



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
SQUIRREL CLASS LETTER
TERMS 5 & 6



DATE: **May 2026**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have all well and truly settled in to school life at Parkside and are making good levels of progress relative to their development. The coming terms will be filled with learning that continues to form the early years curriculum and provision that they have experienced and thrived in thus far. We will have two off site school trips, listed below and plenty of on-site opportunities for fun and learning. Sports day will be in the last week of term (please look out for school comms and letters), forest school will continue on Mondays.

Term 5

Phonics: Phase 3 Phonic Sounds continued
Children who have had regular attendance have learnt all Phase 3 sounds and are able to read more and more complicated words. This means they are now reading and writing some two syllable words and 'tricky words'.
This term will be spent learning and revising the complex sounds which we have previously covered but need more practise with.
Every child will read to Miss Morris, Miss Aitken or one of our volunteers three times a week in a small group, building their understanding, confidence and fluency in reading.

Please see below the reminder about listening to your child reading at home using the books we send home weekly. Ask for details if you do not have them.

Maths:
So far the children have covered concepts and numbers to 10. This term we will be moving on to numbers to 20 and beyond. We will be deepening our understanding of number and value and we will look at spatial reasoning, shapes and patterns. We will also begin addition & subtraction
Please encourage your child to count to 20 and beyond and to talk about shapes and patterns in their environment.

Topic:
This term we will be looking at life cycles of small creatures such as butterflies and frogs. I believe the children will love learning about 'Minibeasts'. They already love spotting worms and other bugs.

P.E. uniform should be worn on **Wednesdays this term. We are practising for sports day so they should have a team colour top and appropriate footwear.** You were provided with one when your child first started at Parkside. An equivalent coloured top can be worn or another purchased from the school office if you require a replacement.



Term 6

Phonics: Phase 3/4

Once we have firmly established our knowledge and application of Phase 3 sounds, the children will be able to move on to Phase 4 blended consonants which enable them to read and write using tricky words and sounds that they have learnt.

In this phase they will also start to learn the complex blends of letters at the beginning and ends of many words in the English language.
Continued reading at home will propel your child's ability to read for enjoyment and to access more and more learning at school and equally in any environment they find themselves in.

Maths:
The final term will consist of consolidation of previous learning and new learning such as identifying patterns that lead to better understanding of addition, subtraction, early division and multiplication.

Enabling the children to think critically and develop their spatial reasoning will support problem solving skills that will be essential for deeper mathematical skills and knowledge going forward.

Topic:
Our final topic of the year will be '**Seaside**'. Think; *past and present*, pirates, mermaids, shells, rock pools, ice cream and more! Watch this space for a beach trip!

Squirrel Class had a good run at 100% Attendance Certificate in the first academic term. Sadly since then attendance has dropped considerably. It is important for **all children to be in school every day possible**. There is a clear link between regular attendance, reading ability and life chances. It really is essential that your child is a regular attender, as low attendance has a huge impact on a child's learning. **We learn new phonic sounds and Mathematical concepts every day. Missed days mean missed learning.** 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 kindly.

This term we will provide each child with a **sun hat** which stays on their peg at school so as to protect them from the sun when they are playing outside. **As it gets hotter you will need to apply sun cream before they arrive at school.** We are unable to apply sun cream. **Please ensure that you send your child in to school in full school uniform.** Plain cardigans and jumpers are absolutely fine but please avoid non uniform clothing such as character tops (unicorns, superheroes etc). School shoes should also be worn and should **only have laces if your child can tie them up themselves.**

Golden Rules GREAT

Gentle hands and feet.

Really listen carefully without interrupting.

Expect to work hard.

Always tell the truth and be a good friend.

Treat resources with respect and tidy away.

Educational Visits:

21.05.26 - Wingham Wildlife Park Trip

TBC - Beach in term 6. **Please check your child's book bag in case they have been given school letters.**

Please listen to your child reading and share stories with them daily. It really does make all the difference.

If you haven't yet received books home, have lost the book wallet or not received them, please speak to me directly. See example of the type of book;

A Dip: Phase 2



Author: Fiona Tomlinson

ISBN: 9780008502430

Each child is allocated books at their level, so please communicate to us how you think they are managing the books we send home.

REACH for the Stars



Resilience



Effort



Aspiration



Courtesy



Honesty



Children in Squirrel Class are given fruit and milk so there is no need to send in additional snacks unless they have a specific **dietary requirement** that the school should be aware of. **Packed lunches should consist of a healthy sandwich or similar**, low sugar drink, yogurt and at least two pieces of fruit (please cut grapes in half to avoid choking).

Biscuits and chocolate are sugary treats which are best enjoyed at home as they can impact on a child's behaviour. We are a **NO NUT** school due to members of staff and pupils with severe allergies.

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