

March 2026

NEWSLETTER

Park Hill Junior School



March Learning Update

March has been a month of incredible growth at Park Hill, and I am thrilled to report that children across all year groups are making fantastic progress. Their dedication to their studies and their enthusiasm for new challenges have made this a truly stand out month and term for our school community.

A Love for Literacy and Learning

Our school continues to foster a deep love for reading, which was celebrated in spectacular fashion on World Book Day. It was wonderful to see the children engage with their favourite stories, using Confident Communication to share their passion for books with their peers.

In the classrooms, our older year groups have shown impressive focus:

- Year 4 have been working exceptionally hard practicing for their Multiplication Tables Check taking place in the summer term, embodying Sustained Success through their daily effort.
- Year 6 have remained incredibly focused in the run up to their SATs, demonstrating Limitless Learning as they tackle their revision with maturity and drive.

Inclusion, Safety, and Celebration

Our assemblies this month have been a vibrant journey through different cultures and perspectives. We explored the joyful festival of Holi, celebrated Eid, and reflected on the Easter story. In tandem with these celebrations, we marked Neurodiversity Week, celebrating the unique ways our brains work and reinforcing our identity as a Kind Community where everyone belongs. We also emphasised the critical importance of E-Safety. In an increasingly digital world, we are encouraging our students to use Courageous Curiosity to ask the right questions about what they see online while staying safe and responsible.

Living Our Values

Throughout the month, we have discussed the British Values of Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, and Mutual Respect. We explored how these concepts are the foundation of our own school values:

- Mutual Respect is at the heart of our Kind Community.
- Individual Liberty allows for Limitless Learning and the freedom to express ideas.
- Democracy relies on Confident Communication and listening to one another.

It is wonderful to see our pupils making these connections and showing such respect for the world around them as they head into the Spring break.

Miss Arli **Head Teacher**

Diary Dates

30 th March -10 th April	Easter Holidays
13 th April	Children return to school
21 st April	Living History Day (Dress Up)
4 th May	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
11 th May - 14 th May	SATS Week
21 st May	Neuro Diverse Community Coffee Morning
21 st May	Royal Russell's Annual Inter Schools Year 5 Maths Challenge 2026

PHJS Core Values



SPOTLIGHT: YEAR 5

Year 5 Update

What an incredible term it has been! Year 5 has absolutely blown us away with their creativity during our 'Space' topic. The children have shown fantastic imagination, transforming everyday household items into truly wonderful masterpieces. We are so proud of the talent and hard work they have showcased over the last few weeks!

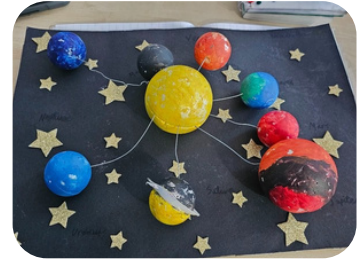
Art & DT: Creating and Tasting

- Art: Inspired by Peter Thorpe, pupils used pastels to create vibrant, abstract space scenes.
- DT: Our young "chocolatiers" designed, crafted, and (most importantly) tasted their own unique chocolate creations.

Science Week: Laughter and "wow" moments filled the room during our friction workshops. Pupils mastered the tablecloth trick and balanced cans in impossible positions using their knowledge of forces.

Big Walk and Wheel

Park Hill has proudly taken part in the Big Walk and Wheel Challenge this year and has done incredibly well with their active journeys to school. Year 5 has shown incredible commitment to active travel, consistently sitting at the top of the school leaderboard. The winning year group will be announced this Friday, with the Bikeability scheme as the grand prize. We wish all year groups the best of luck in the final results. Well done to everyone involved—keep up the great work, Park Hill!



World Maths Day

Park Hill proudly took part in World Maths Day on 25th March, where our mathematicians showcased their skills and enthusiasm through the exciting Live Mathematics challenges. Pupils applied their mathematical knowledge with speed and accuracy, competing against others from around the world and making their mark on the ever-changing international leaderboard. A special mention goes to Rohan from 5K, whose outstanding performance saw him reach an incredible 2nd place in the world, 1st in the country, and 1st in the school at one point during the competition. We are extremely proud of all our mathematicians for their effort, determination, and love of learning!



Attendance

Well done to (4H) for having the highest attendance this month! Our Overall attendance is 96.1% which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	96.1
3S	94.8
3U	94.7
4E	96.0
4H	97.5
4F	97.0
5K	96.5
5I	96.1
5M	96.1
6A	93.6
6H	95.4
6M	95.6

Sensational Science Week

Science Week started off with a literal "bang" this month! We began with a series of exhilarating experiments led by Miss Mohamed, which instantly sparked Courageous Curiosity across the school as pupils observed scientific wonders firsthand.

The excitement continued as we welcomed a visiting scientist who delivered hands-on workshops to every class. These sessions offered a fantastic opportunity for Limitless Learning, allowing students to explore complex concepts through practical discovery. The joy for science was definitely contagious throughout the week, and it was wonderful to see such Confident Communication as students discussed their findings and shared their "Eureka!" moments with one another.



In Other News...

Inter Class Debate Championship

After two exciting and closely fought rounds, 5I were crowned the debate champions! It was no easy victory, as 5M and 5K impressed everyone with their excellent oracy skills, strong facts, and well-supported arguments. All three Year 5 classes participated in the debate championship on the topic "Is space tourism necessary?", which was judged by Ms Arli, Mrs Cooper, and Mrs Mann. Every team showed remarkable confidence, teamwork, and respect for differing viewpoints, making the competition a true celebration of learning and communication. The final round was particularly intense, with pupils thinking on their feet, responding thoughtfully to counterarguments, and speaking with clarity and conviction. It was inspiring to see such maturity and enthusiasm from all participants. A huge well done to everyone involved—each pupil demonstrated that their voice matters and that they can engage meaningfully with important global issues. What a fantastic achievement for Year 5!



Eco News

This term we have been Showing the Love with our green hearts for February adorning the classroom windows, each heart showing how much we care for our planet. Each class also wrote an email to our MP Chris Philp, expressing their views and several children wrote their own letter. This is fantastic! Please see 4F's email here.

Earth Hour takes place on Saturday 28th March 8.30–9.30pm, where we can switch off non-essential lights/electronics and do something positive for the planet. See [here](#) for ideas such as star gazing, playing a board game as a family, reading as a family, drawing and colouring posters to bring into school to raise awareness.

Coming up next term will be a whole school litter pick, Great Big Green Week in June and a recycling clothes bank. Thank you for supporting our eco initiatives!

The Safeguarding Spotlight

Staying Safe Over Easter

As we head into the Easter holidays, we wanted to share a few friendly reminders to help keep your children safe and happy. Please take a moment to talk with your child about staying safe online – reminding them not to share personal information and to come to a trusted adult if anything makes them feel uncomfortable. If your child is spending time outdoors, make sure they know safe adults they can contact and when they are expected home. If you have any concerns about a child's welfare over the holidays, the following local support is available:

Croydon MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) – call 0208 255 2888, Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm
[Croydon Council](#)

Emergency Duty Team (evenings, nights & weekends) – 0208 726 6400 Croydonhealthservices

Croydon Family Hubs – your first point of contact for non-urgent concerns, offering information and support from a wide range of local organisations Croydon Safeguarding

NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000 (free, 24/7)

Childline (for children) – 0800 1111 (free, 24/7)

Emergency services – 999

Our safeguarding email will also be checked by the school Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@parkhilljunior.co.uk if you wish to get in touch. We wish all our families a wonderful and safe Easter break.

Dear Mr Philp,

We are class 4F from Park Hill Junior School. We are writing to you today to ask that you please help support us in our fight against environmental damage in our local area. Firstly, littering has become a huge problem by local residents. We need to strengthen our campaign to encourage people to use bins and have more public recycling zones. Flytipping is an increasingly prominent issue in Croydon, and I urge you to educate more people about the 'CleanStreets' app. Furthermore, we must protect green spaces such as Park Hill Park as we enjoy the park all year round, whether it is running in our Cross Country race, or simply laying on the grass in the summer and listening to the birds. We believe the law should be stronger surrounding recycling and flytipping.

Additionally, we would like to see more trees planted in industrial areas such as the high street in West Croydon as greenery and nature supports everyone's mental health. Trees also provide homes and nutrition for animals and local wildlife. The bee and butterfly population has declined significantly in the UK in recent years, specifically in London.

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



Maryam and Zaynab got first place in the gymnastics competition plus a white belt in Kung Fu

Anvitha earned a Distinction in Carnatic Vocal Music – Grade 3, highlighting her solid musical foundation and dedication. She also won 1st Place in Tamil Poem Recitation, displaying confident delivery and expressive performance.

The Info Hub

As part of our e-safety we are sending this reminder to be aware of what your children are watching at home. Many of the children are starting to explore different streaming services and so may be starting to get into Anime. This is the Japanese animated tv shows or films. Some are absolutely fine however some are set at age ratings that you may not realise. This is because despite being animated they contain adult themes including violent content. We ask that you look into how to set up a children's account on any devices or services you have and also to set up a password to keep your children from accessing your parent account. The instructions for doing this are always found in each services FAQ's.

Piano Lessons

There are spaces for piano lessons with Mr Pratt. Please contact directly for more details and to book in on **07958 311008** or email **dechampstudio@icloud.com**.



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.



Meat Free Mondays

We are excited to announce the introduction of Meat Free Mondays from Monday 13th April. This initiative is a simple yet powerful way to align our daily operations with the Trust's overarching commitment to reaching Net Zero. Agriculture, particularly livestock production, is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. By making a small shift in our weekly menu, we can tangibly reduce our schools carbon footprint. You can find the Summer menu linked **here**.

WELCOME TO OUR
**NEURODIVERSE
COMUNITY**

If you have (or think you have) a neurodivergent child and are looking to connect with other parents and carers, come along to our half termly catch up session for a chat, coffee, or number swap as we build our supportive community; or leave your name and number at the office to be added to the WhatsApp.

NEXT SESSION:
FRI 24TH APRIL,
FRI 8TH MAY,
THURS 25TH JUNE
09:10 - 10:20 AT PHJS



E Safety

With more than 700 million users worldwide, Telegram is a popular alternative to the likes of WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger; indeed, in some countries, it's overtaken that pair to become the most-used instant messaging app. Telegram's no stranger to controversy, however, and has occasionally been made unavailable for download in some nations (including the UK).

There are various reasons for these suspensions, but the primary trigger for the authorities' concern has been that Telegram's robust encryption, sadly, all too often encourages the app's use as a conduit for extremist political material and illegal sexual content.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TELEGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION 17+

Telegram isn't new, but it's grown significantly in popularity over recent years, thanks to its secure nature and speedier performance than many of its competitors – including WhatsApp. While Telegram is an excellent app in terms of actual performance, like any messaging platform it brings its own challenges for parents when it comes to feeling confident about children being able to handle their own messaging conversations and contact with the outside world in general. Here's everything that trusted adults need to know about using Telegram safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- LACK OF AGE RESTRICTION**
Telegram has a 16+ age restriction on using the service, while someone is required to be over 17 to actually download the app. Once that's accomplished, however, there's no need to provide further identification. That means there's no guarantee that under 17s aren't using the app – and no way to confidently verify that any other user actually is who they say they are.
- PREMIUM COSTS**
Telegram is free to use, but it also offers a premium membership (£4.99 per month or £35.99 a year) which increases download speeds, adds translation features, and increases channel and account limits. If your child has access to your Apple ID or Google Play details, they may be able to sign up for the premium package without your knowledge.
- UNAUTHORISED ACCESS**
One of Telegram's major selling points is that it's accessible across multiple platforms. Once the app's been downloaded, users can log in from a phone, tablet or computer. This multi-device availability means increased opportunities for someone else to gain unauthorised access (if your child leaves a computer or tablet at school logged into their Telegram account, for instance).
- SECRET CHATS**
Telegram offers a feature called Secret Chats, which allows for messages which self-delete after a specified period of time. There are instances where this can be useful (journalists often use Telegram to protect their sources, for example), but for young people it can make it extremely difficult to prove that someone has been abusive or inappropriate towards them on the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- UNMODERATED CONTENT**
Because Telegram relies on users' self-moderation, it can sporadically become a hotbed for illegal or inappropriate content. In the past, the circulation of this material has led to its temporary removal from the App Store. In fairness, the same can be said of several messaging platforms, but Telegram's features (Secret Chats, for instance) certainly present more issues than the likes of WhatsApp.
- POSSIBLE CYBERBULLYING**
If your child uses Telegram, they could well be in a group with friends and peers on the app. These groups are managed by admins who can remove the option to post replies – possibly leading to instances of cyberbullying in which the victim has no ability to respond. Messages can be forwarded from groups, too, which potentially opens up images and text being seen by to people they weren't intended for.
- PRIVACY CONTROLS**
If your child wants to use Telegram, we'd strongly suggest using the app's built-in privacy settings to restrict who can see when they were last online, their profile photo, and their phone number. This can be set to 'everybody', 'my contacts' or 'nobody'; we'd recommend either the second or third option, depending on how locked down you want the platform to be.
- DISCUSS SECURITY**
It's important that your child understands the merits of strong passwords and logging out of devices when they're finished – and the benefits of protecting their personal data in general. This could range from relaxed chats and simple tips like "don't send your bank details" to how to set up passcodes for Telegram so your child's chats stay secure when they step away from their screen.
- REPORT UNSAFE CONTENT**
If your child receives private messages which include content that could be considered illegal, unsafe or upsetting, they can of course block the account responsible within the app itself. Be aware, however, that Telegram won't necessarily take any further action if unless this offensive content involved a user-created channel, bot or sticker.
- USE THE BLOCK FUNCTION**
Users can block spam, abusive, or imposter accounts within the app. Blocking stops that account from messaging your child, or viewing their profile and activity. If the user in question is one of your child's peers or friendship circle, it may be worth bringing it to the attention of their school. Also bear in mind that your child can also voluntarily leave a Telegram group at any point if they wish.
- PROTECT PAYMENT METHODS**
Apple and Google's storefronts offer family sharing options, but it's also worth double-checking your settings to ensure that a password or two-factor authentication option is set up to prevent any unexpected purchases. If your child does pay for a premium Telegram subscription without your consent, Apple and Google have been known to issue refunds in some cases.

Meet Our Expert

Uziel Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *GGRecon* and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *Technet*.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

PREMIUM ACCESS

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