

# Park Primary School



## Newsletter

Nov  
2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Thank you to all the parents who have provided feedback through the homework survey or the questionnaires given out at parents' evening. In this newsletter, we will be reporting back about homework and will share the results of the parents' questionnaire in the newsletter next month.

We are pleased to announce our new school values on page 4, which have been selected in consultation with staff and children.

This week Miss Roberts and Miss Leather held four meetings to share how we teach phonics and reading across the school. We hope that this was useful to all the parents who attended. The PowerPoint presentations will be available on the school website next week.

We have lots of exciting events coming up in the next month or so in school. Letters will be coming next week about the Christmas plays. Please note that we are only able to provide two tickets per family due to space restrictions in our school hall. Forms should be returned as soon as possible to secure your preferred day and time.

The school choir will be singing at a range of events over the festive period. They will be singing in the town centre on Saturday 9th December at 11.30am, and on Tuesday 19th December they will be taking part in the Aldershot Schools' Carol Concert at the Garrison Church, next to the Wellington statue. Parents and families are welcome to attend either of these events to support the children. Parents are also invited to join us at St Michaels Church on Thursday 21st December at 11.00am for a Christmas service with the children. Please note that school finishes at the usual time of 3.15pm on the last day of term.

Best Wishes  
Miss Emma Grant  
Headteacher

## Notices & Reminders

### INSET Days

School will be closed on the following days for staff training:

Monday 19th February  
Thursday 29th March

One further date for INSET in the summer term is still to be confirmed.

### Winter Weather

Please make sure that children wear warm coats to school every day during the winter months. Hats, gloves and scarfs may also be worn. We recommend naming these also.

### Adventure Playground

This should not be used before or after school by pupils or siblings.

### Uniform Sale

There will be a nearly new uniform sale at school on Wednesday 29th Nov at 3pm in The Sunshine Room. Uniform will be on sale, with prices starting at 50p.

### Bikes

All children riding bikes to school need to wear a helmet. This can be kept at school under the bike shelter next to the Year 5 classroom.



Congratulations to Miss McNiven and her partner Mark on the birth of their beautiful baby boy.

Baby Jacob was born on the 10th October and is being thoroughly spoiled by his parents, family and friends!

We send them all of our love and best wishes.

## ATTENDANCE

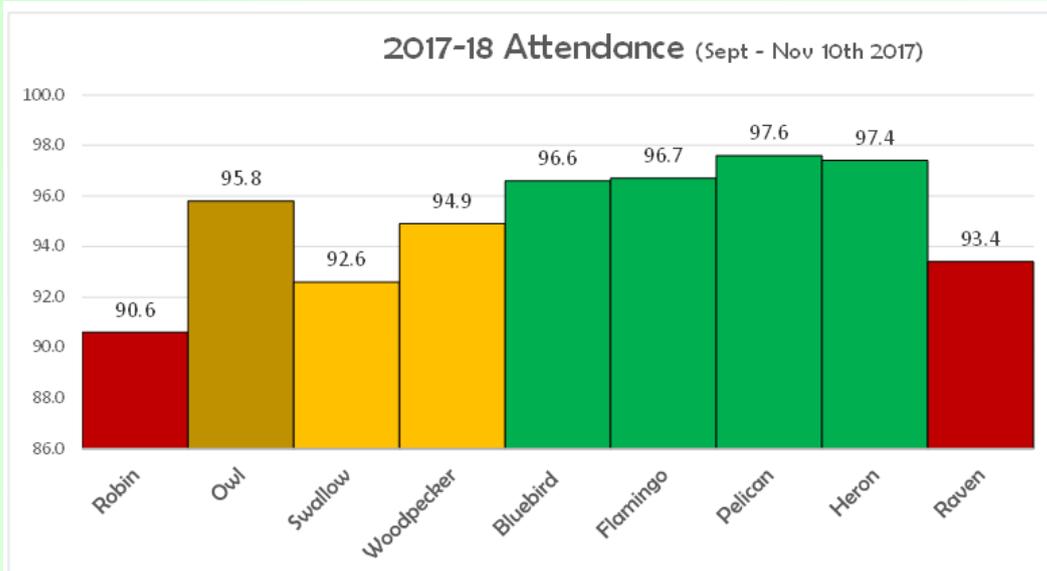
School Target = 96%

Current Attendance = 95.1%

We are currently **below** our school attendance target of at least 96%

Unfortunately the various bugs and Chicken Pox have had a negative impact on our attendance over the last month or so. We are optimistic that this will improve over the next month.

If you need support getting your child in to school on time in the mornings, please come and speak to Tanzy, our Family Link Worker. Her usual days are Monday, Thursday and Friday. She can be contacted via the school office, or come along to her weekly coffee morning, every Friday at 9.00 in The Sunshine Room.



1st Place

Pelican Class

97.6%



2nd Place

Heron Class

97.4%



3rd Place

Flamingo Class

96.7%

# SPORTS NEWS!

## Year 5 gymnastics performance



Well done to Year 5 who performed their gymnastics sequences to their parents at the end of last half term. They had worked hard to create a group sequence using a range of partner balances and individual skills such as front support and shoulder stands on apparatus. The whole class demonstrated perseverance and worked well together, whilst having fun.

## Dance Club- Thriller Flashmob!

KS2 Dance Club surprised everyone during playtime at the end of last half term with a flashmob dance routine! One by one the dancers stopped what they were playing and joined in with the 'Thriller' dance. They wowed everyone with their enthusiasm and moves. By the end of the music track more and more children and staff joined in with the dance so that the playground was full of dancing. There was a great buzz at the end of playtime. Well done Dance Club!



## Year 5 & 6 Handball Tournament

As part of our year round competitions we hold at school, Year 5 and 6 tried out handball. They were quick learners and by the end of the competition the pace of the games quickened and some superb goals were scored!

The overall results were:

Green - 12  
Blue- 12  
Red -5  
Yellow- 4



## School Values

Over the last term and a half, the staff, children and governors have been discussing our school values. These are the qualities that we aim to demonstrate, model and teach, and for the children to display and develop during their time at Park Primary School.

Over the rest of the school year, we will be introducing these to the children, and help them to understand what these mean and look like. We will also be integrating them into our school behaviour policy and reward system.

The school values for Park Primary School are: Perseverance, Independence, Cooperation, Challenge and Respect.

It is our aim, that by integrating these values into our school ethos and practice, we will enable the children to be successful learners and prepare them for the next stage of their education.

The School Council suggested having something bright and colourful to help them to remember the school values and came up with the idea of a rainbow.



# Homework

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to respond to our homework, the results of which are summarised below:

- 50% of parents felt that their child enjoyed completing the homework projects.
- 45% of parents felt that homework projects enabled them to support their child's learning.
- 30% of parents felt that the projects helped to reinforce their child's learning.
- 30% parents felt that homework projects helped to prepare their child for the next stage of their learning.
- 70% parents felt that homework should be set weekly.

Some parents commented that completing the projects was stressful for families, were too competitive and often completed by parents.

Other parents felt that the projects enabled their child to be creative and to follow their interests which helped to engage them in their learning.

Some parents felt like homework at the moment did not help them to support their child's learning and individual targets, especially those with special needs.

Other parents said that their children had fun completing projects and they felt more confident supporting them with this, than with English and Maths tasks.

Parents also commented on the frequency of homework. Some felt that the length of time for the projects were too long to keep their children interested. There were also concerns about not having too much homework and putting unnecessary pressure on children and families.

The School Council also reported back from discussions in their classrooms. The younger children seemed to like completing projects more, with 75% giving a positive response, compared to 50% in Years 3-6.

The children said they would like to be able to complete some homework by themselves, and not have to need so much help from their parents. They said that they would like to choose some of their homework, based on their favourite subject, and to have their own homework books.

## What Next?

In the next two weeks, we will be publishing our new homework policy. All children in Years 2-6 will be given regular Maths and English homework, this will differ slightly for different age groups and children. We will recommend a guide amount of time to spend on homework each week, but will also allow parents to judge what is right for their child and family. Maths homework will be based on developing fluency of mental arithmetic, so pupils can be more independent, and parents who are supporting do not need to know the various written methods that we teach in school.



Children in Years 2-6 will be given a login and password to an online timestable game which the school has subscribed to. The children can create their own avatar with a 'rock star name' and earn coins to customise their character by playing games and tournaments. The teachers are able to set the questions for groups of children so they learn their

multiplication tables at an appropriate pace. They will be able to play as many times as they like to improve their scores and times. We will be introducing this to the children in a special assembly next week, before giving them their log in details which will be stuck in their Reading Logs

In Year R and Year 1, homework will be games based to reinforce their learning in school in a fun way.

Once a term, we will set a short creative task. We will invite the children to complete one task over the course of 3-4 weeks, which will include a school holiday. We will give suggestions about what the children could do, but will also allow them to use their imagination and follow a line of interest based around their topic. The work will be displayed in the classrooms after school, along with the children's books and school work, so parents can come and see their child's work more regularly, not just at parents' evenings twice a year.

We hope that these strategies will help to engage children in their homework and that we can make better links between learning at school and at home.

# Coming Up...

## November 2017

Mon 20th Nov  
Mufti Day for Children In Need  
Snow White panto in school

Tue 21st—Fri 24th Nov  
Y6 Pedal Power training

Wed 29th Nov  
3pm Nearly new uniform sale

## December 2017

Thurs 7th Dec  
10.30 Choir singing at Tesco—  
parents welcome to watch and  
support

2.30 Music concert for parents—  
Yrs 2,3,4

Sat 9th Dec  
11.30 Choir performing in Alder-  
shot town centre (Meet at 11.15)

Wed 13th Dec  
2.00 Christmas Play—Yrs R,1,2  
(ticket only)

Thurs 14th Dec  
9.15 Christmas Play—Yrs R,1,2  
(ticket only)

Mon 18th Dec  
5.00 Christmas Play—Yrs 3,4,5,6  
(ticket only)

Tue 19th Dec  
9.15 Christmas Play—Yrs 3,4,5,6  
(ticket only)

6pm Choir performing at Alder-  
shot Schools Carol Concert—The  
Garrison Church. Families invit-  
ed to attend.

Wed 20th Dec  
Christmas Lunch  
Parks Got Talent

Thur 21st Dec  
11 am Church Service - Parents  
welcome to join us at the church  
or volunteer to help us walk to  
the church.

Last day of term—  
School finishes at normal time

\*  
Fri 22nd Dec—Wed 3rd Jan  
School closed for Christmas  
break

## January 2018

Thurs 4th Jan  
Back to school

Mon 15th Jan  
Deadline to apply for Year R  
2018

Wed 17th Jan  
Fire Service visit Yrs 1&2

## February 2018

Mon 12th—Fri 16th Feb  
Half term

Mon 19th Feb  
INSET Day—School closed for  
pupils

## March 2018

Wed 21st—Fri 23rd March  
Year 6 at Runways End

Thurs 29th March  
INSET Day—School closed for  
pupils

Fri 30th Mar—Fri 13th Apr  
Easter Break

## April 2018

Mon 16th Apr  
Back to school

Sun 22nd Apr  
Yr 5&6 choir rehearsal

Mon 23rd Apr  
Yr5&6 choir singing at The Al-  
bert Hall

Tue 24th—Fri 27th Apr  
Year 5 Pedal Power

For Hampshire school holiday dates for 2017-18, please follow check the Hampshire website:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays>