

April 2026

NEWSLETTER

Park Hill Junior School



Learning Update

April has been a month of incredible dedication and growth at Park Hill Junior School. It is wonderful to see our pupils returning with such focus as we enter this pivotal summer term. Across all year groups, we are continuing to foster an environment of Limitless Learning, where every child is encouraged to set and achieve high ambitions.

Year 6: Reaching for Success

As our Year 6 students approach their upcoming SATs, we have been immensely proud of their resilient attitude. We are encouraging every child to simply do their absolute best, embodying the value of Sustained Success by persevering through these academic challenges to achieve their own personal mastery. The focus and maturity they are showing in their revision sessions are a testament to their commitment to their unique learning journeys.

Passion for the Past: Living History

Our recent Living History event was a spectacular showcase of our children's historical knowledge and Courageous Curiosity. It was inspiring to see the pupils take on the responsibility of their roles with such great passion, exploring new ideas and asking deep questions about the past. Their ability to share what they had learned with such clarity was a fantastic display of Confident Communication, as they shared historical facts to their peers, teachers and parents.

Mastering Maths: Times Table Passports

We are seeing a real impact from our Times Table Passports, which have become a core part of our drive for numeracy. Mastering these foundations is essential for Sustained Success in mathematics. We strongly encourage parents to continue testing children at home, this support is vital in helping them gain the confidence to move onto their next passport and achieve their goals.

The Power of Reading Together

Finally, we want to reiterate how important it is to read with your children every night. Reading is the key that unlocks the door to all other learning. By sharing stories and discussing books, you are helping to build a Kind Community of readers where every child feels supported in their literacy. This consistent support at home, combined with our efforts in school, ensures that every child can continue to grow and recognise their own progress.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making Park Hill a place where every child belongs and grows.

Miss Arli
Headteacher

Diary Dates

4 th May	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
8 th May 9.15am-10.15am	Q&A Coffee Morning Joe Lettington
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
22 nd May	Year 6 Choices and Consequences Workshop
25 th May - 29 th May	Half Term

PHJS Core Values



SPOTLIGHT: YEAR 6

Year 6 Update

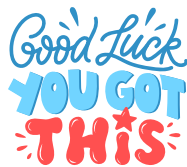
This term, we have been diving into the fascinating world of the Romans. As part of our English work, we wrote detailed character descriptions of Julius Caesar and Septimius Severus, exploring their personalities, achievements, and impact on history. In our D&T lessons, we also investigated Roman legacy, particularly their incredible engineering. We learnt how aqueducts were used to transport water over long distances using gravity, helping cities grow and thrive by supplying water for drinking, farming, and public baths. Inspired by this, we designed and built our own aqueducts. Each one had to successfully carry 3 litres of water. The Ancient Romans would be proud... or at least mildly hydrated.



Creativity has also been a big focus this term. We created Roman-style mosaics, developing skills such as careful pattern planning, precise placement, and attention to detail to produce eye-catching designs that reflect the importance of pattern in Roman art. In science, we explored evolution and even took part in an exciting online workshop with the British Museum. We learnt that fossils provide evidence of how living things have changed over millions of years, and that animals adapt to their environments over time to survive. It has been a busy and engaging term full of learning, creativity, and hands-on challenges.



As we look ahead to the coming days and approach our SATs, the children continue to show sustained success through their resilience, determination, and positive attitudes. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the progress they have made, and we encourage them to keep believing in themselves as they take on this next challenge.



Year 6 SATs: The Final Countdown

As we move into May, our Year 6 students are approaching their Key Stage 2 SATs. We want to take a moment to acknowledge how hard they have been working. While these assessments are a way to measure progress, they are only a small snapshot of everything they have achieved during their time with us. Whether they are a talented artist, a brilliant sportsperson, or a kind and reliable friend, those qualities don't show up in a test—but we see them every day! Good Luck Year 6!

A Trip To Parliament

What a fantastic day at The House of Parliament on Wednesday 15th April! Our students enjoyed an amazing tour and learned all about the power of debating. We are so proud of how brilliantly they represented the school —future politicians in the making!

Attendance

Well done to (3U) for having the highest attendance this month! Our Overall attendance is 96.1% which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	97.6
3S	96.6
3U	98.9
4E	97.3
4H	96.9
4F	98.5
5K	95.5
5I	96.7
5M	96.5
6A	94.5
6H	98.0
6M	97.4



In Other News...

Parking Update

We are aware that parking and traffic congestion around the school remains a significant concern for our community. Please be advised that these ongoing issues have now been passed over to the Highways department to investigate and develop long-term solutions. In the meantime, we kindly ask all parents and carers to continue parking considerately. Please ensure you are not obstructing our neighbors' driveways or parking on double yellow lines, as keeping the roads clear is essential for the safety of all our children.



A Step Back in Time: Living History Day

This month, history truly came alive at Park Hill Junior! Our students looked fantastic in their costumes as they took on the roles of both "museum exhibits" and expert tour guides. We are extremely proud of the confidence and knowledge they displayed throughout the event.

A huge thank you to our parents for the incredible effort put into the costumes and for your wonderful support during the evening. You helped make it a truly memorable experience for the children! A special thank you to Ms Emery for her hard work in coordinating and putting this entire experience together!



The Safeguarding Spotlight

As our RSHE lessons get underway, we know that some of the topics covered may spark questions at home and it's not always easy to know where to start! That is completely normal, and you are not alone.

The NSPCC's [Advice for Families](#) page is a brilliant resource, with friendly, practical guidance on a wide range of topics that you may find helpful. And please do remember our staff are always here to help. Miss Colley and our Senior Leaders are available before school, and Class Teachers are happy to chat after school. There are no silly questions!

Kind Community – Thank You!

We would like to say a huge Thank You to Joe and Lynn of Britannia Sandersteads for showing Kind Community and making a donation to the school of Hi Vis vest. We really appreciate your generosity.



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



Beth 3S
Celebrating 400m swimming

Gyanshi 4H
Celebrating Surrey Closed Judo gold medalist girls U28 Surrey Closed Judo and completing TCS mini marathon finisher in 10mins.



Vihaan 3S
Celebrating 25m swimming

PHJS Sports Achievements

The Netball team made it to the finals of their netball tournament and came 2nd in their league. They were in the top 2 teams in Croydon. Well done girls!



The Info Hub

COFFEE MORNING

With Dr. Joe Lettington,
Educational Psychologist

FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2026
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Q&A Session



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.



SPECIALIST
SpLD LEVEL 5 QUALIFIED
TEACHING & SUPPORT

SUPPORTING LEARNERS WITH:

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- ADHD
- Dyscalculia

HOW I SUPPORT

- Multi-sensory, structured teaching
- One to one sessions
- Building confidence and skills
- Personalised to individual needs
- Progress focused

For children and young people in KS1, KS2 & KS3

Contact: Rachel McKamey
07984 032584
or via the school office

AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL HOURS and other times

Empowering learners to reach their potential

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**.





We have had some really exciting eco news to share this month! Earlier this year, classes took part in the Green Hearts campaign and wrote letters to our local MP, Chris Philp, sharing their eco ideas. We were thrilled when several classes received personal replies in support of their suggestions – a wonderful moment for the children!

Earth Day on 22nd April was celebrated with the theme "Our Power, Our Planet." During assembly, every class made their own Earth Day pledges – you'll find these listed below. We'd love your help in supporting your child to keep theirs going at home. We are incredibly proud of the children's passion for protecting our planet. Our School Climate Action Plan is nearly finalised, and there is lots already underway across the Trust – from Meat Free Monday to the installation of solar panels. Mrs Stott's Gardening Club is doing a fantastic job boosting biodiversity on our school grounds, and we have also signed up for the Greenshaw Pumpkin Challenge, so watch this space for pumpkins in October!



Looking ahead, Great Big Green Week runs from 8th–12th June and we have a packed programme planned, including litter picking, recycling workshops, and an Eco Fair on the Friday. We'll be asking for donations of pre-loved items to sell – a great way to reduce waste and raise money for planting projects. If any of you have green fingers and can donate plants for us to sell we would really appreciate that! More details to follow! Thank you, as always, for your support with everything eco!

Earth Day 2026 Our Power, our Planet - Park Hill Pledges

3D	3S	3U	4E	4F	4H	5I	5K	5M	6A	6H	6M
<p>We will make sure we pick up litter so that it doesn't hurt the animals.</p> <p>We will recycle paper and card in the right bins.</p>	<p>We will not waste food.</p> <p>We will not waste resources.</p> <p>We will take care of our plants.</p> <p>We will not waste electricity.</p>	<p>We will look after the flowers so that insects can pollinate them.</p> <p>We will recycle our paper and card.</p> <p>We will turn off the lights when we leave the room so that we don't waste electricity.</p>	<p>We will pick up litter so that it doesn't end up in waterways</p> <p>We will recycle what we can.</p> <p>We will think before we use AI because of the amount of water it uses.</p>	<p>We will not use the car so much so that so many fumes don't go into the air.</p> <p>We will use reusable water bottles rather than single use plastic.</p>	<p>We will eat a meat free meal at least once a week to reduce carbon footprint in the food.</p> <p>We will think about how much food we take to reduce food waste.</p>	<p>We will litter pick more frequently.</p> <p>We will avoid using single use plastics or reuse them.</p> <p>We will plant more seeds and look after the plants we currently have.</p> <p>We will not waste paper or cardboard.</p>	<p>We will target to do more active journeys.</p> <p>We will make sure lights are switched off when no one is in the room.</p> <p>We will ensure we are not wasting water.</p> <p>We will recycle waste.</p>	<p>We will be mindful of our water use.</p> <p>Plant more trees and flowers, for oxygen and bee pollination. Recycle and put things in allocated waste and recycle bins.</p> <p>Use reusable resources, such as bottles. Not single use plastics.</p> <p>Walk wherever you can to reduce air pollution from petrol burning/fumes.</p> <p>Not waste food.</p> <p>Not litter as it can reach and pollute the oceans.</p>	<p>Throw rubbish in the bin that we see around the school.</p> <p>Try not to waste food at lunch time</p> <p>Use scrap paper</p> <p>Turn the lights off when no-one is in the classroom.</p>	<p>We will make more active journeys.</p> <p>We will recycle and not use single use plastic.</p> <p>We will look after our resources and not waste them.</p> <p>We will be responsible for the litter on the ground and pick it up.</p> <p>We will plant more seeds and look after the plants we have.</p> <p>We will use less electricity and reduce our screen time.</p> <p>We will donate old things to charity shops.</p>	<p>We will plant flowers and trees.</p> <p>Make more active journeys.</p> <p>Try not to waste food.</p> <p>Recycle paper and plastics.</p> <p>Turn off lights in rooms that no one is using.</p> <p>Convince your parents to buy solar panels.</p>

Online Safety

Image-altering filters are now embedded in everyday online interactions, from playful effects to more subtle appearance-enhancing tools. This guide examines how these features can influence perceptions of beauty and reality, particularly for children and young people navigating social media. It highlights how filtered content can quietly shape expectations and online behaviours. Focusing on risks such as low self-esteem, social pressure and hidden advertising, the guide also addresses more serious concerns like sexualised edits and blurred boundaries between real and altered images. It provides supportive, practical advice to help parents build media literacy, encourage confidence and promote healthier relationships with online content.

IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a digital parenting expert and founder of Kids N Clicks, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for Internet Matters, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, TalkTV, and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.



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