



# PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Term 5

## Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It is so lovely to see all the children back in school and enjoying their learning. I have enjoyed catching up with them all, hearing about the home learning that they have been completing and it has been nice to see so many of you as well. I would like to mention how sensible your children are being following the restrictions that we have in place in order to keep us all safe. My thanks to you all as well for your support with this, such as remembering to social distance and wearing your face coverings when entering site.

I am sure you have all noticed the wonderful signs and pictures that have been put up around the site to brighten the environment. The children are enjoying looking at them and talking to their friends about them. We are trying to reinforce our 'REACH' school values, so please do discuss these with your children.

The staff are pleased that some of the restrictions are being lifted especially around being able to go on educational visits; look out for more information about these from your child's teacher. We are all hoping that we can move forward with so many of the plans that we have for the children within the school.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support of not only your children, the school but myself through the recent virtual Ofsted where the parent voice was so positive and reflective of the journey we have come on so far. The inspectors were so impressed with the improvements within the school community.

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs McLevy**  
**Head of School**

### **Attendance**

Well done to all the families who have been making a great effort with attendance and punctuality since returning to school. Last week 91% of children were in school which unfortunately does fall below our expectation of 95% attendance. We would like to take this opportunity to remind everybody that school is compulsory and ask that parents be punctual in getting their child to school on time, ready to start the school day.



Any absences due to illness must be reported to the School Office prior to 8.40am and any medical or dentist appointments should be arranged for outside of school hours wherever possible.

To ease congestion for parents dropping off or collecting children we are now opening the school gates in the morning from 8.40-9.00am and at the end of the day, from 3.00-3.20pm. Breakfast Club is still running from 8.10-8.25am as usual and is free for all pupils to attend. Please ensure you do not arrive before 8.10am, as we cannot guarantee that supervising staff will be on site before this time.

### **Covid Update**

Government guidance still states that Lateral Flow testing is not mandatory for primary school pupils and will not be undertaken by schools. However, for parents who are wanting to access Lateral Flow tests for themselves and/or their children there are several sites around Canterbury where these can be collected for free. These sites include Rutherford Car Park and North Holmes Road Car Park, which are open Monday-Friday from 1-8pm, and some pharmacies. It is worth noting that if you test your child at home

using a Lateral Flow test and the result comes back positive, you will still then need to book a PCR test to confirm the result.

### **After-School Club**

From Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, After-School Club will be starting again for Years 2-6. To ensure we are complying with government guidance by keeping to 'bubbles', separate classes will each have club on a different day from 3-4pm.

Mr Groombridge will be running Multisport this term, which will allow the children to do a variety of activities and develop different skills.



<b>ASC Timetable – Term 5</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	Otter Class (Years 2 & 3)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Badger Class (Years 4 & 5)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Owl Class (Year 6)

If you would like your child to attend please return the permission slip sent home earlier this week to the School Office by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

### **Class Email Addresses**

The class emails set up during the lockdown are still in use so parents and carers are welcome to contact their child's Class Teacher using the emails below:

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

### **Kent Test**

Parents of Year 5 pupils will be able to register their child for the Kent Test between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Applications will need to be made via [www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test). The school will be holding a talk for Year 5 parents towards the end of Term 5 to discuss the Kent Test and answer any questions parents and carers may have.

### **Virtual Ofsted Visit**

Just over a month ago, the school had a virtual visit from Ofsted. These remote visits undertaken by Ofsted at this time do not result in a grade, as usual inspections would, but they have now provided us with a letter stating their findings which will be published on the Ofsted website shortly.

Many of their findings are positive and reflect the support the school has provided families during the pandemic, including the remote learning provision. There is also mention of the work the school is doing to update and develop the curriculum, all of which shows the continual progress that the school is making to improve the education we provide here at Parkside.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who responded to the parent survey allowing Ofsted to see from the parents' perspective the journey that we are on!

### **School Website**



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

We also have a fantastic new video up on the home page promoting the school, so please take a look!

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