



DECEMBER 2024

A message from our Headteacher, Mrs Pratt...

We have come to the end of the Autumn term and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared together and express my heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing support and partnership.

This term has been filled with remarkable achievements, personal growth, and memorable moments for our pupils. From academic accomplishments to creative pursuits and personal development, our pupils have demonstrated remarkable resilience, curiosity, and enthusiasm.

They have made significant progress across all subject areas, with many showing exceptional growth in their learning and understanding.

We can see how children have blossomed in their performance, public speaking and collaborative skills.

Our pupils have consistently embodied our school's core values and shown positivity and respect in their relationships, resilience & resourcefulness in their learning, and reflecting on being the best they can be.

As we look forward to the spring term, we are excited about the continued learning and opportunities that await our pupils. We encourage you to continue supporting your child's learning journey by:

- Maintaining open communication with teachers
- Encouraging reading and curiosity at home
- Supporting home learning and study routines
- Celebrating your child's efforts and progress

We are grateful for your continued trust and partnership. Your support is instrumental in helping our pupils reach their full potential.

We wish you and your family a restful and joyful holiday season and look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday the 6th of January 2025!

Warmest regards,
Mrs Pratt

ATTENDANCE

School Average as at 19/12/24 = **95.9%**

25/26 Target set = **96%**

Most improved class from 5/9/24 to 19/12/24 =

4U, well done!

Class	Autumn Term %	Average late arrivals
3G	98%	0.5
3H	98%	0.7
3S	96%	0.4
4F	97%	1.0
4L	96%	1.8
4U	98%	0.5
5D	96%	1.8
5E	97%	1.2
5K	97%	0.6
6A	92%	1.4
6I	93%	0.8
6M	92%	0.7

Our target is likened to the national **95%**, and our aim is to exceed this percentage. The current national attendance average for the autumn term is **94.2%**.

Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) and the Department for Education track attendance carefully and judgements on how well a school is doing is partially based on whole school attendance.

We need your help to improve attendance for our school. You can help by coming to school every day and on time.



Attendance Tips

- ✓ Arrive at school by 8:50 AM
- ✓ Get a good night's sleep
- ✓ Pack your bag the night before
- ✓ Get your uniform ready the night before

A Warm Welcome to Park Hill Junior School

As some of you may have seen, we have added some new graphics to our main reception area, as well as a new staff board, introducing our amazing team- We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!





ECO NEWS FROM MRS COOPER



Cut Your Carbon Challenge Results



Thank you for taking part in the Cut Your Carbon Challenge! Congratulations to **4L and 4U** for achieving the joint highest in the challenges overall. Hopefully we all have taken away something to incorporate into our daily lives!



Food Waste

Plans are underway for **food waste recycling** in the spring term through Greenshaw Learning Trust's commitment to greener kitchens. We currently have too much food waste at school and lots of food is thrown away, uneaten by children. When food is left to rot in our landfills, it subsequently releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas which traps heat from the sun and contributes to climate change.

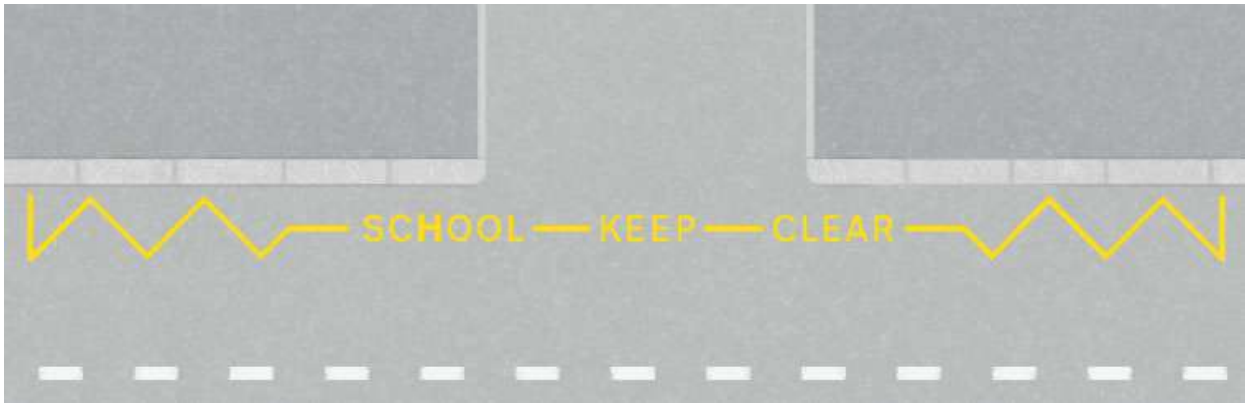
Please support us by looking at the menu with your child in advance and explaining what the dishes are. This will then help your child make an informed choice to have a lunch they will eat, instead of throwing lots away. Thank you very much.

Holiday Activities

Check out [Earthcubs.com](https://www.earthcubs.com) for **free** holiday activities! This is a children's eco site with short videos, books, podcasts and games which teach children about sustainability, the world we live in and how to make a real difference.

Or you could try the [Young Climate Warriors](#) **free** weekly challenge which has a different theme each week. Young Climate Warriors are challenged to pause and notice the wild birds over the holidays. It's easy to chase round the garden, go for a walk, play in the park or jump into the car without stopping to look and listen to the birds – here's a [WWT bird spotter sheet](#) which you might find helpful. How about focusing more closely on what a robin looks like – you could [have a go at drawing a robin](#) or [make a Christmas wreath for birds](#).

Have fun!



IMPORTANT PARKING REMINDER - From Ollie White PCSO

Section 22 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 - Leaving vehicles in dangerous positions.

If a person in charge of a vehicle causes or permits the vehicle or a trailer drawn by it to remain at rest on a road in such a position or in such condition or in such circumstances as to [F1involve a danger of injury] to other persons using the road, he is guilty of an offence.

The penalty for this is 3 penalty points on your license, and £100 Fixed Penalty Notice issued by a Police Officer.

Rule 238 of the Highway Code – Parking on the Yellow zigzag lines outside of School

You MUST NOT wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates (or zone entry signs if in a Controlled Parking Zone) – see ‘Traffic signs’ and ‘Road markings’. Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs. You MUST NOT wait or park, or stop to set down and pick up passengers, on school entrance markings (see ‘Road markings’) when upright signs indicate a prohibition of stopping.

The penalty for this is a £65 PCN (Penalty Charge Notice), issued by Croydon Council.

Rule 244 of the Highway Code – Parking on Pavement (Partially or fully)

Do not park partially or wholly on the footway or footpath unless signs permit it. Parking on the footway or footpath can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

The penalty for this is a £65 FPN (Fixed Penalty Notice), issued by Croydon Council.

As a school, we kindly ask you to follow the above instructions to avoid any further issues. Failure to do so, will result in Police issuing penalties/fines.

Please note- Once a penalty charge or fine is issued, the school CANNOT be held liable and you will be responsible to pay the charge.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding and hope you will continue to work with us in ensuring the safety of our children, staff and community.

Thank you.

Message from our Family Support Worker – Miss Colley

We would like to warmly invite all Families to join us for a coffee/tea morning to take part as a group with Creative Education courses on the following dates:

- 14th February 2025- 9.10-10.00am at PHJS - Theme - Introduction to Self Regulation Difficulties and Self regulation difficulties ten top tips.
- 14th March 2025- 9.10-10.00am at PHJS - Theme Help Anxious children feel calm and in control.



CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk

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. Visit the link below to find out what is available for you. <https://croydon.simplyconnect.uk/>



Curriculum Update

Please click on the links below to be taken to the curriculum maps on our website for the Spring term. This gives an overview for each year group as to what they will be learning in the different subjects.

Year 3 - [Spring 1 \(continuation of Let's Rock\)](#) and [Spring 2 \(landscapes\)](#)

Year 4 - [Rainforests](#)

Year 5 - [Space](#)

Year 6 - [The Roman Empire](#)

You can also find knowledge organisers for the different themes linked below to help the children (and yourselves) talk about and remember their learning, including key vocabulary and spellings.

Year 3 - [Rocks](#), [Plants](#), [Stone Age](#)

Year 4 - [Rainforests](#), [Living Things and their Habitats](#), [Animals Including Humans](#)

Year 5 - [Space and Earth](#)

Year 6 - [Ancient Rome](#), [Evolution and Inheritance](#), [Living Things and their Habitats](#)



Roman London family walk

Sat 25 Jan, 10.30-11.30am. Tickets
must be booked in advance. From £8

Discover Roman history on
this 60-minute interactive walk
for children of primary school
age and their families.



Second World War family walk

Sat 11 Jan, 10.30-11.30am. Tickets
must be booked in advance. From £8.

Join us on a guided walk
through the City of London's
landmarks to explore how the
Second World War impacted
ordinary Londoners.

For your information, the London Museum is doing family walks around London linked to the Romans and WW2 which will be relevant to our year 6 children but also exciting to any curious historians. If you are interested in booking one of the walks please search for them on the [London Museum website](#).

Safeguarding In School

What is safeguarding?

- Safeguarding in schools protects children from harm, abuse, and neglect. It also helps ensure that children grow up in a safe and effective environment.
- Schools remain one of the front-line organisations for protecting children and young people, with safeguarding and child protection forming a crucial part of their role.

Why is it important for families to be aware of who is on our safeguarding team?

- We want to reassure families we are doing what's expected of us as a school.
- Both families and your child should know who to speak to and know we are always here to help support you.

If you are at all concerned about the safety of any child at Park Hill Junior School, please speak to anyone on our safeguarding and child protection team, pictured below.



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Click on [Parentsafe](#) for all you need to know to ensure your child is safe online.

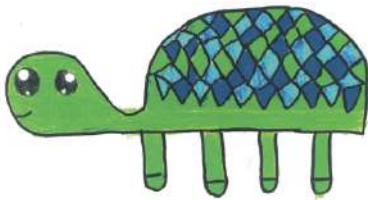
Afterschool Club Art

Pupils from our after school club took part in an art competition, where some of our pupils' art work was published in a book called "Perfect Pets Featuring Trigary".

Well done to- Isabelle, Nooreh, Jack, Mariyana and Olive.

From Miss Sabrina

Terry The Tortoise



Olive Stewart (10)
Park Hill Junior After School Club, Croydon

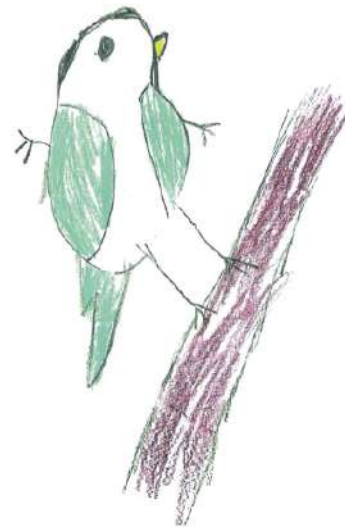


George



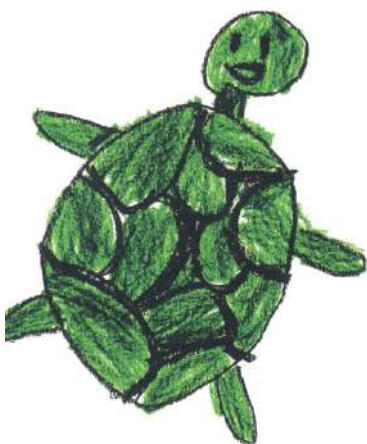
Mariyana Paleykova (8)
Park Hill Junior After School Club, Croydon

Sky



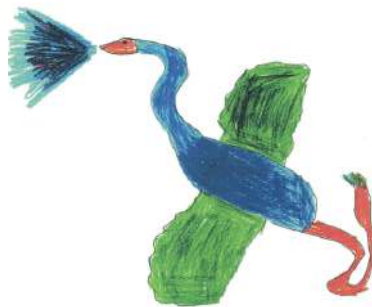
Nooreh Imran (8)
Park Hill Junior After School Club, Croydon

Beth's Perfect Pet



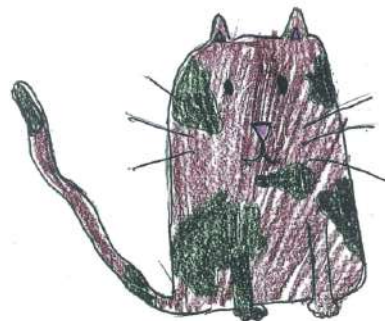
Beth Woollams (6)
Park Hill Junior After School Club, Croydon

Ice Circuit



Jack Sherlock (8)
Park Hill Junior After School Club, Croydon

Hector



Isabelle Trevena (8)
Park Hill Junior After School Club, Croydon



Mrs Iwin says...

Trip to the theatre What a fantastic start to the festivities this term. A few of our children were invited to watch **The Nutcracker** at Polka Theatre, Wimbledon. The children joined in with the Christmas songs and enjoyed the wonderful acting.



Y6 Girls' Public Speaking Competition

We have such talented girls in year 6 who participated in a public speaking competition. These girls were given a choice of debate questions to write their speech on, using relevant research and projecting their voice. It was absolutely brilliant to see them flourish and become so confident with their speaking skills. Their self esteem was so high and they should be very proud of themselves.

We were spoilt for choice and have selected **Anaya 6A** and **Akshaya 6I** who will represent our school in the Croydon Finals at the town Hall, in March next year. Congratulations to all who participated. We are so proud of you and well done to the winners!

Miss Ali says...

Below are the fantastic writing laureates and aspirational readers for the autumn term!

They have been proudly wearing their coloured ties to represent their achievements and have shown exceptional enthusiasm for literacy.

I wonder who will be next to join this esteemed group and continue to inspire?

	Autumn	
	Reading	Writing
3H	Ira	Ivy
3S	Neil	Anandhi
3G	Zayn	Blake
4F	Himani	Seiona
4L	Sid	Manisha
4U	Raghuram	Farah
5E	Sheryl	Prisha
5D	Beau	Akshay
5K	Nikki	Samyuktha
6A	Anaya	William
6I	Samuel	Mihika
6M	Zayaan	Anu



Fri 20th Dec 2024 - Last Day of Term 1:30pm finish

Mon 6th Jan 2025 - First Day of Term!

Fri 10th Jan - SES Water Trip (5D)

Mon 13th Jan - Swimming Lessons (6I & 4F)

Tues 14th Jan - Roman Workshop Yr 6 (in school)

Fri 17th Jan - Coffee Morning (9:30-10:30 am)

Fri 24th Jan - Staff Training Day
(School closed to Pupils)

MUSIC LESSONS



Our piano teacher, Mr Pratt, has some available spaces! 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

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

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



jimgibbard99@googlemail.com

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

Christmas Show

Well done to the children for an amazing performance of our Christmas show - Bah Humbug!

All of the hard work learning words, acting skills, dances and songs paid off with an outstanding show.

A special shout out for all of the children who helped with making props, running the sound and lighting, prop masters who made sure that all of the props were on stage at the correct time, and especially the narrators and all of the Scrooges!

Thank you also to Mr Johnston for your amazing work on the backdrop, Miss Mills, Miss Andrews and Mrs Stott for props and costume, and Mrs Cooper for teaching the songs to year 5 and 6. This was a massive team effort. Thank you all.



Mr Upchurch - Music lead

Reporting Your Child's Absence

An important message to all families- When reporting your child's absence, please remember to promptly inform the school office if your child is absent from class, providing a clear and valid reason for their absence. This helps us ensure your child's safety and allows them to catch up on missed work efficiently. If your child is experiencing a prolonged illness, please provide a doctor's note when they return to school.

Key points for all-

- **Clear expectation:** Report absences with a valid reason (including a detailed reason of why they are unwell, if you are reporting a sickness).
- **Importance of communication:** You must contact the school promptly and as early as possible.
- **Medical documentation:** A doctor's note or proof of any absence will be required for extended absences.

To report an absence/sickness, you can either call the school office on [0208 686 8623](tel:02086868623) or email via office@parkhilljunior.co.uk.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining our school's excellent attendance records. We look forward to welcoming you Monday 6th January - On time!

Ms Dempsey says...

Year 3 Steps Back in Time!

It has been a busy half term. Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas productions, Bedtime stories and curriculum showcases. But that's not all we have been up to.

Our Year 3 pupils have been bringing history to life through an exciting combination of outdoor learning and prehistoric studies. The children have become budding archaeologists and historians as they delve into the fascinating world of early humans.

Through their outdoor learning sessions, students have gained practical insights into prehistoric life. A highlight has been learning about flint knapping - the ancient art of shaping stone tools. This hands-on experience has helped them understand how our ancestors crafted the tools they needed for survival.





In their classroom studies, the children have become true experts on early human life. They've produced impressive and detailed information about how our ancestors lived, hunted, and developed the skills that would eventually lead to modern civilization.

This blend of practical outdoor experiences and classroom learning has brought history vividly to life for our Year 3s, making their learning both meaningful and memorable.

[Year 4's Journey Through Modern and Ancient Technology!](#)

Our Year 4 pupils have been diving deep into the world of technology - both ancient and modern! Their scientific adventures have taken them from electrical circuits to the engineering mysteries of ancient Egypt.

In their study of electricity, the children have mastered the basics of circuits, putting their knowledge to creative use by designing and building their own electronic games. These hands-on projects have brought science to life in exciting ways.



The class has also turned their engineering minds to one of history's greatest puzzles: how did the ancient Egyptians build the pyramids? Using K-Nex construction sets, our young engineers have explored and tested different methods the Egyptians might have used to move massive limestone blocks. This practical investigation has helped them understand the incredible ingenuity of ancient builders and the simple machines that could have made such monumental construction possible.

By combining modern electrical engineering with ancient construction techniques, Year 4 has shown that technology, old and new, is all about clever problem-solving!

[A Heartfelt Thank You to Our School Community](#)

As we reach the end of term, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our wonderful school families. Your generous gifts, thoughtful cards, and continued support mean so much to all of us at the school.

Your kindness and engagement with our school community helps make this such a special place for learning and growth. We are truly fortunate to have such supportive families as part of our school family.

As we head into the holiday season, I wish you all a happy, peaceful, and safe time with your loved ones. May this break bring you rest, joy, and precious moments together.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term!

Ms Dempsey

Surrey Cricket

Marylebone Cricket Club is the world's most active cricket club, the owner of Lord's Ground and the guardian of the Laws of the game.



They have shared their new MCC Hubs for girls and boys who are interested- An amazing programme that is entirely FREE for both training and matches. Click this link for more details- <https://www.lords.org/mcc/mcc-foundation/mcc-foundation-in-the-uk>

A vibrant, colorful poster for a winter camp. The background is a collage of geometric shapes in yellow, blue, red, and purple. At the top, a pink banner reads 'SOLIDROCK ACADEMY'. Below it, the words 'WINTER CAMP' are written in large, multi-colored, block letters. A basketball and a soccer ball are positioned on either side of the word 'CAMP'. Logos for 'CROYDON Activities and FOOD', 'CROYDON COUNCIL', and 'SOLIDROCK ACADEMY' are visible. Text on the poster includes: 'DECEMBER 30TH - 31ST', '10AM - 2PM', 'OPEN TO AGES 5 UP TO 17', '*FREE LUNCH PROVIDED', '*FREE PLACES AVAILABLE', '<OUR ACTIVITIES> BASKETBALL, TABLE TENNIS, FOOTBALL, TRAMPOLINING, RUNNING, DODGE BALL, COOKING, MUSIC, BIKE RIDING, GROUP & FREE PLAY, JEWELLERY & MAKE UP. PLUS MANY MORE!!!!', and 'CONTACT US AT 07508 053809'. At the bottom, it says 'SIR PHILLIP GAME CENTRE, 38 MORLAND AVENUE, LONDON, CRO 6EA, UK'. A circular logo with a checkmark is in the bottom right corner.