



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
SQUIRREL CLASS LETTER
TERMS 3 & 4



DATE: January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,
We hope that the Christmas holidays were peaceful and joy filled for you and your families. We are very much looking forward to the coming year at Parkside Community Primary School. In Squirrel class we have really begun to understand how things work at school and where attendance is good, the children are showing good progress. We have lots of enriching activities planned over the coming terms so watch this space. We are excited to welcome our newly appointed Forest School Leader Jo this term.

Curriculum foci:

Term 3 topic is 'Dinosaurs'

Our focus this term will be learning important facts to do with Dinosaurs and dispelling any misconceptions. We also look at the changes we see in our environment during the Winter months. We learn about animals who hibernate, and will look at people and animals who live in cold climates.

Little Wandle Phonics:

The children have been enjoying learning sounds during phonics lessons. We are now reading short sentences, and in some cases books, using the sounds and tricky words that we have learnt. This term half the class are starting to learn Phase 3 sounds. The rest of the class are revising previously learnt sounds to secure that knowledge. Please check Tapestry. We will also begin to regularly put our sound knowledge into writing. As before reading is always homework.

Please continue to share stories with your child and listen to them read the phonics books sent home or online.

Maths: The children are learning to count accurately to 5 and beyond and to understand how numbers can be represented in different ways in the real world and abstractly.

As the term goes on we will be building on this knowledge and learning number bonds up to 10.

Please practise counting and representing numbers with your child in your environment.

Understanding the world: See above regarding dinosaurs. This learning will help with forming understanding of events in history. We will also be engaging with various investigations & Seasonal adventures at **forest school on Mondays**.

P.E. will still take place on Fridays in the Afternoon for the foreseeable in Squirrel Class. Please send P.E. kit in so we can begin practising changing in class. Since the children won't be wearing it all day, it could remain at school on their pegs this term for easy access, as long as it is clean. **Forest School is on Mondays.** Please ensure they have a waterproof winter coat & that they are wearing uniform trousers, leggings or tights to protect their legs

Curriculum foci:

Term 4 Topic is 'Growing'. As Spring and Easter get closer, we will start to learn about life cycles of some insects and small animals. We are planning to have butterflies in school that we will observe and care for when they hatch.

Our new Forest School Lead, Jo will continue to lead our learning in the forest about trees, woodland wildlife, den building and stories that celebrate creatures great and small. We might even have hot chocolate and marshmallows from time to time.

Little Wandle Phonics:

We will continue to read sentences, and in some cases books, using the sounds and tricky words that we have learnt. We will also begin to regularly put our sound knowledge into writing in more challenging ways.

Please continue to share stories with your child and listen to them read the phonics books.

Maths:

In term 4 we will see the children consolidating their number knowledge up to number 10. We will be looking at 3D shapes and learning more about measure, including height, weight and capacity. The children love singing songs and have almost mastered the **days of the week**. Please practise with them.

Understanding the world:

As mentioned above we will look at life cycles and continue learning about seasonal change.



Squirrel Class are looking forward to achieving some more 100% Attendance Certificates. To achieve this, we require **all children to be in school every day and on time**.

It really is essential that children are regular attenders as low attendance has a huge impact on a child's learning and life chances. Please ensure that your child is in school for 8.40am to start promptly at 8.50am each day as late arrivals have an impact on your child and the rest of the class. Thank you.

So far the children have looked immaculate in their uniforms. We take PRIDE in our school and uniform. It creates a sense of belonging and equality amongst the children. The school logo on jumpers is a reminder to children that they are all part of the Parkside Community so please also remember to dress them in uniform P.E. kit. Also, a quick reminder that children need to wear appropriate weather proof shoes and **please name everything your child brings to school in permanent pen** to avoid them getting lost. We have lots of unnamed jumpers and cardigans.

Golden Rules spell **GREAT**

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

Dates for your diary:

January

P.E. now on Fridays; send in spare kit please.
Forest school continues to be on Mondays

February

Half term begins on Monday February 16th
Back to school on Monday 23rd February
Class trip to be confirmed

Book Wallets!

Your child will have brought home a book wallet. Within they will have borrowed books from the book corner. **Please read these together with your child each night to help them build their enjoyment of stories, knowledge and skills.** Young children need lots of exposure to books and stories to build their attention and enjoyment of reading. Talk about the story and characters and use 'book talk' as much as possible. This means asking what they liked, noticed, felt etc. If you don't have physical books at home, e-books or digital books found online are also suitable. **We will provide you with a Collins E-book login with the new book wallets. And reading books when your child is ready. Please ask if you need help!**

REACH for the Stars

- Resilience
- Effort
- Aspiration
- Courtesy
- Honesty



Children in Squirrel Class are given fruit at snack time so there is no need to send in additional snacks unless they have a specific dietary requirement that the school is aware of.

Packed lunches should be healthy; including a sandwich (or similar), low sugar drink, yogurt and at least two pieces of fruit. **No nuts. People have allergies**
Biscuits and chocolate are sugary treats, which are best enjoyed at home as they can impact on a child's behaviour.

REMINDERS: If you have arranged for another person to collect your child from school then please remember to let us know. We will **NOT** release a child to an adult unless we have your permission to do so!

Water bottles should be sent in daily but they must only contain WATER and be taken home each evening to be thoroughly washed and returned.