

Park Primary School

Newsletter February 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a belated 'Happy New Year'!

We are all looking forward to continuing to work with you to achieve the best possible outcomes both academically and personally for your child(ren). All the children have come back smart and ready to learn. We have already had busy term with visits from Samuel Peeps in Year 1 and Florence Nightingale in Year 2. However, there are still lots of fun and exciting things to come across all of school.

Attendance.

Firstly, can I please thank all our parents for your hard work in ensuring your child/ren attend regularly and promptly. Although as a school we do appreciate children do get poorly especially at this time of year, it is still vital that illness is the only reason they are absent. Over the last term, unfortunately we did have several children who were having days off when they were not ill. Sadly, some of the reasons include birthdays, trips away and not getting up in time. This impacts significantly on your child's learning both academically and socially. If a child is absent, they miss so much which can prove difficult to catch up on as well as them missing out of social activities with their friends.

Government guidance for all schools state that attendance for all pupils in order for them to maximise their learning should be **97%**. Last term Park's attendance was 92%. Although this is slightly above national figures (91.2%) this is still low. We are therefore asking all parents to ensure that their child/ren attend regularly.

Please remember doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am. If your child/ren are after this time they are therefore late and this will impact on their learning too.

Flu/Scarlet fever

As you will be aware there are several nasty bugs going around this time of year including sickness, coughs and colds however, over the last few weeks, the media continue to report about Scarlet Fever/Strep A/Flu .If you child does show any symptoms, please ensure you notify school and seek medical advice.

Symptoms to look out for:

The symptoms of scarlet fever can be non-specific in early illness and may include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. Within 48 hours, a characteristic pinkish-red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. On more darkly pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. During convalescence, peeling of the skin may occur at the tips of fingers and toes and less often over wide areas of the trunk and limbs. As you will all be aware there are some nasty bugs going around and will continue to do so for the coming weeks. As a school we continue to model high levels of hygiene ensuring all pupils wash their hands regularly and areas are cleaned thoroughly every day. The DFE regularly update schools with relevant information which we follow closely.

Electrical Devices

We are very much in a digital era where our children are far more 'tech' savvy than we were at their age. Although we do appreciate that a number of our pupils are lucky enough to have several electrical devices including mobile phones, computer consoles, tablets and smart watches, we do ask that you work with us to ensure our children are safe and these items are not brought to school.

SMART Watches

It has been brought to my attention that a small number of pupils have been wearing SMART watches in school. As these can now be used in a number of different ways including making calls and playing music, we ask that they DO NOT wear them for school. If your child wants to wear a watch to help them with telling the time, then a sensible wristwatch with either a digital or analogue face is acceptable. Anything too big or that makes a noise is also not allowed.

Mobile Phones

However, we do appreciate that some of our older children do come to school and go home from school without an adult and do bring a mobile phone for their safety. If your child needs to bring their phone to school for this reason, then this is allowed but they must give it to their teacher as soon as they arrive in school and collect it before they go home. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Walking across the Car Park

I have observed several families who still insist on walking across the car park, rather than using the paths. **PLEASE** use the pedestrian routes around school - before there is an accident.

Dogs

Please can I remind all visitors to the school that dogs are not permitted on the premises under any circumstances. Even if carried or on a lead, all dogs still pose a risk to the safety of all our staff and pupils. Please can I therefore ask if you do need to bring your dog to school, you remain outside the gates.

School uniform and PE kits.

It is lovely to see most of our pupils in school uniform. However, there seems to be a few that are coming in brightly coloured trainers and alternative-coloured jumpers. Can I please remind you that our school uniform is:

- Black or grey Trousers, skirts, dresses
- White or blue shirts, blouses or polo shirts.
- Royal Blue jumper or cardigan with or without the school logo.
- Black shoes or trainers.

Can I also remind all our parents and carers that large headbands particularly with ears are not suitable for school as these can cause a distraction.

PE is a statutory subject in which all pupils must participate in unless there is a significant reason why not. All pupils must bring PE kit to change into comprising of plain dark shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, White plain T Shirt, dark plain tracksuit top/jumper and trainers. Earrings **MUST** be taken out. If your child cannot take them out themselves, then please take them out before they come to school.

Special events

On Friday 10th February we are very excited to welcome Olympian, Rugby 7s captain, Abbie Brown into school who will be working with all our pupils. A message regarding this has been put on to Dojos and more information will follow soon.

On Monday the 20th of February we will be holding our first Parent Meeting Day. Please watch out for more details On Thursday with regards to how to book an appointment.

Homework.

On a weekly basis your child will bring home a reading book to read at least three times a week, spellings and in some year groups many also be set small challenges to complete at home. They are also asked to regularly use Spelling Shed and from year 2 upwards, Times Table Rockstars. We are asking all our parents and carers to work with us and encourage your child/ren to complete these tasks regularly to help them consolidate their learning and make even more progress. Can we also remind you when you have listened to your child read, please comment in their reading record. All our staff monitor this regularly and reward pupils for their efforts.

Diary Dates 2023

Wed 1st Feb	<p>Please note changes: NEU Strike. All information has been distributed via dojos.</p> <p>School is closed to: Year FS2, 1,2,3,4,5,6</p> <p>School is open to: 5B Nursery.</p>
Fri 10th Feb	<p>Olympian in school – separate letter sent – all children to wear sports kit. Break up for Half term</p>
Mon 20th February	<p>PARENT MEETINGS — more information to follow Please note this is also a teacher training day and times will be available all day.</p>
Tues 21st Feb	<p>School reopens to all pupils.</p>
Fri 24th Feb	<p>Red team dress down day! All pupils in red team will have the opportunity to come in non-uniform due to being the winning team last term!</p>
Thurs 2nd March	<p>World Book Day – more information to follow</p>
Tues 7th March	<p>Year 4 Crime and Punishment workshop</p>
Weds 29th March	<p>Lower Key Stage 2 performance –Watch out for more information.</p>
Fri 31st March	<p>Break up for Easter</p>
Mon 17th April	<p>School reopens to all pupils.</p>
Mon 1st May	<p>Bank Holiday – School closed</p>
Mon 8th May	<p>Bank Holiday for the King’s Coronation – School closed</p>
Tues 9th May – Fri 12th May	<p>YEAR 6 SATS WEEK</p>
Fri 30th June and Monday 3rd July	<p>Teacher Training days.</p>
Tues 26th July	<p>School closes for the summer.</p>

