

September Newsletter

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year at Park Lane. We are incredibly proud of how positively the children have settled into their new classes, new routines and, for some children, a new school site. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence, building new relationships and embracing the opportunities that a new school year brings.

Welcome to Mabel!

This term, we have welcomed Mabel, our school therapy dog, who is currently in training. Mabel has already visited both The Laurels and The Limes, gradually familiarising herself with the sights, smells and sounds of school life.

The children have responded incredibly well to Mabel. She has certainly brought lots of excitement and, we have noticed, many additional smiles around school! We are looking forward to continuing Mabel's training and introducing her carefully into school life in a way that supports our children and their wellbeing.

If you have not yet completed the Mabel permission form to let us know whether your child/children can have contact with or work with Mabel, please could you do this by next week. It would also be really helpful if you could talk to your child about this, so they are clear if they are able to be involved with Mabel.

Personal Development Week

We have had a fantastic Personal Development Week, with children taking part in a range of activities and learning opportunities designed to develop their confidence, independence, relationships and understanding of the wider world.

It was particularly wonderful to see so many families joining us for our Celebration Fayre. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the event such a success. It was lovely to see our school community coming together and celebrating the children's work.

Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6 children also enjoyed their long-awaited residential camping trip to Rushall Farm. The trip had originally been postponed in July due to the heatwave, so it was fantastic that the children were able to enjoy the experience this term.

The children embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm, demonstrating independence, resilience and teamwork throughout their stay. We are sure there are lots of memories that they will treasure for years to come!

Attendance Celebrations

We continue to place a strong focus on attendance, as every day in school provides valuable opportunities for children to learn, develop relationships and make progress.

We would like to celebrate the following classes for their fantastic attendance:

Week commencing 7 September 2026

- 🏆 The Laurels: 1MR – 98.7%
- 🏆 The Limes: 5RP – 99.3%

Week commencing 14 September 2026

- 🏆 The Laurels: 1D – 100%
- 🏆 The Limes: 6F – 98.7%

Well done to all of these classes!

Thank you to all families for supporting good attendance and helping your children to be in school, on time and ready to learn.

Keeping Our Children Safe Around School

We would like to remind all families about the importance of safe and considerate parking around our school sites. Please take extra care when dropping off and collecting children, particularly around busy crossing points and entrances. We ask that everyone parks responsibly and considers the safety of children and families walking to and from school.

A reminder for Limes families:

Downing Road operates a School Streets restriction during school drop-off and collection times. We ask that parents and carers do not use Downing Road to drop off or collect children.

The School Streets scheme helps to create a safer environment for children walking and cycling to school, as well as reducing vehicle emissions around the school site. Thank you for supporting this important safety measure.

A Few Reminders

As we settle into the new school year, we would also like to remind families of a few key expectations:

- Uniform: Please ensure children come to school in the correct school uniform each day. PE hoodies should only be worn on PE days.
- Toys from home: Children should not bring small toys or personal items into school, including squishies, fidget toys, mini figures, collecting cards or lip balms. We really appreciate your support with this.

- Watches: Children may wear a basic watch, but smart watches should not be worn in school.
- Jewellery: Jewellery should not be worn in school apart from earrings, which must be covered during PE days.
- PE kit: Please ensure PE kits are in line with our school expectations and do not include large logos or non-school colours.
- Labelling clothing: Please remember to clearly label all items of your child's clothing, including coats, jumpers and PE kit. This helps us to return lost items to children quickly. Any unnamed lost property is displayed on the colourful fencing around the playgrounds at both sites.
- Communication with staff: Please contact staff via admin@parklane.reading.sch.uk or adminlimes@parklane.reading.sch.uk This ensures that your message is passed to the appropriate member of staff. Staff do not routinely check their emails during the school day due to their teaching commitments.
- SEND concerns: If you have a concern or question regarding your child's special educational needs, please complete an SEN Triage Form. Forms can be requested from either school office.
- Attendance and punctuality: Please continue to prioritise regular attendance and arriving at school on time so that children can start their day calmly and positively.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful term at Park Lane and are incredibly proud of the positive start our children have made.

Please continue to read below for termly dates organised so far.

With very best wishes,

Mrs McDonagh
Head of School
Park Lane Primary School

Upcoming Dates:

29th Sept – Mon 5th Oct School Book Fair at the Limes site 3.35 – 3.55pm

6th Oct – Flu sprays across both sites

7th Oct – Harvest Festival – please see coming letter regarding donations

13th Oct – Individual Photos ??? siblings????

13th Oct – Year 3 out on a local walk, looking at green spaces around Tilehurst

21st Oct – Fire Service Team visiting Year 5

21st Oct and 22nd Oct – Parents Evening

23rd Oct – Last Day of Term (usual finish time)

2nd Nov - Term starts

6th Nov – Turn Tilehurst Red Event

26th Nov – Disco

27th Nov – INSET DAY (School Closed)

4th Dec – Year 3 Ufton Court Day Trip

14th Dec and 15th Dec – Elfridges Friends event – information letter coming soon

15th Dec – EYFS Nativity Performance to parents & preschool siblings

16th Dec – EYFS Nativity Performance ADULTS ONLY

16th Dec – Christmas Lunch

17th Dec – Carols on the playground: Laurels: Yr1, 2 & 3 sing at 2.30 Limes: at 3pm

18th Dec – Christmas service at The Gate Church

18th Dec – Last Day of Term (1.50pm finish Laurels, 2pm finish Limes)