our local food bank to support local families in need.

Sporting Successes

After the success of our girls' football team in the previous week, we were back in action with our mixed Year 5/6 football team last week, and it was another successful evening!

We had two teams out for this event and both gave a terrific account of themselves, being tight in defence, creative going forward and making themselves difficult to beat. Between our two teams, Park Rangers and Park Powerhouse, we only conceded 3 goals in the entire tournament and Park Powerhouse ended up the winning team overall on the night! Because of this, we go through to the district finals this Thursday. Wish us luck!



We were also in sporting action again last week, this time at the KS2 Cross country event at Bolsover. The children again did us proud, showing great determination and never giving up around a challenging course (with a nasty hill in the middle to really test the runners!).

At the end of the event, three of our teams finished in 5th and one team finished 3rd - a very creditable performance given the limited training we managed to fit in. We also had an individual win for Amarlie in the Year 5/6 girls' race, which was a fantastic performance!

All the children who participated in both events were a huge credit to themselves and the school and we were incredibly proud of them - well done to all of them and thank you to our families for your fabulous ongoing support.

Bonfire Disco

We have our Bonfire Disco coming up on Tuesday November 5.

Infant Disco for FS2, Year 1 and Year 2.

This is during the school day from 2pm to 3pm. The children should bring in a bag with their disco clothes in the morning and they will get changed in school before the disco starts.

As the Infant Disco is taking place during the school day, there is no 'entrance fee', but we are asking for a £2 voluntary contribution in cash on the day per child please. This will allow us to provide a bag of sweets and a drink for your child and also helps to cover the cost of the DJ.



Please collect your Infant School child from outside their classroom at the end of the school day as normal.

Junior Disco for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

This is straight after school, from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. The children should bring in a bag with their disco clothes in the morning and they will get changed in school before the disco starts.

As we are finishing at 4.15pm, we do allow our Y4/5/6 children to walk home on their own after the Bonfire Disco, if we have your permission, and only at 4.15pm, not before. We are finishing this event at 4.15pm, so that you can get to any bonfire night celebrations you might be attending.

For safeguarding purposes, please complete the Schoolzine attendance form, so we know if your Junior School child is staying behind for the disco or going straight home after school.

During our Junior School Bonfire Disco, our children will also have the option to go out to our Forest Schools area in small groups to toast marshmallows on the fire.

The 'entrance fee' is £2 per child, please pay this in cash on the day, which pays for a bag of sweets and a drink for your child and also helps to cover the cost of the DJ. Extra drinks, sweets, crisps etc. will be available to purchase at the disco for Years 3/4/5/6, if you want to send your child in with some extra money, no more than £5 in total please. They will be responsible for their own money.

A number of parents have offered to volunteer to support us at these kinds of children's events. If you are able to help out with this term's disco, please have a conversation with our office team. We'd really appreciate your support! We're looking forward to this one, it should be lots of fun!

Forest Schools Update

We are able to increase the number of children taking part in our Forest Schools lessons on a Friday. From the first week back after half term (Friday November 8), our Year 4 classes will each have a Forest Schools lesson in the afternoon. If our Year 4 children have their own wellies, it would be really useful for you to send them into school for their Forest School lessons, with their names in please!

Class Assemblies and Performances

Thank you to our families for supporting our first class assemblies this term. We are introducing these into our regular schedule of events, so that our children can learn to become more familiar and skilled with public performance. The plan is for our children to come through school developing their expertise and confidence with performance, so that they are more prepared for the big performances which come up at Christmas etc.



On the subject of Christmas performances – you will have noted that the dates list does not include a Christmas performance for our older year groups. This is intentional. The reality of putting on a performance is that it takes weeks and weeks of practice in our Junior Hall. The children need to rehearse in the space they will be performing in. Every year group in the entire school all wanting the Junior Hall for rehearsal times has proven incredibly tricky to manage. There is only so much you can do in the classroom space, especially as two classes (70 children) have their performances together.

I am aware that the school managed to do this in previous years. However, you will not be aware of the significant issues this created for staff and for lost learning time. Therefore, we simply do not have capacity to put on a production for all year groups at the same time of the year.

Therefore, moving forwards, our EYFS and Year 1/2 classes will have a Christmas production, our Year 3/4 classes will have their production at the end of the spring term and our Year 5/6 classes will have their production at the end of the summer term.

We are also having a whole school Christmas Carol sing-a-long in our courtyard for all year groups at the end of the school day on Wednesday December 18.

Half Term

A reminder that next week is half term. So, after we break up on Friday, our children return to school on Monday November 4.

Dates Update

And finally, you will see on the dates page below that we have started to populate our spring term dates list. More dates are being added each week, so please check this list to keep on top of all the events we have planned.

Many thanks for your continued help and support,

Nadeem Shah

Executive Headteacher



Autumn Term Diary Dates

Monday October 21	No After-School Clubs This Week
Tuesday October 22	Parents Evening from 3.30pm
Wednesday October 23	Parents Evening from 3.30pm
Thursday October 24	Parents Evening from 3.30pm
Friday October 25	Last day of autumn half-term 1
Monday November 4	Children return to school
	Flu Immunizations for FS2 (Reception) up to Year 6
	After-School Clubs Back On
Tuesday November 5	Year 4 Panthers Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am
	Bonfire Night Disco
Wednesday November 6	Year 4 Koalas Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am
Thursday November 7	Individual and Family Photographs
Tuesday November 12	Year 3 Tanukis Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am
Wednesday November 13	Year 3 Spiders Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am
Friday November 22	Final Night of After-School Clubs
Monday November 25	Assessment Week
Friday December 6	Christmas Clear Out Toy Sale *new date
Tuesday December 10	Visit from Father Christmas and Mrs Claus
Thursday December 12	EYFS Nativity at 10am and 2pm
Monday December 16	Christmas Crafts with Parents/Carers for Years 1/2 and Year 5/6
Tuesday December 17	Christmas Crafts with Parents/Carers for EYFS and Year 3/4
Wednesday December 18	Christmas Dinner
	Carols in the Courtyard at 3pm
Thursday December 19	Year 1/2 Christmas Show at 10am and 2pm
Friday December 20	Last day of autumn half-term 2
	Wear Something Christmassy Day

Spring Term Diary Dates 2025

Monday January 6, 2025	Inset Day
Tuesday January 7, 2025	Children return to school
Monday January 20, 2025	After-School Enrichment Clubs Begin *new date
Tuesday January 28, 2025	Talent Show Heats *new date
Wednesday January 29, 2025	Talent Show Heats *new date
Tuesday February 4, 2025	Talent Show Finals *new date
Wednesday February 5, 2025	Year 5 Transition Event at Shirebrook Academy *new date
	Year 5/6 Parent/Carer Meeting for Scarborough Residential at 5pm *new date
Tuesday February 11, 2025	Year 2 Dragonflies Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Wednesday February 12, 2025	Year 2 Starfish Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Friday February 14, 2025	Last day of spring half-term 1
Monday February 24, 2025	Children return to school

Friday February 28, 2025	Year 5/6 Scarborough Residential Payment Deadline *new date
Tuesday March 4, 2025	Year 1 Hedgehogs Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Wednesday March 5, 2025	Year 1 Lizards Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Thursday March 6, 2025	World Book Day *new date
Friday March 7, 2025	After-School Enrichment Clubs End *new date
Monday March 10, 2025	Year 4 Trip to Jorvik Viking Centre
Tuesday March 11, 2025	FS2 Giraffes Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Wednesday March 12, 2025	FS2 Flamingoes Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Tuesday March 18, 2025	Year 6 Wolves Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Wednesday March 19, 2025	Year 6 Goats Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
Friday March 21, 2025	Family Chocolate Bingo Night at 5pm *new date
Tuesday March 25, 2025	Year 5 Owls Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
	Parents' Evening *new date
Wednesday March 26, 2025	Year 5 Elephants Class Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am *new date
	Parents' Evening *new date
Thursday March 27, 2025	Parents' Evening *new date
Tuesday April 1, 2025	Year 3/4 Production at 10am and 2pm *new date
Friday April 4, 2025	Easter Eggs and/or Easter Bonnets (optional homework activity) *new date
	Last day of spring half-term 2

Summer Term Diary Dates 2025

Tuesday April 22, 2025	Inset Day
Wednesday April 23, 2025	Children return to school
Monday May 5, 2025	Bank Holiday
Monday May 12, 2025	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday May 23, 2025	Last day of summer half-term 1
Monday June 2, 2025	Children return to school
Monday June 30, 2025	Year 5 leave for the residential trip to Scarborough
Wednesday July 2, 2025	Year 6 leave for the residential trip to Scarborough
	Year 5 return from the residential trip to Scarborough
Friday July 4, 2025	Year 6 return from the residential trip to Scarborough
Monday July 7, 2025	Year 4 Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Thursday July 24, 2025	Last day of summer half-term 2

Autumn Term Diary Dates 2025

Thursday September 4, 2025	Inset Day *new date
Friday September 5, 2025	Inset Day *new date
Monday September 8, 2025	Children Return to School *new date