

February 2026

NEWSLETTER

Park Hill Junior School



February Learning Update

It has been a wonderful start to the Spring term, with our pupils returning from the half-term break with energy and focus. This month, we have seen our students embody our core values through various projects and classroom achievements.

- **Courageous Curiosity & Limitless Learning:** Across all year groups, children have been diving into new topics with courageous curiosity, asking big questions and taking risks in their learning. From scientific investigations to creative writing, we are seeing a commitment to limitless learning, where pupils push past their comfort zones to reach new heights.
- **Kind Community & Confident Communication:** During Children's Mental Health Week, our focus on being a kind community was more evident than ever. Children worked together to support one another's wellbeing, using confident communication to express their feelings and ideas during group discussions and assemblies. We also marked Safer Internet Day, where these communication skills helped pupils debate how to stay safe and respectful in the digital world.
- **Sustained Success:** We are celebrating the sustained success of our pupils who continue to show resilience in their daily work. Whether it is mastering a tricky math concept or excelling in physical education, these consistent efforts are laying the groundwork for a success.

We are incredibly proud of how our pupils live these values every day. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging these traits at home.

Miss Arli
Head Teacher

Parking Concerns–Open Surgery with local councillor

There will be a meeting held at Park Hill Junior School with the local councillor on Wednesday 3rd March 3-4pm to discuss the parking situation and explore potential solutions.

There will also be a separate meeting on Thursday 5th March in St Matthews Church at 6.30pm with the Safer Neighbour Hood Team panel who will be including the parking issues on their agenda.

Diary Dates

5 th March	World Book Day
9 th March - 13 th March	British Science Week
10 th March	Cinema Trip (selected children)
10 th March 12.45pm-3.15pm	Y3- Waterstones visit
16 th March - 27 th March	Big Walk and Wheel Challenge
16 th March - 20 th March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
16 th March 3.15pm-4.45pm	Girls Football match at home v Aerodrome
17 th March	CSMA Choir Rehearsals and Concert

PHJS Core Values



Spotlight: Year 4

Year 4 Update

It has been an action-packed start to the Spring term for Year 4! Our overarching theme this term, **"the Rainforest,"** has taken us deep into the heart of the world's most vibrant ecosystems. The children have become experts on the distinct layers of the rainforest; from the dark forest floor to the high-reaching emergent layer and have discovered the fascinating plants and animals that call each level home.

However, our journey hasn't just been about beauty; we have also tackled the sobering reality of **deforestation**. Through thoughtful discussions, the students explored the impact of habitat loss and, more importantly, brainstormed inspiring ways we can help protect these "lungs of the earth" for future generations.

In Science, our curiosity has been focused on **living things and their habitats**. This has complemented our rainforest theme perfectly, as we've looked at how different species are specifically adapted to survive in their environments. From the classification of local wildlife to the exotic creatures of the tropics, Year 4 is learning exactly what it takes for a habitat to thrive and remain in balance. It's been a fantastic term of discovery so far!

In our math lessons, the children have been sharpening their logical thinking by mastering the complexities of **multiplication and division**. We have also stepped into the world of practical application by exploring **measurement**. The pupils have been busy measuring various objects and spaces to calculate the **perimeter** of different shapes, proving that math is truly all around us.

World Book Day Heroes & Villains

We will be celebrating world book day on Thursday 5th March. The theme for this year is Heroes & Villains. We look forward to seeing which heroes and villains we have walk through the gates on the 5th!



Samosa & Chia Sale

Orders must be in by 15th March and they orders will be ready to collect on 20th March after school.



Ms Andrews Charity Boxing

Our very own Ms Andrews will be taking part in a charity boxing match raising money for our Parents association. We would like wish he all the luck whilst training and for the main event. Please see below the link to donate to her page.

[Fundraising Page](#)

Uniform

To align with new national guidance and support our families with the cost of living, our uniform policy is changing from September. We will be placing a greater emphasis on non-branded, affordable items available from local supermarkets, alongside our pre-loved uniform shop. We have 4 compulsory branded items (Jumper/cardigan, tie, PE jumper and PE t shirt) which can be purchased from Hewitt's or our pre loved uniform shop.



Amazing sloths
Do you want to learn about sloths? Well first sloths are slow moving mammals. Also, they hang in trees because they can't walk on land.

Appearance: Firstly, sloths have brown fur with a tiny bit of grey. Second, they have a short stumpy tail or no tail. Also they have a tint of green (to blend in). Thirdly, they can have two toes or three toes that are four inches, but have a loving smile.

Diet: Sloths are herbivores (vegetarians) and eat fruit, like bananas, apples and mangos. Also sloths eat leaves (that come from the trees). Thirdly, they climb up high to achieve them getting all the nutrition they need.

Where: Sloths live in Brazil in south central America in the amazon rainforest. Also sloths live alone and live in trees and hang for a really long time.

Did you know: Did you know that sloths are three times faster in water. Did you know that sloths hang in trees because they can't walk.

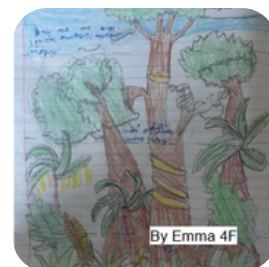
By Amilyah 4E



This is a picture of a sloth.



This is a picture of a sloth eating.



Attendance

Well done to (6H) for having the highest attendance this month! Our Overall attendance is 96.1% which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	97.4
3S	98.5
3U	98.0
4E	97.3
4H	96.2
4F	97.3
5K	97.9
5I	97.3
5M	95.8
6A	97.4
6H	99.4
6M	93.5



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 **open** please complete the form **here** if you would like to celebrate your child/rens success



Jai 3S

Bronze medalist in Under 11yrs old Boys Doubles category partnering with Akshay who was also in PHJS until last academic year at Badminton England's Bronze level tournament.



Blake 4E

Well done to Blake who has made a big improvement in his football game. He is playing with confidence, applying coaching advice, and showing real fearlessness in his tackles. His ability to shield the ball and his new range of skills make him unpredictable and difficult to stop. Excellent job, Blake—keep up the great work. Well done.

The Info Hub

Boys football

Well done to our boys football team who drew and won their games against Purley Oaks!

We also won against Howard Primary School - go PHJS boys!



Girls Netball

Well done to the netball team winning 11-3 against Purley Oaks!

Your support is also welcomed to these games.

Y3 and Y4 boys football tournament

Well done to our year 3 and 4 boys who took part in a 7 a side football tournament against 17 other schools! We finished the tournament joint first. The boys ended up on penalty shoot outs to determine the overall winner which we unfortunately lost on. Well done boys for representing our school so well!



Main Office Gate

To ensure the continued safety of our pupils and to help our busy office team manage school access efficiently, we would like to share a polite reminder regarding our main gate entry procedures.

When "buzzing" for entry at the main gate, please clearly:

1. **Identify yourself** (Full name and your child's name).
2. **State the reason for your visit** (e.g., "dropping off a forgotten PE kit" or "attending a pre-arranged meeting").

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our school a safe and organised environment for the children.



Book Donations

If you are having a spring clean and find any books that are in good condition - we would always be happy to receive donations so we can share these with other families.



Medical Care Plans

If your child has a medicine in school, you will have received an email to complete the medical plan. Please complete this as soon as possible. We are happy to help if needed.



E Safety

With over 900 million monthly users, Snapchat continues to be a favourite among children and young people; however, with its ever-evolving features, the risks have evolved too. From AI-generated filters and chatbots, to disappearing messages and the Snap Map location-sharing tool, it's easy for children to stumble into unsafe territory. This guide breaks down the latest updates, including the Lens+ subscription service, and web browser access.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK
97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak has been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXUATION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>