

January 2026

NEWSLETTER

Park Hill Junior School



Learning Update

It has been a vibrant and busy few weeks at Park Hill, and I am thrilled to see how our children have embraced our refreshed vision and core values. As we have shared recently, our goal is to ensure that Park Hill is a place "Where Every Child Belongs and Every Child Grows." To bring this to life, we have introduced a shared language for our community. You may have heard your children talking about being "Aspirational" or reaching for "Limitless Learning." We are teaching the children that their potential has no "roof" and that by developing a Growth Mindset, they can achieve anything when they put their mind to it.

Across all year groups, we have been focusing on the concept of the "Learning Pit." We want our pupils to understand that feeling stuck isn't a sign that they can't do it—it's a sign that they are learning! By using the "Power of Yet" (e.g., "I can't do this yet"), our children are showing incredible resilience as they climb out of the pit with new skills and deeper understanding.

Our Values in Action

- **Limitless Learning:** Children are looking beyond the "now" and aiming high, understanding that by stretching their brains every day, they can reach heights they once thought were impossible
- **Courageous Curiosity:** We are seeing "brave questions" in Science as children explore the why and how.
- **Sustained Success:** We are celebrating the small, daily wins that lead to big achievements.
- **Kind Community:** It's wonderful to see children acting with kindness, ensuring everyone feels they belong.
- **Confident Communication:** Pupils are continuing to practice their oracy skills and sharing their ideas with increasing pride.

Thank you for your continued support as we embed The Park Hill Way. I encourage you to ask your child this evening: "Were you in the 'Learning Pit' today?" or "How did you show the value 'kind community' today?"

Miss Arli
Head Teacher

Baby Griffin

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news with our school community! Mrs Griffin has shared that she is expecting a new addition to their family!



We couldn't be happier for them as they embark on this exciting journey into parenthood. Mrs Griffin plans to continue in her role until the end of May, and we are already working to ensure a smooth transition during her leave. Please join us in sending your warmest congratulations to Mrs Griffin and family!

Diary Dates

2 nd February 1:45-3.45pm	3 & 4 Boys Football Tournament
6 th February	NSPCC Rocks - Timestables Rockstars
11 th /12 th February	Parents Consultations
16 th - 20 th February	Half Term
23 rd February	Inset Day
2 nd - 6 th March	Book Week
5 th March	World Book Day (more details to follow)

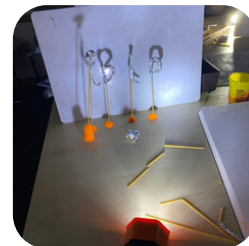
PHJS Core Values



Spotlight: Year 3

Year 3 Update

In science we have been learning about light and how to make shadows. With this knowledge we have been doing cross curricular between science and art learning by creating shadow sculptures. The children had to work out how to use lots of small opaque shapes to make one large shadow. Some chose to make words while others chose to make small images ranging from rabbits and cowboys to the sun and moon!



In outdoor learning this week we have making links to our learning about the Stone Age and how they made fire. We have been specifically learning that in the Paleolithic age they would only have fire from either lightning strikes or wildfires that they had to keep burning whereas in the Mesolithic age, humans had started to develop the technology to start their own fires using flint or wood drills. The children were taught about fire safety, the fire triangle (Heat, oxygen and fuel), and how to construct and start a small campfire. All of the children got to have a go at using a flint and steel to create some sparks.



Maths Passports

This term, we are excited to launch our Maths Passports, a whole-school initiative designed to ensure that all children learn their times tables and become confident, fluent mathematicians. The passport includes 10 stages, and children work through one stage at a time. For each stage, children must collect 15 sign-offs, which can be completed by different adults in school. Once a stage is completed, it is signed by the class teacher and stamped by the Headteacher or a member of SLT, before children move on to the next stage. This approach encourages regular practice, confidence, and consistency across the school.



Can you become a times table traveller?

- Stage 1 — Europe 2, 5, 10 times tables
- Stage 2 — Asia 3, 6, 9 times tables
- Stage 3 — Africa 4, 8, 12 times tables
- Stage 4 — Australia 7, 11, mixed times tables
- Stage 5 — North America 2, 5, 10 division facts
- Stage 6 — South America 3, 6, 9 division facts
- Stage 7 — Antarctica 4, 8, 12 division facts
- Stage 8 — Globetrotters 7, 11, mixed division facts
- Stage 9 — Outer Space Number knowledge
- Stage 10 — Universe Square, cube, prime numbers

Attendance

Well done to (3S) for having the highest attendance so far! Our Overall attendance is 95.9% which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	98.5
3S	98.6
3U	98.4
4E	97.5
4H	97.3
4F	98.5
5K	94.7
5I	96.0
5M	95.9
6A	95.7
6H	95.6
6M	94.9

Mathletics

We also continue to use Mathletics, our online maths platform, to support children's learning at home. Mathletics provides interactive activities, games, and challenges that reinforce key maths skills taught in school. A Maths Resources folder is available, which includes booklets with a range of activities that parents can print at home if they wish, to further support their child's learning and practise key maths skills offline.



Writing Laureates and Aspirational Readers

These children are this term's Writing Laureates and Aspirational Readers, recognised for their excellent commitment and progress. They have demonstrated strong writing skills through thoughtful planning, ambitious vocabulary choices, and carefully edited learning. As readers, they have shown enthusiasm and dedication by reading regularly, completing AR quizzes, discussing texts confidently, and making insightful links between what they read and their own writing.

You may notice these children around the school wearing their special ties, which celebrate their achievements. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and positive attitudes they continue to show – well done!

Interhouse Basketball Competition

We held our interhouse basketball competition this month with a special guest from Team Canada in to help coach/ref. The coaches were very impressed by the children's basketball abilities.

Uniform

Uniform Reminder: Looking Smart! It is wonderful to see children taking such pride in their school uniform. As a quick reminder, please ensure that all footwear is plain black. This includes trainers, which should have black soles, laces, and logos. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community looking smart and consistent!

Year 5 Fire Safety Workshops

This week, Year 5 welcomed the London Fire Brigade into our classrooms for a series of vital fire safety workshops.

The sessions were highly interactive and encouraged our students to think like "Fire Safety Officers" in their own homes. During the visit, the children explored three key areas: Prevention, Detection and Escape.

Did you know? The London Fire Brigade provides Home Fire Safety Visits for free please find more information linked [here](#). Check that your smoke alarms are in working order!



Spring		
	Reading	Writing
3U	Tim	Riona
3S	Beth	Aryan
3D	Mila	Gabriel
4F	McGregor	Aadya
4E	Amilyah	Adam
4H	Sahasra	Melody
5I	Aaron	Suhavi
5M	Pavith	Tomi
5K	Navya	Arav
6A	Zakhary	Mishika
6H	Amira	Yusuf
6M	Dhruvi	Anvita

Celebrating Success

Thank you for sharing so many wonderful celebrations from outside of school. If your child isn't included this month, please watch for upcoming newsletters. The form is now temporarily closed as we add all names and will reopen soon - stay tuned.



Felix 5K

Well done to Felix for completing his 50m swim!



Neil 4H

Well done to Neil who has his Passed ABRSM Initial Grade Piano!



Amiera 6A

Well done to Amiera who took part in her Clubs champs gala 100m IM and 100m free both achieved Silver 50m breast 6th place.



Mourikhaa 3U

Well done to Mourikhaa performing her Bharatanatyam (Indian classical dance) on a big stage in front of more than 100 audience members. Within the same week, she also gave a Classical Singing stage performance, again in front of 100+ people.

Beth 3S

Well done to Beth for completing her 200m swimming!

Adira 3D

Well done to Adira for Achieving 25m swimming milestone at her swim classes and moving to the next level!

Nicolle 3S

Well done to Nicolle for completing her 200m swimming!

SUCCESS

noun. [sek'ses]

The accomplishments of a goal or purpose; Favorable results or positive returns on hard work.



E Safety

Last year, around one in five children aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To a child who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens someone's day and resets their perspective. Here are ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

In this guide, you'll find helpful tips on reaching out, thinking before commenting and recommending fun things.

10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday