PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and positive week in school and I would like to share a few updates and celebrations with you.

Introducing Tapestry in Early Years

We are delighted to announce that we have introduced Tapestry, an online learning journal, across our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) classes.

Tapestry will allow us to share more of children's learning and development with parents and carers. Staff will upload photographs, videos and written observations, capturing the activities and experiences children enjoy during their time in Nursery or Reception.

Using a secure login, parents and carers will be able to access their child's online learning journal, see what they have been learning and celebrate their achievements at home. Parents and Carers will also be able to add their own photographs and comments, giving us a shared picture of children's learning both at home and at school.

All Early Years parents and carers will have received a letter this week containing further information and guidance on how to set up their account.

We are really looking forward to using Tapestry to strengthen our partnership with families and to share your child's learning journey in even greater detail.

Strengthening our Safeguarding Team

I am also very pleased to share that this week Mrs Hnatiuk, our Early Years Lead, and Mr Sullivan-Pond, Assistant Headteacher, have successfully completed their training as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs).

They now form part of our wider safeguarding team, working alongside Mrs Williams (SENDCo and DDSL) and myself as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

afeguarding is, of course, everyone's responsibility and ensuring that children feel safe, supported and listened to is at the heart of everything we do. Having additional trained colleagues within our team further strengthens our capacity to support children and families and ensures that we continue to maintain the highest standards of care and protection across the school.

Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of our safeguarding team if you have any concerns or need support.

Hertfordshire Cricket

This week also saw the first training sessions delivered in KS2 by Herts. Cricket. They will be joining us every Monday for the next six weeks to coach the children and help them develop their cricketing skills. The children really enjoyed their sessions and are already looking forward to next week.





Celebrations this Weekend

As we approach the weekend, we know that many of our families may be celebrating Diwali or enjoying Bonfire Night and fireworks.

To all those celebrating Diwali, we wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful festival. For those enjoying fireworks and bonfires, we hope you have a wonderful time together. We encourage everyone to take care, follow appropriate firework safety guidance and ensure that celebrations are enjoyed safely and considerately, particularly with younger children and pets in mind. Whatever your plans for the weekend, I hope you have an enjoyable and restful time together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

Kind Regards,

Mrs May-Finnegan
Headteacher




Upcoming Events

November

5th 8:30am - 12pm - NHS Flu Immunisations: Reception - Year 6

12th: 8:30am - 8:45am - Family Reading Morning

17th: 9:00 - Year 6 Cherry & Oak Class Assembly

26th: 8:30am - 8:45am - Family Reading Morning

26th 10:30am - 12pm - NHS Flu Immunisations: Reception - Year 6

December

1st December: 9:00 - Year 5 Ash Class Assembly

10th: 8:30am - 8:45am - Family Reading Morning

10th: Christmas Jumper Day

10th: Christmas Dinner

16th: 9:45am - 10:45am - EYFS/KS1 Nativity

11th 9:00am - 10:00pm - KS2 Christmas Around the World Concert

17th: 10:45am - I.Rock Concert

17th: 2:00pm - 3:00pm - EYFS/KS1 Nativity

18th: 1:15pm - End of Autumn Term

Year 2 Swimming

Year 2 attend swimming lessons every Wednesday 9:00 - 10:30. Pupils may arrive at school with their swimming kit underneath their uniform for ease of changing.

Year 4 Swimming

From Spring 2027, Year 4 will be swimming instead of Year 2.

P.E.

Children should change for P.E. in school.

Pupils should bring their P.E. Kit into school in a bag and this will be stored in the cloakroom until the end of half-term. Kits will then be sent home to washed.



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The National SMSC Bronze

Dates For Your Diary

Class Assemblies

(all of which will take place in the Hall from 9:00-9:30)

Year 3 Elm - Postponed

17th November 2026 - Year 6 Cherry & Oak

1st December 2026 - Year 5 Ash

19th January 2027 - Year 4 Aspen

9th February 2027 - Year 2 Alder

16th March 2027 - Year 1 Maple

13th July 2027 - Reception/Nursery Pine/Fir

Festive Celebrations

(School Hall)

16th December 2026 - EYFS/KS1 Nativity (AM)

09:45-10:45

17th December 2026 - KS2 Christmas Around the World Concert

09:00 - 10:00

17th December 2026 - EYFS/KS1 Nativity (PM)

14:00-15:00