



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another positive and purposeful week at Parkside, with opportunities for our children and staff to learn, reflect and grow together. I am delighted to share some of the highlights from the week.

Celebrating Our Differences Through Stories

During my Headteacher's Assembly this week, we read *My Shadow Is Pink* by Scott Stuart. This wonderful book encourages children to recognise that our unique qualities should be celebrated rather than hidden away. It also highlights the importance of supporting one another to embrace our differences, which embodies our school value of Inclusion.

The children listened carefully to the story and took time to share their own thoughts and understanding of its message. I was incredibly proud of their thoughtful responses and the maturity they demonstrated when reflecting on the importance of acceptance, kindness and being true to ourselves.

Sharing books that represent the broad range of protected characteristics is a valuable way to help children understand the rich tapestry of diversity in our world. Through stories, children can explore experiences different from their own, develop empathy and grow in their acceptance and understanding of others. At Parkside, we want every child to feel that they belong, that they are valued for who they are and that their differences are something to celebrate.

Investing in High-Quality Teaching and Learning

This week, our staff took part in high-quality professional development delivered by one of our Education Advisers from Herts for Learning, focusing on Responsive and Adaptive Teaching. At Parkside, we are passionate about continuous professional development and the positive impact it has on outcomes for children. This training provided staff with the opportunity to refine their knowledge and strengthen their understanding of how to meet children at their individual starting points, adapting teaching and support to respond effectively to their needs. This approach links closely with Parkside's Live Feedback Policy, an evidence-informed approach designed to support progress by providing feedback during the lesson, rather than relying on marking books afterwards.

By responding to children's learning in the moment, teachers and teaching assistants can address misconceptions, celebrate successes and help children take their next steps while learning is taking place.

When children receive feedback and respond to their teacher or teaching assistant, they record their progress in green pen. We regularly remind the children of this approach through our much-loved motto: **"If you've been seen, switch it to green!"**

I would like to thank our staff for the enthusiasm and commitment they demonstrated throughout the training, as well as their willingness to embrace new strategies to strengthen teaching and secure even better outcomes for our children. Their dedication to continually developing their practice is something to be celebrated.

WD6 Foodbank update

Finally, I would like to share an update regarding WD6 Foodbank, which has served our local community from Parkside's premises for several years. In the coming weeks, the Foodbank will be relocating to new premises on Leeming Road.

Due to space constraints and practical considerations, a move has become necessary. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the WD6 Foodbank team for their valued contribution to the community over the years. Their work has supported many local families and we wish them every success as they continue their important work for the Borehamwood community from their new location.

I would also like to reassure families that children will continue to be offered toast for breakfast at Parkside, generously donated by our local bakers. We are very grateful for this ongoing community support, which helps us to ensure that children can start their school day with something to eat.

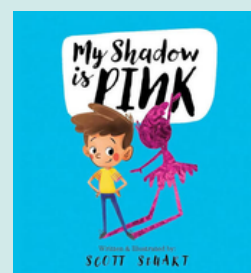
As always, thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

Mrs May-Finnegan

Headteacher





Upcoming Events

October

26th - 30th - Half Term Break - School Closed

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

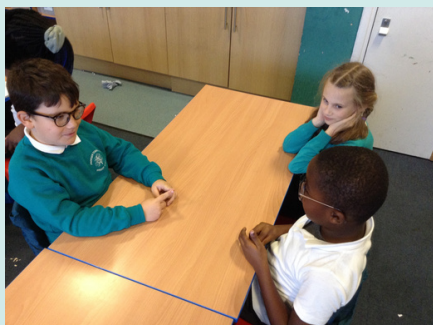
10th: Christmas Dinner

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

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

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

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.

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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WRAP AROUND CARE

From 15th January 2026, school WrapAround Care will extend to 5.30pm

Art and crafts,
Board games,
Recreational Activities,
Sports and Cooking!

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
7:45 am – 8:30 am
3.15pm – 5.30pm

REGISTER TODAY
admin@parkside.herts.sch.uk



Nurturing And Inspiring Young Minds Towards A Bright Future

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)

11th December 2026 - KS2 Christmas Around the World Concert

09:00 - 10:00

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

09:45-10:45

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

14:00-15:00

