

The Park Schools Federation

Junior, Infant & Nursery

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Friday September 6, 2024

Autumn Term Newsletter 1

Dear Mums/Dads/Carers,

Welcome Back to School!

I hope you have all had a good summer break and are looking forward to coming back on Monday? I would also like to offer a warm welcome to all our new pupils and families in our Early Years' classes too! All of our staff team are very excited about this upcoming year and we're looking forward to an exciting year here at The Park Schools Federation.

This is a lengthy newsletter, with lots of important updates. Please take the time to take in the information outlined, so there aren't any unnecessary confusions.

Meet the Team Sessions



In order for you to meet your child's new teaching team and for this year's information to be shared with you, we have arranged for a 'Meet the Team' session in the first week. Families can meet their child's new teaching team in person after school in the classrooms on Wednesday September 11.

We have also sent out a Staffing Overview with this newsletter, so you can put names to faces.

Digital Newsletters and Communications

New families, please be aware that we only send out our weekly newsletters (apart from this one which has a paper version coming home on Monday) and the vast majority of our forms electronically, on an App called Schoolzine. These include letters which require your permission, like class trips or after-school clubs.

In order to receive these, you must sign up to the App and make sure we have your up-to-date email address. If you have trouble accessing Schoolzine, we also post our weekly newsletters on our school website and on Class Dojo.

We will also be sending home a class newsletter from your child's teacher via Schoolzine this coming Friday (Sept 13).

Class Dojo is used to send home information about our school, or your child's class, or to showcase some of the work our children have been doing. We use it as a one-way communication tool, from school to home.

We do not use Class Dojo to communicate back and forth with individual parents/carers. We appreciate that an app of this nature might be preferable for some parents/carers, as you could quickly contact individual staff members, but it does not work well for school staff teams to maintain a professional record of our conversations and agreements centrally. If you want to send a message to a member of staff, this must be done through email to our school office. You can also meet staff in person or give the office a call and the staff member will call back when they can.

If you do use Class Dojo to send a message to a member of our school staff, it will go unanswered. Please don't think the staff member is being rude; they have been instructed not to respond to any communications through Class Dojo.

After-School Clubs

Our new after-school clubs list is being sent home on Tuesday September 10. There are lots of clubs to choose from, with clubs designed for every age group. Please sign up to the clubs you would like your child to attend as soon as possible, as these places will be allocated quickly and it would be a shame for your child to miss out. After-School clubs start in the week beginning Monday September 23.



The list of dates for this term's clubs is outlined below:

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09/09/24	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒
16/09/24	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒
23/09/24	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑	No Clubs ☒	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑
30/09/24	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑	No Clubs ☒	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑
07/10/24	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑	No Clubs ☒	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑
14/10/24	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒
21/10/24	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒
28/10/24	Half Term				
04/11/24	Clubs on ☑	No Clubs ☒	No Clubs ☒	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑
11/11/24	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑	No Clubs ☒	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑
18/11/24	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑	No Clubs ☒	Clubs on ☑	Clubs on ☑
25/11/24	No more after-school clubs for the rest of this term				

FS2 (Reception) Start

Some of our FS2 (Reception) families have traditionally preferred a gradual start to their child's experience of full-time school, so we provide this option to those of you who would like it. Families have been provided with your child's time slots for Monday and Tuesday.

Please know that FS2 families do not have to take this 'phased' approach and are very welcome to leave their FS2 child in school for full days straight away. Please let us know if you would like the full-time option straight away.

If you are coming to collect your FS2 child at the advertised earlier times on Monday or Tuesday, please come through the gate entrance on the left of the building, just like you would do at the end of a normal day. Thank you.

Drop Off and Collection Arrangements

Our school gates open between 8.35am and 8.50am. These gates are monitored by a member of staff and are not accessible into school from 8.50am, as the classroom doors will have already closed and lessons/registration will already have begun.

An additional reminder that parents/carers should not come into the cloakrooms with their children please.

If you arrive from 8.50am onwards, you must accompany your child and sign them in through our school office. Unfortunately, we are not able to let parents/carers come into school with them through the office, as classes will have already started.

You are most welcome to have a quick conversation with your child's teaching team when you drop your child off or, if you want a longer conversation in the morning, you can come into school (through the office) **before 8.30am** and meet the teaching team in their class.



Pupil Attendance and Late Arrivals

Over the summer holidays, the Department for Education has contacted schools to reinforce their expectations on pupil attendance and late arrivals this academic year. Therefore, if your child's school attendance records show that they meet the criteria for formal attendance monitoring, then we will be in touch in due course.

They have also changed the law in respect of children's attendance at school. We have included the new overview as an attachment to this email and will be sending a paper copy home to families next week as well.

Year 4/5/6 Walking to and from School + Mobile Phones

Families will be aware that we allow children in our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 classes to walk to and from school on their own, as long as parents/carers give official permission for their child to do so.

We only allow children in Year 4/5/6 to bring a mobile phone into school if they are travelling to school and/or home on their own. All phones brought in to school by your children are done so at your own risk and we accept no responsibility for them. They are stored in the office during the day, not in the classrooms.

If your child does not walk to and from school on their own, they should not be bringing a phone in.

If a child in Year 4/5/6 arrives later than 8.50am, they will need to be signed in through our office entrance by a parent/carer, we are not able to admit them into school late if they are unaccompanied.

Please ensure your child understands safety expectations regarding walking to school with a mobile phone; e.g. not looking at the phone as they are crossing a road and also how to communicate kindly with their peers.



Wrap-Around Childcare in September

Following a large number of responses to our childcare survey at the end of last term, we have made a number of changes and expansions to our wrap-around childcare provision. All the details and booking information has been emailed out earlier today.

As shared at the end of last term, we are not able to provide any childcare for children next week (the first week of term). We will be beginning our childcare provision from Monday September 16, as we put arrangements in place.

Our childcare provision must be able to 'stand on its own' financially. Schools are not allowed to use school money (which is intended for all children's learning in school time) to help subsidise the cost of childcare, which only some children use. We are not looking to make a profit with our childcare, we just need to be able to pay for all the costs involved.

Please be aware that, if the actual take-up from families does not meet the level required to break-even financially, we will be forced to reduce our childcare provision to manageable levels.

We're going to trial this in the autumn term. If families support us with this, then it will continue. If we don't get the take up, it will reduce down. If our provision reduces down, due to low take-up of places, then we will not be investigating expanding it again in the future.



Behaviour Policy

We have made a number of changes to our Behaviour Policy. I will be doing a video update on Class Dojo, explaining this in detail.

One of these changes includes parents/carers being contacted if their child has repeated incidents of inappropriate behaviour. This will be in an automated format on Schoolzine.

We expect that there will be a relatively large number of contacts with parents/carers initially, while children get used to the new systems and expectations. We also expect that this will reduce as time goes by, in the majority of cases.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons begin for our Mr Rodgers' Year 5 class on Monday September 16. Any volunteers who can come along with us are greatly appreciated! Please speak with your child's class teacher if you are able to support. Please be aware that, if we do not have enough volunteer parent/carer helpers to come with us, we are unable to go swimming.



Class Photographs

Please make sure your child is looking extra smart on Tuesday, as we have our class photographs. If it is your child's PE day, please send them to school in their school uniform on Tuesday.

Free School Meal Vouchers

As shared with families last term, we are introducing a 'voucher' scheme for all our pupils who are in receipt of income-based free school meals. Each of these pupils will be issued with a £100 voucher in September, to be used over the course of the academic year (2024/2025). This voucher can be spent on any items bought in school, like book bags, childcare, school trips, residential etc. This voucher can only be spent in our school and can be spent in one go or in pieces throughout the year. At the end of the academic year, all vouchers are 'wiped', and we start again with a new voucher in September 2025.

If your child does not receive income-based free school meals in September 2024, but starts to receive free school meals before Christmas 2024, we will issue each of these pupils with a £100 voucher for the remainder of the academic year as well. If a child begins to receive free school meals from January 2025, their voucher will not be available until the beginning of the following academic year, in September 2025.

Universal infant free school meals for all children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 are not the same as income-based free school meals and are not included in this voucher scheme. Families of children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 can (and should) still apply for the government's income-based Free School Meals benefit to receive the £100 voucher from school and you will then receive free school meals for your children throughout their entire time in school.

It will also make you eligible for the holiday-time free school meal supermarket vouchers, if these are reintroduced by the government.

These applications have no negative financial effect on school. In fact, they actually help the school's finances. You can apply for free school meals on the following link:

<https://caya-apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/Synergy/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>

If you would like some help to complete an application, we will be happy to support you.

Clothing Labels

Please please please check through your child's school clothes to make sure they all have names on. You wouldn't believe how long it takes to sort out these kinds of issues when clothes have no name labels.

You may think there is another easy solution to making sure coats and clothes don't get mixed up. Trust me, there really isn't. There are always one or two children who forget to put their clothes away correctly, no matter how much you check, which muddles it up for everyone else. Easy to locate name labels resolve any potential issues which may arise.



Junior School Ofsted Report

We have been told that our Junior School Ofsted report will be published next week. Once we have this, we will send it out to families.

Dates

And finally, we have lots of dates planned on the pages below. Please be aware that lots more dates and events will be planned in the coming weeks. When new dates are added to our list, they are highlighted as ***new dates**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this very long newsletter! Here's looking to a really positive new school year!

Many thanks for your continued help and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nadeem Shah'.

Nadeem Shah

Executive Headteacher

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Wednesday September 4	Inset Day	These Inset days have been blocked together to allow families to book a family holiday at a less expensive time.
Thursday September 5	Inset Day	
Friday September 6	Inset Day	
Monday September 9	Children return to school	
Tuesday September 10	Class Photographs	
Wednesday September 11	Meet the Teaching Teams at 3.30pm	
Monday September 16	Wrap-Around Childcare Begins	
Wednesday September 18	Mount Cook Parent/Carer Meeting at 5pm	
Friday September 20	EYFS Teddy Bear Picnic	
Monday September 23	After-School Clubs Begin	
Wednesday September 25	Year 6 Trip to Perlethorpe	
Thursday September 26	Year 5 Trip to the National Space Centre	
Friday September 27	Whole School Times Tables Rock Star Day	
Tuesday October 8	Class 6P Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Wednesday October 9	Class 6MC Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Thursday October 10	Wear Something Yellow for Young Minds Day	
Monday October 14	No After-School Clubs This Week	
Tuesday October 15	Class 5G Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Wednesday October 16	Year 3/4 leave for the residential trip to Mount Cook	
	Class 5R Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Thursday October 17	Year 3/4 return from the residential trip to Mount Cook	
Friday October 18	EYFS Harvest Crafts with Parents/Carers	
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	
	After-School Clubs Back On	
Tuesday November 5	Class 4C Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
	Bonfire Night Disco	
Wednesday November 6	Class 4W Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Thursday November 7	Individual and Family Photographs	
Tuesday November 12	Class 3PG Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Wednesday November 13	Class 3T Parent/Carer Assembly at 9am	
Friday November 22	Final Night of After-School Clubs	
Monday November 25	Assessment Week	
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
Thursday December 19	Year 1/2 Nativity at 10m 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
Friday February 14, 2025	Last day of spring half-term 1
Monday February 24, 2025	Children return to school
Monday March 10	Year 4 Trip to Jorvik Viking Centre
Friday April 4, 2025	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