



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL OWLS CLASS LETTER TERMS 3 & 4



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you all back to school in Owl class, after the Christmas break. We have lots of exciting learning and activities planned for Term 3 and 4, and are committed to ensuring your children continue to develop their knowledge and skills as independent learners, creative thinkers, reflective pupils, team workers and effective participants. Our new topic, USA, will be taught over both terms and I hope it will engage and excite the children as they learn about the geography and culture of this very diverse continent...

Term 3 Topic- USA

Our topic is a geography focus this term and children will be learning about the names of continents and countries found within them and label the countries in North America. Children will also locate states on a map of the USA and discuss the differences between them by looking at images and videos. They will learn to use compass directions to describe movements between states and cities, and locate and describe tourist, physical and human landmarks in the USA. Children will also learn about the different effects of tourism in the USA eg economic and environmental.



In science, we will learn about **forces** (in relation to transport) eg gravity, resistance, friction and up-thrust.

In maths, children will learn about multiplication, short division with remainders, multiplying fractions by integers and mixed numbers, finding a fraction of a quantity or amount and finding the whole. We will then move onto decimals and percentages

In English, we will write a story setting, diary entry, narrative, non-chronological report and character description related to our term 3 and 4 text, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar.

Term 4 Topic- USA

After the end of term break, we will continue to learn about the USA. In term 4 we will be looking at the impact of tourism in New York and Los Angeles.

In English we will be continuing our book study of 'Holes' and writing character descriptions, persuasive adverts and a play script (as well as instructions for making 'sploosh!').



In maths we will be revisiting decimal and percentages and their fraction equivalents, area and perimeter and statistics.

Children will also continue to practise and learn times tables to 12.

In science, we will be continuing our learning about forces but will be focusing on investigation skills, using levers and pulleys.

Forest School:

In Year 5, we will be going out to the Forest School **every** Wednesday afternoon. The children will go out altogether, as one group. They will attend forest school in all weather conditions, where safe to do so, and should be dressed appropriately in suitable clothing e.g. hats, coats, gloves, sun-cream etc. Sturdy footwear or wellies will also need to be worn. Your child may wear their forest school clothing to school.

ATTENDANCE:

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you how important good attendance is for optimum learning and progress. At Parkside, we aim for 95% attendance or more to ensure our best possible learning is able to take place. It is also important that children arrive to school on time so they start their day in the best possible way and are ready to start their learning with the rest of their class.

UNIFORM: This is a reminder that all children should be wearing the correct school uniform. This consists of: Parkside school jumper so children can take pride in our school logo (or a navy jumper/cardigan), a white shirt or blouse, grey/black trousers or a skirt (or short/summer dress when it is warmer) and black school shoes.

At Parkside our behaviour is:

Gentle hands and feet
Respect others and their property
Expect to work hard
Always listen
Talk kindly



Dates:

Friday 23rd January- school visit from an athlete

Tuesday 10th February- Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February - End of Term 3

Monday 23rd February- Beginning of Term 4

Thursday 5th March- World Book Day

Fri 27th March – progress reports sent home

Wednesday 1st April - End of Term 4

PE will be on a Thursday morning so children will need to ensure they wear their PE kits to school on this day and not their uniform. PE kits consist of dark shorts, coloured t-shirt (according to House colours) and plimsolls or trainers. Children will also be attending swimming lessons in Canterbury, every Friday morning from 16th January 2026 (letters have been sent out).

Homework/Readers

The children will be set times tables and spellings activities on a Monday- these should be practised at home. This will help to develop and embed the knowledge and skills the children need to apply to their everyday learning. Children are also expected to read at home at least **five** times a week.

REACH for the Stars

Resilience
Effort
Aspiration
Courtesy
Honesty



Healthy snack and lunches

Children are provided with a bagel at break-time. If children wish to bring their own snacks in from home, this must be either fruit or veggie sticks.

Packed lunches should also be healthy e.g. a sandwich, yoghurt, a piece of fruit and a snack-bar

If you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss with me, please make an appointment at the school office or send me a message on Class Dojo.

Mrs Williams
Year 5 Class teacher