PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learning to Love . Loving to Learn

Mrs Claire Stafford
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Parkdale Road, Carlton
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Parkdale Weekly Newsletter

Thursday 1st October 2026

Dear Families,

I can't believe that it is October already! Despite the warm weather, it is certainly starting to feel as though the nights are drawing in.

A slightly earlier newsletter this week as tomorrow school is closed to pupils for INSET, or 'Goose Fair Day' as many children have told me it's called! The teaching staff will be busy undertaking training and working collaboratively on our Teaching and Learning principles, but I know that they will love to see any pictures of things you get up to on Dojo.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for helping the start of day run smoothly. We seem to have found our flow and the feedback has been positive about opportunities to see class teachers before school. Just a quick reminder that we will start to send children round via the office if they arrive late (from about 8.43am.) This is to ensure that children do not miss the class register as the classes head into assembly first thing.

This week at Parkdale:

It has been a busy week in Reception. As the children have now settled in we have started lots of short sessions of formal learning! Maths, phonics drawing club and topic. We have been learning all about Goose Fair, its traditions and history and have even tried some traditional goose fair food…mushy peas, we voted to say whether we liked it or not. We would love to share your Goose Fair pictures with the children so if you visit please add an observation to Tapestry!

On Monday, Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous Tudor workshop. Throughout the day, the children learnt about the kings and queens of that era, what armour they wore to battle, what it was like to dine as a lord/lady or a steward/servant and we ended the day with a jostling tournament. Luckily, the battle between Mrs. Garrett VS Mrs. Troop ended in a draw!

Our Pupil Parliamentarians had a day out at Bagthorpe Primary School this week, working with children from across Transform Trust. They spent time in their HUGE forest school area and learned about effective teamwork and leadership. Over the next couple of weeks, they will be leading assembly to share their learning and talk about their priorities for the year.

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Introducing Parkdale Bookfest 2027!

This week, we were delighted to launch Parkdale Bookfest 2027 in assembly!
Bookfest is designed to inspire our children to read for pleasure and discover the wonderful worlds that books can open up. Our children have been challenged to complete 150 reads at home during the academic year 2026–27.

Every time they read at home, they can add to their reading total. Children who reach 150 reads this school year will earn an invitation to our very special Bookfest celebration event, taking place at the end of the Summer Term!

We have lots of exciting things planned, with the promise of an afternoon filled with books, creativity, fun and surprises. From character experiences and performances to activities and treats, Bookfest will be a wonderful way to celebrate our children's reading achievements.

We would love your support in helping your child reach their 150 reads. Reading together, listening to your child read, sharing a bedtime story or simply talking about a book all count towards building a lifelong love of reading.

We can't wait to see where your child's reading adventure takes them!
Happy reading, Parkdale!

Harvest Assembly

Next week we have our annual Harvest Festival Assembly on Tuesday. We are asking all families, if they are able to, to donate something from the list in the poster below to our Harvest Food Bank Collection for Hope Nottingham. We have been supporting Hope in Carlton for the last few years and they are always grateful for the donations we take in.

Donations can be handed over in the Hall on Tuesday next week – 6th October. After our assembly we will deliver them to Hope later in the week.

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Thank you once again for your generous contributions to Harvest as we reach out to help families in our local community.

Hope will accept any unopened and in date items and are always looking for items that contribute to special dietary requirements like Coeliac, Dairy Free and Halal.



Important Information:

A note from Mr Precious:

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We have had a brilliant start to the year with whole school attendance sitting at 97.8%. We are extremely keen to keep this positive start going- research shows that good attendance is essential for children to achieve their potential.

As Autumn starts drawing in and the seasonal colds start to kick in, I would like to remind you of our expectations regarding attendance.

- Do your best to make sure that your child never misses a day of school unnecessarily, including bringing them into school whenever they are well enough to attend and avoiding making any arrangements during term time that would affect your child's attendance.
- Contact us should you require any support with improving your child's school attendance.
- Completing a Leave of Absence request form (available from the office), if you know in advance that your child is going to miss school for one day or more, for any reason.
- Communicating any other future absences before the start of the school day, either by telephone (0115 9110066), or in person at the school office.
- Engage constructively with any visit from Mr Precious (Deputy Head) or Mrs Walker (Pastoral Lead)

If your child has a cold, cough or headache please still send them in and we will look after them. We can dispense any medication and we will make sure they have plenty of fluids. We will always contact you if their symptoms get worse.

We will be celebrating attendance throughout the year in a variety of ways from class certificates and treats to individual awards and prizes for those attending well and those who are showing great improvement from last year.

We will be following the mantra of 'Miss School, Miss Out' across school and reinforcing the importance of attendance at every opportunity.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Best wishes,

Mr Precious

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We are getting a large number of lunchboxes being delivered throughout the morning which is becoming quite unmanageable for the office staff to get out to classes. If we can ask that wherever possible they come in first thing with the children, that would be greatly appreciated!

Dates and Reminders:

- Tuesday 6th October- Harvest Festival
- 14th and 15th October- Parents Evening Years 1-6 (Class teachers will send out boking formation shortly)
- 4th November- School Photos
- 11th November- Remembrance Day
- 13th November- Children in Need

Have a wonderful extended weekend!

Mrs Claire Stafford
Headteacher