

End of Term Newsletter

Dear Families,

It has certainly been a long term, and I think we're all ready for a little rest! The children have worked incredibly hard and shown real resilience and perseverance, even on those days when their energy levels have been running a little lower than usual. We are delighted with all they have achieved this term.

Staffing updates

We are delighted to welcome Mrs A Roberts and Miss N Rolph-Dickinson to our permanent teaching team. Mrs A Roberts will replace Miss Keen, who is leaving us at half term to explore a career outside teaching. We thank Miss Keen for her contribution to Park Lane and wish her every success for the future.

We would also like to congratulate Mrs McCarthy, who is expecting her second child and will begin maternity leave at the end of Term 2. Miss N Rolph-Dickinson will be joining us to cover her role. Both Mrs A Roberts and Miss N Rolph-Dickinson are experienced teachers, and we feel very fortunate to have recruited such strong additions to our teaching team.

Learning and your feedback

We hope you enjoyed our recent Book Look sessions and hearing your children talk about their learning. We look forward to welcoming you to Parents' Evening on Wednesday and Thursday this week to discuss your child's progress.

We will shortly be sending out parent feedback forms and would really appreciate every family taking a few minutes to complete them. Your views matter to us, and your feedback helps us to continue building a strong school that meets the needs of all our children and families.

Alongside this, we will be sharing pupil questionnaires through your children's Google Classrooms. Please spend five minutes supporting your child or children to access and complete the questionnaire. We want to hear directly from our pupils about their experiences of school, what they enjoy and what they feel could be even better. Listening to our children is an important part of ensuring that Park Lane continues to be a place where everyone feels valued and supported.

Attendance

Attendance remains a key priority for us. Being in school every day enables children to benefit from consistent learning, build friendships and feel part of their class community. We understand that children are sometimes unwell and need to stay at home, but we are seeing an increase in occasional days off. It is surprising how quickly these absences add up over a term and the impact they can have on learning and friendships.

Where possible, we would be grateful if medical appointments could be arranged outside school hours or, where this is not possible, towards the end of the school day. This helps to minimise disruption to your child's learning and ensures they can make the most of their time in school.

Working with our community

We are excited to have welcomed a large group of sixth-form students from Denefield School, who are working with some of our Year 6 pupils. We hope they will become positive and supportive role models, and we are really looking forward to developing this collaborative work.

We are also running tours for prospective new families this term. If you know any families in our community who are looking for a school, please do recommend Park Lane. Last week, the children at The Laurels were wonderful ambassadors, confidently explaining their learning to our visitors. It was fantastic to see them sharing their learning and representing our school so positively.

Sport and enrichment

It has been a busy few weeks on the football pitch for Park Lane with four matches against Moorlands. The Year 5 boys enjoyed two matches against our local rivals, earning a 6-1 win and then following that up with an entertaining 1-1 draw. Our Y6 boys also secured an impressive victory with a 6-2 success, while our Y5 girls battled bravely against a Moorlands team including several Y6s before going down 3-0. Well done to everyone who represented the school so well in all the matches.

We hope all the children enjoyed their cinema visit this week. We are incredibly grateful to The Pavilion Church for hosting this wonderful experience for our pupils.

Thank you also to all our families who contributed to our Harvest Festival collections for our school food bank and Readifoods. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us support our wider community.

Finally, a big thank you to Friends of Park Lane for organising our Halloween Hunt and Pumpkin Competition. We hope everyone who joined in had a fantastic time!

As we reach the end of term, thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. We are fortunate to be part of such a supportive school community, and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the very best for our children.

We wish all our families a safe and restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed for another busy term.

Warm wishes,

Mrs McDonagh
Headteacher

Upcoming Dates:

21st Oct – Fire Service Team visiting Year 5

21st Oct and 22nd Oct – Parents Evening

23rd Oct – Limes Cinema Event

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

2nd Nov - Term starts

6th Nov – Turn Tilehurst Red Event

11th & 12th Nov – RAW Parents Evening

12th Nov – EYFS Dentist visit

17th Nov – EYFS Dentist visit

19th Nov – EYFS Dentist visit

19th Nov - Y6 height and weight measurements

26th Nov – Disco

27th Nov – **INSET DAY (School Closed)**

4th Dec – Year 3 Ufton Court Day Trip

4th Dec - Y4 Roman Day (in school)

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)**