



## SEPTEMBER 2024

### A message from our Headteacher, Mrs Pratt...

Dear Families,

I may have come across you in the playground in the morning and I must say a massive thank you to you all for the great work you are doing getting your children to school on time. You are working with us to ensure your children get the best education they deserve, what a good start - thank you!

This term is a long term and the children are doing well so far. They are very clear on the type of way they want to learn and articulated this very well in assembly when I introduced our priorities for this school year. They were able to put our priorities in 'child speak' for me to continue sharing this with them.

We had a visit from Will Smith, our CEO and he was very impressed with what is happening here at Park Hill Junior School, especially how much the children spoke about their learning with strong examples of why they are learning certain concepts. He set a mathematical challenge for the children during his assembly and the children rose up to the challenge and even went beyond what he was asking them to do... we are very proud of our pupils!

Today the children have set their goals and are talking about them. Some goals are long term and some want to achieve their goals in small steps. A pupil's comment about their goal -

" I want to get better at English and spellings because I want to become an author. If I start now, I will become an excellent author when I finish school."

Please check out our website and continue to work with us to maintain our exceptional standards here at PHJS.

On behalf of the staff at Park Hill Junior School I welcome all our families to this 2024 - 2025 school year and present to you our first newsletter of the year!.

### ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to **3S** with the highest attendance and to **3S** with the lowest number of lates in September!

Class	%	No of late arrivals
3G	98.3	2
3H	98.1	4
3S	98.4	1
4U	96.9	4
4F	97.8	4
4L	96.9	9
5E	97.2	7
5K	96.7	8
5D	93.9	12
6A	89.8	12
6M	88.3	6
6I	88.3	3

Please remember that there are changes to the Department of Education's attendance policies this year. A letter was sent out in July to inform parents, which can be found [here](#).

Please continue to work with us to improve attendance. We encourage all parents to rethink the implications this can have on your child's education and in secondary/further education settings should your child be offered a place.

### **Punctuality**

Every minute of a child's life learning is crucial to their learning. Children who attend school punctually are able to have a headstart in their learning and settle quicker. This leads to good progress for them. Please help us to help your child achieve their best by being in school on time! A reminder, our school gates will be open at **8.40am** in the morning for you to come into school with your children. Staff will be outside to welcome your children. Children should be in class at **8:50am**.

We look forward to seeing you after half term!

## School Priorities 2024/25

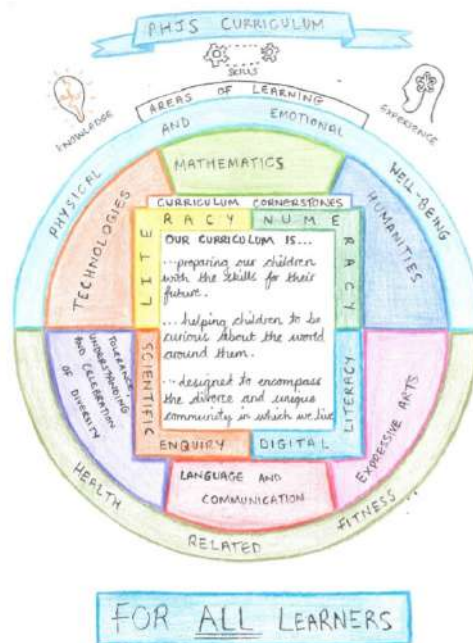
Welcome back families, please see below our 3 school priorities for this academic year 2024/25. We have shared this with your children and welcome you to review the below.

### **Priority 1: Quality of Education**

We will frequently assess children's understanding of foundation subjects like geography, history, DT, Art, PE, Music, MFL and computing. This ongoing evaluation will allow teachers to provide appropriately challenging lessons and adjust their teaching methods as needed. The goal is to better support each pupils' individual learning needs based on their progress.

### **Priority 2: Behaviour and Attitudes/ Personal Development**

We want to increase the number of pupils coming to school every day and on time. At the same time, we aim to reduce the number of children who frequently miss school or are often late to class. Regular attendance and punctuality are important for every child's learning and development.



### **Priority 3: Leadership and Management -**

We will take a comprehensive and research-based approach to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for our pupils and staff. When children and teachers feel emotionally supported, it creates an environment where pupils are better prepared to learn and teachers are better equipped to teach effectively. Our goal is to prioritise the overall wellness of everyone in our school community.



## ECO NEWS FROM MRS COOPER



We are pleased to announce our Eco Leaders for 2024-25 as below:

**3G** Yuvaan and Aurelia, **3H** Nathan, Benji and Dora, **3S** Louisa, Sahasra and Kabir, **4F** Joslyn, Himani and Nooreh, **4L** Riddhima, Rohan, Anvitha and Burhan, **4U** Ava and Stella, **5D** Shreyanshi, Karthik and Maira, **5E** Dhruvika, Kayal and Angel-Rose, **5K** Harshitha and Viviksha, **6A** Ishan and Hafsa, **6I** Ahana, Eren and Aleema, **6M** Anu

We will be leading various initiatives throughout the school year, such as Protect Our Planet Day, Cut Your Carbon for November, Earth Day, Green Hearts for February, and Great Big Green Week. We will also be collaborating with Mrs Kataruka and the TfL Explorers Ambassadors on increasing planet friendly active travel. Mrs Stott and her Gardening Club will be working together on the front school garden to encourage biodiversity with permaculture planning.

As a school we will be focusing this term on reducing littering in order to make our school environment clean, welcoming and litter free, supporting the wildlife to flourish. Please help us by encouraging your children to use the litter bins provided. Thank you.

The [Young Climate Warriors](#) website is a child friendly eco site if you and your child are interested and want to find out more. You can click on the link and sign up as a family.

### Message from our Family Support Worker - Miss Colley

Understanding online safety is tricky for all ages. We have advice to help you learn about staying safe online as a family.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/free-online-safety-group-works-hops/>

Are you looking to meet new people or find advice and support for yourself or someone else? Simply Connect Croydon is a great way to get specialist support on a range of topics.

The online service can help you by focusing on what matters most to you and connecting you to local community services and activities to help you to reach your goals and ambitions.

<https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/>

**NSPCC**

## **REMINDER: New National Framework Changes - Attendance**

The paragraph below is taken from the new attendance guidance **effective from August 2024** -

*Two penalty notice limit and escalation in cases of repeat offences*

*190. A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be the most appropriate tool. Therefore, from autumn term 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3 year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate:*

- *The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.*
- *A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.*
- *A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first.*

*In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.*

**If you have any further questions, please contact our Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Nicci Wayne via email - [nwayne@teamewo.com](mailto:nwayne@teamewo.com)**

## **Pupil Leadership**

Thank you to all of our pupil leaders who are doing a wonderful job in helping the school run smoothly!

### **Friendship Leaders**

**3G** Elizabeth and Anastasia, **3H** Atharv and Emma, **3S** Arhaan and Urhio, **4F** Shambhavi and Mishka, **4L** Rohan and Nilanshi, **4U** Nivi and Arisha, **5D** Amira and Georgiabel, **5E** Sheryl and Prisha, **5K** Eleni and Amir, **6A** Sophie and Rebecka, **6I** Miranda and Juan, **6M** Riya and Adelina

*Our Friendship Leaders are looking out for children at playtimes who need a helping hand or someone to play with. They are very kind and caring to others and make other children's days a little brighter.*

### **Lunch Leaders**

**3G** Rome and Jashan, **3H** Ivy and Yughan, **3S** Sara and Klaudia, **4F** Farhan, Ayaan and Uzi, **4L** Himaksh and Viraj, **4U** Zahra and Junior, **5D** Nell and Reid, **5E** Noah and Molinae, **5K** Samy and Nikki, **6A** Hafsa and Navami, **6I** Samara and Natasha, **6M** Amruta and Eunice

*Our lunch leaders are showing themselves to be excellent role models at lunchtime in their good manners, helping others and in keeping the floor and tables clean. It is every child's responsibility to clear up their table and the floor area but our lunch leaders are leading by example and very diligent.*

### **TfL Explorer Ambassadors**

**3G** Eliana, **3H** Khloe, **3S** Matthew, **4F** Jack, **4L** Bilkis, **4U** Tomi, **5D** Ananya, **5E** Dhruvi, **5K** Ritik, **6A** Luca, **6I** Shreyan, **6M** Levi

*Our TfL Explorer Ambassadors are working with Mrs Kataruka in the hope that we can all make as many active journeys as possible which are also kinder to the planet. They are doing a great job!*

### Digital Leaders

**3G** Saanvi, **3H** Toshika, **3S** Melody, **4F** Krish, **4L** Viraj, **4U** Advitya, **5D** Beau, **5E** Rudransh, **5K** Maadhav, **6A** Maxwell, **6I** Elijah, **6M** Omkar

*Our digital leaders help the staff by looking after and collecting digital resources that are needed for the lessons. They are doing their job very responsibly and helping others with digital issues where they can.*

### School Council

**3G** Marko, **3H** Minnie, **3S** Anandhi, **4F** Farhan, **4L** Navya, **4U** Nivi, **5D** Nidhi, **5E** Ritika, **5K** Aron, Mishika (Note-taker), Lavelle (Vice-Chair), **6A** Jason (Chair), Mithanya, Anaya (Ex-officio), **6I** Saam, Arnab (Fundraiser) **6M** Siddhi

*Our School Council meets regularly with Miss Emery to discuss school issues and represent the voice of their classes. They express pupil views and concerns and work to improve school life in many areas.*

### Y6 Skills Builder Champions

**6A** Mithanya Nilan, **6I** Nandhika Sakeena, **6M** Prithvi Daivik

*Our Skills Builder Champions exemplify the Skills Builder Skills of **Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership and Teamwork.***

*They are looking out for children at break and lunchtimes who are demonstrating these skills.*

### Sports Captains

**Coleridge Taylor** Siona and Yahia **Latham** Scarlet and Zayaan  
**Johnson** Keya and Ishan **Flower** Nishaa and Sidd

*Our Sports Captains are setting a great example of how to play games and participate in sporting activities fairly with respect to all abilities. They are helping Ms Mazowe with the house sporting events over the year and inspiring their house teams.*

### House Captains

**Coleridge Taylor** Olive and Wojciech **Latham** Mihika and Jackson  
**Johnson** Sofia and Harry **Flower** Nefeli and Omkar

*Our House Captains are carrying out their duties of setting up the hall for assemblies and presenting the certificates and tokens in Merit Assembly with great responsibility. We value their help in showing parents and carers around when we have open afternoons/parent consultations and they are setting a fine example to their house groups in their embodiment of the school values.*



Zones of Regulation Parent/Carer Workshop -  
**Weds 9th Oct**

World Mental Health Day - **Thurs 10th Oct**

4L British Museum Trip - **Mon 14th Oct**

6A Horniman Museum Trip - **Tues 15th Oct**

Parent Consultation Afternoon 1 - **Weds 16th Oct**

Parent Consultation Afternoon 2 - **Thurs 17th Oct**

Wear Red/Show Racism the Red Card - **Fri 18th Oct**

October Half Term - **Mon 21st Oct-Weds 30th Oct**

All pupils return to school - **Thurs 31st Oct**

## MUSIC LESSONS

Our piano teacher, Mr Pratt, has some available spaces for the start of September! If you would like more information on lessons or would like to book a place for your child, please contact him directly either via phone or email.



**07958 311008**

[dechampstudio@icloud.com](mailto:dechampstudio@icloud.com)

Mr Oliver, our drum teacher, has some spaces for children to learn the drums.



Please contact him for further details via email.

[Mattoliver08@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Mattoliver08@yahoo.co.uk)

If you would like guitar lessons, our guitar teacher, Mr Gibbard, can be contacted via email for further information



[jimgibbard99@googlemail.com](mailto:jimgibbard99@googlemail.com)

**Croydon Music and Arts** also offer music lessons and opportunities on a range of instruments. Click [here](#) for details.



## Library Volunteer Wanted!

Do you know anyone who would be interested in volunteering to help maintain our school library and help children choose books from the library? Can you possibly spare an hour of your day? If so, please send our school office an email ([office@parkhilljunior.co.uk](mailto:office@parkhilljunior.co.uk)), stating your available days and times.

Once confirmed, a member of staff will be in touch with you.

Thank you.

# Curriculum Showcase

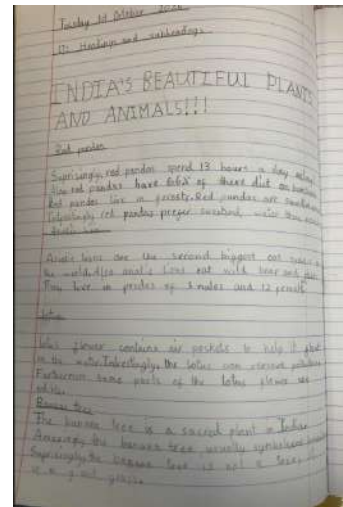
## Year 3

We are delighted with how well our lovely new Year 3 children have settled into life at the Junior school. They have all hit the ground running and are thoroughly enjoying learning about India. Some of them have even taught the adults a thing or two!



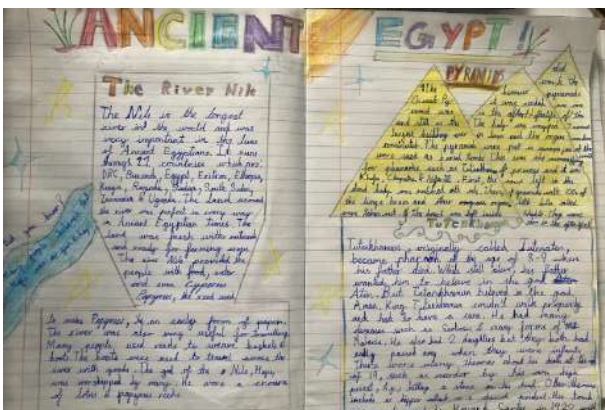
In science, we have been learning about Animals Including Humans and recognising the importance and value of a balanced diet. Now they are experts, maybe they could help plan a healthy meal for the family?

We are also fully immersed in our India theme and have been using our threshold concepts to research about this fascinating country. The Red Panda is coming out as the most popular animal amongst the children.



## Year 4

Meanwhile, pupils in Year 4 are equally busy learning about the fascinating continent of Africa. We started off this theme by reading Africa Is Not A Country and finding out a little about all the countries which make up this rich and varied part of the world. We then travelled back in time to the intriguing world of the Ancient Egyptians which included a trip to the British Museum to get up close to some real mummies. Mummy!



In science we have been making a lot of noise exploring sound and scientifically exploring how sound waves travel and which materials are best at absorbing this energy and good for soundproofing.









