

April 2026

NEWSLETTER

Park Hill Junior School

Learning Update

May has been an extraordinary month of determination, growth, and community focus at Park Hill Junior School. As we move further into this pivotal summer term, our pupils across all year groups have continued to display an inspiring commitment to our core school value of Limitless Learning.

We are now officially entering Summer 2, arguably the most exciting part of the school year! There is a wonderful buzz of anticipation across the school as we look forward to milestone events like our annual Sports Day and the spectacular Year 6 production. Alongside these celebrations, we will also be focusing heavily on transitions, dedicating time to support all of our children as they prepare to confidently step up into their new year groups or move onward to secondary school.

The absolute highlight of this month has been witnessing the incredible attitude of our Year 6 students. As they approached and navigated their Key Stage 2 SATs, the entire school community has been immensely proud of their real resilience and maturity.

While Year 6 tackled their milestones, the rest of our year groups have been equally dedicated to maintaining high ambitions in their daily learning:

- **Mastering Maths:** We are seeing fantastic progress with our Times Table Passports, which remain a core part of our drive for schoolwide numeracy. Mastering these mathematical foundations is essential for ongoing confidence. Please continue to support your children by testing them at home.
- **The Power of Reading Together:** We want to reiterate the immense importance of reading with your children every single night. Reading is the vital key that unlocks the door to all other subjects. By sharing stories and discussing books at home, you are helping us maintain a Kind Community where every child feels supported in their literacy and growth.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in making Park Hill Junior School a place where every child belongs, perseveres, and grows.

Miss Arli
Headteacher



Diary Dates

Friday 5 th June	Shakespeare Globe Theatre Trip
8 th - 12 th June	National Great Big Green Week
Monday 8 th June	World Oceans Day
Tuesday 9 th June	Victorian Day
Wednesday 10 th June 6pm-8pm	Happys Circus
15 th - 18 th June	National Sports Week
18 th June 1.15-3.20	Sports Day
19 th June	Inset Day

PHJS Core Values



SPOTLIGHT: YEAR 3

Year 3 Update

This term has been a busy time for year 3.

We had an exciting trip to the Sutton Ecology centre where the children were able to explore the world of minibeasts. We found a huge variety of different creatures in the pond and the woodland too including some slow worms! This links to the children's learning about science - living things and also to the book we are using in English- The Promise - where we talked about the environment.

The children have been excited to learn some wood work skills with an aim to build a toy boat that we will race in a class regatta next term. 3U had their boat construction day and were able to work really well as teams to construct a boat that floats.

More recently we have been learning some history about the Victorians and specifically about Croydon in the Victorian era. Specifically we have looked at two of the local heros that our houses are named after, Baldwin Latham and John Wickham Flower. As well as this we learnt about Park hill park and why Croydon is so instrumental in the development of railways in Britain. The children are looking forward to taking part in Victorian day on Tuesday 9th June. Please remember that we encourage people to use what they have for making a costume rather than having to go out and buy one. Please check with anyone you know that has older children if they might still have their Victorian day costume that you can use.



Year 6

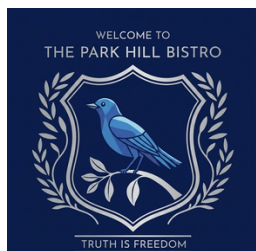
Well done to our wonderful Year 6 children for completing their SATs. You showed great effort, courage and positivity, and we're so impressed by everything you achieved.



Introducing the 'The Park Hill Bistro'

We are delighted to share a wonderful new upgrade to our lunchtime routine! We are now promoting a more restaurant style dining experience for our children through our newly improved 'Park Hill Bistro'.

Complete with brand new plates and bowls, fresh tablecloths, and calm, atmospheric background music playing every single day, we are transforming the dinner hall into a warm, inviting space. This initiative focuses heavily on developing vital social skills, encouraging our pupils to sit together, share relaxed, polite conversations, and practice excellent table manners in a beautiful setting.



Free School Meals Update

Following new guidance from the Department for Education, FSM protections that have been in place since April 2018 will be ending in August 2026, and eligibility criteria is expanding. From September 2026, every child whose household receives Universal Credit is entitled to free school meals. We strongly encourage all of our families to complete an online application, if you have not previously done so. Under the new national guidance, a child's eligibility will now be subject to an annual review to confirm their ongoing entitlement. Please see the link below to complete the online application. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

FSM Eligibility Application



Attendance

Well done to 4F for having the highest attendance this month!
Our Overall attendance is 96.6% which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	96.4
3S	95.7
3U	98.1
4E	95.4
4H	97.6
4F	99.6
5K	94.1
5I	97.3
5M	95.3
6A	96.4
6H	95.1
6M	97.7



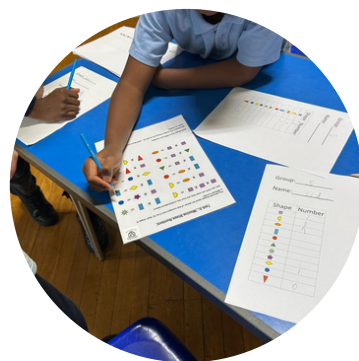
Maths Masterclass

We recently welcomed Mr Shamsi, Head of Maths at Thomas More Catholic School, to deliver an engaging Maths Masterclass for high attaining Year 5 pupils.

The session focused on problem solving, mathematical reasoning and extending pupils' understanding of key mathematical concepts through a range of practical and investigative activities. A total of 32 pupils took part, working collaboratively in small groups to tackle a variety of mathematical challenges, investigations and puzzles. Throughout the masterclass, pupils participated enthusiastically and demonstrated excellent mathematical thinking and communication skills. They approached each challenge with determination and curiosity, showing confidence when explaining and justifying their ideas.

Mr Shamsi was highly impressed by the pupils' performance, praising their enthusiasm, problem-solving abilities and willingness to persevere with challenging tasks. Children were extremely proud of their achievements and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experience mathematics in a creative and engaging way.

The masterclass provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to deepen their understanding of mathematics while developing important reasoning and collaborative skills.



The Circus is coming to Park Hill....

We are really looking forward to the Park Hill School's Association Circus at Park Hill on 10th June – [get your tickets here](#) – limited availability!



Ben Kinsella Trust Workshop

6A & 6H attended the first workshop at the Ben Kinsella Trust, where they explored important themes around choices, consequences, and staying safe. The experience was reflective and eye-opening, helping children think deeply about real-world situations. Despite the hard-hitting topics, the children showed great respect and maturity throughout. We are very proud of how engaged and considerate they were.





Great Big Green Week is Coming!

We're so excited to announce that we'll be celebrating The Great Big Green Week at school from Monday 8th to Friday 12th June — and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Throughout the week, the children will enjoy a wonderful programme of environmental activities, including:

- A live lesson with the incredible Steve Backshall
- Learning about Reduce, Reuse & Recycle
- Litter picking in and around school
- A nature poetry competition

The week will finish with a special Eco Fair on Friday 12th June after school — we hope you'll come along and join us!



Can You Help?

We're passionate about growing biodiversity on our school site, and we'd gratefully welcome donations of any plants or bulbs that could help us do that. Mrs Stott, Mrs Latter and the gardening club are working hard to make the school grounds inviting to both our community and local wildlife.

We're also busy growing cuttings and seedlings to sell at the Eco Fair, and would love your support with donations of:

Vegan cookies or cakes (homemade or shop-bought, both welcome!)

Plants to sell on the day

Preloved items for sale

Money raised will go towards exciting eco projects for the school, including litter picking equipment, raised beds and planting tools.

Every little helps, and together we can make our school a greener, wilder, more wonderful place. Thank you so much for your support — we can't wait to celebrate with you!

The Safeguarding Spotlight

Starting conversations with our children about how they are feeling is not always easy — for them, or for the parents and carers who love them. If you are looking for support with how to approach difficult topics, parents.actionforchildren.org offers a wealth of practical, accessible guidance.

Keeping those conversations open and ongoing is one of the most important things we can do to keep our children safe online.



A warning from the National Crime Agency: Com Networks

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has issued a direct warning to schools about a growing threat from so-called Com networks — online communities of predominantly teenage boys that typically begin around everyday interests like gaming or music, before migrating to private channels on platforms such as Discord, Telegram, and Instagram. What begins as a community can quickly become a harmful hierarchy, where status is gained by committing or encouraging acts of harm. The NCA has identified cases in which girls as young as 11 have been coerced into seriously harming themselves, their siblings, or pets. In some cases, victims have been groomed into becoming perpetrators themselves. These groups are not hidden on the dark web. They exist on the same everyday platforms our children use. A young person can be both a victim and a perpetrator at the same time, and the warning signs are not always visible. We urge all families to visit the NCA's full guidance:

[National Crime Agency](https://www.ncanet.org.uk/guidance).



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



Beau 6H- Celebrating his football team winning the league up

Shanaya 3D- Winning silver and bronze medal in a England badminton tournament

Vihaan 3S- 25 meters nonstop swimming

Dhruvika 6M- Lamda group devising drama grade 3 with distinction

Mishka 5M, Nanmaya 3D, Shambhavi 5M - Performed at the London Classical dance festival



Diya 3D

Well done to Diya who generously donated her hair to charity!

PHJS Sports Achievements

Basketball Tournament

Congratulations to the group of children who triumphed in their basketball tournament! Even the staff brought home a gold medal.



The Info Hub

SPECIALIST
SpLD
TEACHING & SUPPORT

SUPPORTING LEARNERS WITH:

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- ADHD
- Dyscalculia

HOW I SUPPORT

- ✓ Multisensory, structured teaching
- ✓ One to one sessions
- ✓ Building confidence and skills
- ✓ Personalized to individual needs
- ✓ Progress focused

For children and young people in KS1, KS2 & KS3

Contact: Rachel McKemey
07984 032584
or via the school office

AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL HOURS and other times

Empowering learners to reach their potential

"SPACES NOW OPEN FOR SEPTEMBER! At iRock, children experience the excitement of being in a real band, learning instruments, playing songs they love and building confidence through music. Led by passionate and professional Band Coaches, our fun and inclusive in-school sessions help children develop teamwork, resilience and musical skills in a supportive environment. Every term ends with a live concert performance for family and friends, giving children the chance to shine like real rockstars and celebrate everything they've achieved!"

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.



Online Safety

Violent clips, online 'wars', and shock-value challenges can spread rapidly across social media feeds – often appearing in front of young people who weren't actively looking for them. This guide explains how algorithms, messaging groups and viral trends can expose children to real-world violence online, sometimes normalising harmful behaviour or encouraging risky offline actions.

It also highlights the emotional, social and legal risks linked to engaging with violent content. From anxiety and community fear to the dangers of sharing or promoting violent posts, the guide offers practical advice for parents and educators on discussing online safety, understanding the law, and helping young people respond positively and responsibly.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.

AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as reportharmfulcontent.com.

ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via childline.org.uk.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®