PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learning to Love . Loving to Learn

Mrs Claire Stafford
Headteacher
Parkdale Road, Carlton
Nottingham, NG4 1BX
0115 911 0066

Parkdale Weekly Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the new half term! We know that this one will be really busy, with all sorts of exciting plans in the run-up to the holidays. It's my favourite time of year to be in school, with nativities and carols and creative activities around every corner. Keep your eye on Class Dojo for individual class events and opportunities.

It has been a great week in school. The children (and staff!) have come back refreshed and I have seen some wonderful learning taking place. I had the absolute privilege of teaching in both 3 Rowan and Nursery this week which really took me back to my roots and the reason why I do this job. I also popped into Year 4 on Thursday afternoon to see families supporting learning linked to the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. I'm not sure who had more fun…the parents or the children!

We also had school photos this week. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as you queued up to have sibling pictures taken.

Next week, we have our Remembrance Assembly on Wednesday. Poppies are on sale after school at the moment on the playground. We also have our Pudsey Run on Thursday afternoon and our Children in Need bake sale on Friday! For more information, please see the website here: https://parkdale-primary.co.uk/children-in-need-at-parkdale/

This week at Parkdale:

Record Breakers!

We are delighted to share that we have been part of setting a new Guiness World Record!!! Our children all got involved in reading together at the same time as thousands of others online. The world record for the most people reading online in 12 hours has now been broken and Parkdale have been a part of it! Thank you so much for supporting the children to read even more at home and making this possible! ☺



Year 3 have been to Ancient Egypt this week!

Well done to all of Year 3. We had a wonderful Egyptian day creating lots of artefacts. We made Egyptian headdresses, a sarcophagus complete with

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jewelled mummy and created our own cartouche using ancient hieroglyphics to write our own name. We finished all this off with a scavenger hunt around the school grounds to find more ancient clues. We hope they all had a fabulous day and tell you lots about their learning.

Reception on Tour!

Reception have had a fabulous time beginning their tour of the UK; learning about England and celebrating the diverse communities that we live in. We have been making Stonehenge, finding out about London, sampling some traditional English afternoon tea and learning the story of Guy Fawkes. Next stop Scotland!!!

Year 4 Trip to Perlethorpe – A Viking Adventure!

Year 4 had a fantastic day at Perlethorpe, stepping back in time to learn all about the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons! The children absolutely loved meeting our Viking and Anglo-Saxon leaders, who was rather strict and thorough in his teaching! They had lots of fun grinding grain, playing a game of shield keepy-uppy and even getting the opportunity to hold and pose with some Viking weapons.

During our Anglo-Saxon workshop, we learnt about *'The Thing'*, an important gathering where people came together to discuss and make decisions. We also put our orienteering skills to the test, searching for hidden runes along the way.

A special mention goes to our Viking thralls, who showed fantastic resilience while taking on the role of an enslaved Viking. They certainly threw themselves into the part, even when faced with some rather harsh treatment from the Viking leader!

It was a brilliant day filled with hands-on learning, laughter and plenty of adventures. The children were a real credit to the school, behaving excellently throughout the day. Well done, everyone!

Year 4 Parental Event – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all the parents and family members who joined us for our Year 4 afternoon! It was lovely to see so much enthusiasm and commitment in supporting the children with their Viking and Anglo-Saxon creations. Together, you created some fantastic artefacts, including brooches, shields, rune writing and longhouses. We hope you enjoyed getting creative and sharing the children's learning! Thank you for making the afternoon so special!

Extra Information:

We have a cleaner vacancy at school. If you are interested, or know of somebody who is, please do pop in for a chat.

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On **Friday 27th November, school will be closed to children as the staff take part in a Trust-wide INSET day**. This is organised by Transform Trust and all staff will be accessing workshops and activities linked to teaching, learning and leadership of disadvantaged pupils.



Does your child have a Woody that may have lost his hat?! We have had a small toy cowboy hat in the office for a few days and are keen to reunite it with its owner!

Celebrating our Parkdale Community:

Congratulations to Shabana!

Shabana Ali, who is one of our wonderful parents, has become a published author today! She has co-authored The Girl Who Dreamed Big: From the Pitch to Programming, aimed at children aged 5–8 and officially launching today.

The story follows Sara, a football-loving girl who undergoes life-changing heart surgery and discovers a new passion for coding. Through her journey, children learn about resilience, creativity, problem-solving and believing in their dreams. The book is inspired by her sister, Hanaa, who underwent heart surgery at just seven years old. Despite her early challenges, she went on to build a successful career in technology, progressing from Software Engineer to Principal Cloud Solutions Architect. Her achievements have earned her national recognition, including a TechWomen100 award and an Under 30 Rising Star award. Their hope is to inspire children, particularly young girls, to believe that their circumstances do not define their future and that anything is possible. A portion of the proceeds from the book will also be donated to a heart charity, helping to support others affected by heart conditions.

You can find the book here:

Waterstones:

https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-girl-who-dreamed-big/hanaa-ali/shabana-ali/9781037108778

Amazon:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Girl-Who-Dreamed-Big-Programming-ebook/dp/1037108779/

Austin Macauley:

https://www.austinmacauley.com/book/the-girl-who-dreamed-big

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Shaban has kindly said that she will provide the school with a copy for consideration, along with posters, flyers or order forms to share with parents and children. Congratulations Shabana- we can't wait to read it!

Community Opportunities for Children

Another amazing parent, Emma Wragg, has shared some opportunities that are coming up within the local community, for children and parents to engage in to support Dementia UK.

A Jingle bell Bash, happening on the 22nd November at Stoke Bardolph village hall from 10am-1pm will be raising much needed funds for Dementia UK. The event is being run by a lady called Natalie Mauri who is an amazing photographer. There will be lots of Nottingham based children's providers offering taster sessions of the classes they run, including messy and sensory play, gifts on sale, face painting, a Christmas mini photo shoot and much more. Tickets are £2 per adult and £1 per child and each ticket includes entry and a free raffle ticket. All proceeds go directly to Dementia and Cancer charities. Please see the poster below for further information.



There is also a regular opportunity for children and families to take part in inter-generational fun through the Bits and Bobs Playgroup.

Thank you from Hope Nottingham

We have had a lovely message from Hope Nottingham, thanking us for the incredibly generous contributions to their foodbank.

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Dates and Reminders

- Wednesday 11th November- Remembrance Assembly
- Thursday 12th November- Pudsey Run and wear yellow/spots/PE kit
- Friday 27th November- INSET day
- Wednesday 2nd December- KS2 Pantomime

Have a lovely weekend ☺

Warmest wishes,

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