



# PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Term 3

## Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another term that has meant a different type of education for our school community, I wanted to acknowledge how supportive and receptive you have been as parents and carers. It has been lovely to welcome the children that we can into the school each day, and also to speak to our families over the phone and hear about the wonderful things that the children have been up to.

Teachers are continuing to make welfare calls to our families regularly and offer ways that we can support you at home with learning. The teachers have been sharing with me the wonderful work that has been emailed to them so far, it's lovely to see so please keep sending it in to us. I would like to remind you that you can always call the office or email the class email address if you need anything further.

Just before Christmas the school purchased a minibus, which we are looking forward to using to support the children's learning through visits. We have also been working on introducing a nature trail for the children when they return and we have new interactive boards to support the children's learning. More exciting times for Parkside!



We have some building works which are being completed on the school which focus on the roofs and windows in the top corridor, where three of our classrooms are situated. Site security has also been improved through new lighting and cameras.

I am sure you are all looking forward to the day when we can all be back at school together learning in a more familiar way, I know that all staff are.

Thank you for continued support during these very strange times.

***Yours faithfully,  
Mrs McLevy***

### **Covid19 Update**

School is currently open to vulnerable children and children of key workers, with remote learning for all other pupils. As soon as we have more guidance from the government about re-opening schools to all pupils we will be in touch. We believe that this information should be issued from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February onwards.

We regularly update our school Risk Assessment in line with current guidance and are impressed with how well the children follow this. Children are in 'pods' and remain in them all day. We wash hands regularly and Mrs Lee and Mrs Munt clean the classrooms and the rest of the school daily and thoroughly.

A reminder to parents and carers that only one adult per family should be attending the school site for school drop-off and collection and that face coverings should be worn where possible. Please ensure that you socially distance from other parents when waiting outside the school gates. This is to keep pupils, their families and staff safe in these challenging times and we appreciate your support in this.

### **Staffing Changes**

Whilst we said goodbye to Miss Court from Squirrel Class at the end of Term 2 and were very sad to see her leave, we want to thank her for all her hard work at Parkside and we wish her the best of luck in her new job. We are very pleased to announce that at the start of this term we welcomed two new Teaching Assistants to the school. Miss Simmons has joined Year R in Squirrel Class and Miss Hoare has joined Year 1 in our new Hedgehog Class. We are excited to have both of them as part of the Parkside Team!

### **Remote Learning**

We have introduced remote live lessons via Zoom in recent weeks and are happy to report that so far these have been extremely successful with the majority of pupils logging on and accessing the learning. We have had lots of positive feedback from both parents and pupils who are enjoying these interactive lessons and it is lovely to see

the children's faces and hear how they are getting on. The bulk of the Home Learning is available on the school website still and is being updated weekly, along with many other games, websites and resources under the 'Whole School' tab.

We can provide paper copies of the weekly learning that teachers have prepared for those who prefer this option. These are available to collect from Mondays onwards. Please phone or email the School Office prior to collecting the packs.

We do expect all children to be completing learning at home either through paper packs or through engaging in Zooms. Teachers are monitoring attendance. Additionally, look out for certificates for those children that have attended every online session which will be emailed to parents weekly by class teachers.

### **Class Email Addresses**

squirrelclass@parkside.kent.sch.uk – **Mrs Messenger**

hedgehogclass@parkside.kent.sch.uk – **Miss Aitken**

otterclass@parkside.kent.sch.uk – **Mrs Sandham & Miss Thompson**

badgerclass@parkside.kent.sch.uk – **Mr King**

owlclass@parkside.kent.sch.uk – **Miss Murphy**

pe@parkside.kent.sch.uk – **Mr Groombridge**

### **School Website**

A reminder for our parents that we are updating the school website regularly and all the information sent home in letters and flyers is also available under the 'Parents' section of our website.

<https://www.parksidecommunityprimaryschool.co.uk/>

### **Contact Details Reminder**



With school currently open to key worker and vulnerable children, it is important that we have accurate contact details for parents and guardians so that teachers can make their weekly welfare calls. If any of your contact information does change please ensure that you contact the School Office so we can update your details as soon as possible.

This is particularly relevant to parents who are eligible for Free School Meal vouchers; vouchers are usually sent via text or email and therefore if we have out of date contact information for you it could result in issues for you receiving or accessing your vouchers. Please can parents keep an eye on their emails for Half Term vouchers that will be available towards the end of term. Thank you!

### **Christmas 2020**

We were still able to enjoy some festive activities in the run up to the Christmas holidays, in spite of the current situation. Although we were not able to attend All Saints Church for our Christingle as usual, children were able to make their own Christingle at school to celebrate and Reverend Phil supported us with a virtual Christingle service.



We held our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and it was great to see all the pupils and staff wearing their festive jumpers to school. Our PTFA kindly organised a Covid compliant Christmas Raffle this year in place of our Christmas Fair and managed to raise an impressive £280! Thank you for all your support with this. On the last day of term, pupils enjoyed Christmas parties in their classes, with festive games and snacks to get into the Christmas spirit!

### **Do you have a child starting school in September?**

Applications for Year R places for September 2021 have now closed on the KCC website. If you have a child due to start school next year and have not managed to apply for a place yet, please contact Miss Fisher or Miss Perry in the School Office so they can offer support and talk you through the process.

### **Community Larder**

All Saints Church is running a foodbank service on a Friday morning between 10.00am-12.00pm. There is no need for referral and families are able to just turn up!

