

October 2025

# NEWSLETTER

## Park Hill Junior School



### Learning Update

What a wonderfully busy and successful first half-term we've had! It feels like just yesterday I was introducing myself in September, and now we are already at the October break. I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our fantastic students and seeing their enthusiasm fill the classrooms every day.

I've been so impressed by how quickly the children have embraced the new school year, demonstrated by their exemplary behaviour and commitment to our school values. The positive energy in the classrooms suggests they are truly ready for a year of learning and growth.

We had a fantastic series of Parent Welcome and Class Visits for all year groups. Thank you to everyone who attended; your continued partnership is a cornerstone of our community.

This half-term was also a great success for our wider school life:

- The Park Hill Cross Country event was a wonderful demonstration of effort and team spirit.
- The Book Fair was a great opportunity to promote our belief that reading is one of the most important skills a child can develop.
- It was a pleasure to host the Neurodiverse Community Coffee Morning, which I hope was a valuable time for connection and support.
- We have two charities - Young Minds and Show Racism the Red Card and raised money

We've seen great learning across all year groups and I know this will continue throughout the year, I would also like to remind all families about the importance of attendance. Good attendance is essential for your child's progress and wellbeing, and we encourage everyone to aim for 100% attendance each term

Warm regards,  
Miss Arli  
Headteacher, Park Hill Junior School

#### MCAS

If you have not already done so please access your My Child At School account. Contact the office if you have any issues.



#### Year 6 Families

Reminder for all Year 6 families: Submit your secondary school applications by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**.

#### Guitar Lessons

Mr Gibbard still has places available for guitar lessons please contact him directly for enquires and booking.  
Jimgibbard99@googlemail.com  
07766125638



#### PHSA Fireworks night

The PHSA Fireworks is back by popular demand. This is an event not to be missed. Friday 7th November 2025 tickets [HERE](#)



Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Half Term Holiday - School Closed
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Autumn 2 starts - All children back to school
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	PHSA- Firework Night
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	British Museum History Trip 4F
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Primary Pupil Parliament
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	British Museum History Trip 4E
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	British Museum History Trip 4H
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Neurodiverse Coffee Morning



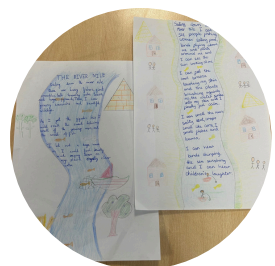
# Spotlight: Year 4

## Year 4 has had a fantastic term full of learning and creativity!

In History, the children have been exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt. They've learned about pharaohs, pyramids and what life was like along the River Nile thousands of years ago. The children have particularly enjoyed discovering the secrets of Tutankhamun's tomb and finding out how archaeologists uncover the past.

In English, we've used our knowledge of Ancient Egypt to inspire our writing. The children have written a persuasive letter to Miss Arli, asking for a trip to the British Museum, a diary entry from the point of view of a pharaoh, a newspaper report about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, and a poem inspired by the River Nile. With every piece of writing, the children have been editing and improving their work, applying the grammar and punctuation skills we've been learning in class.

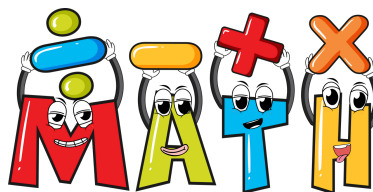
In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of place value, as we do at the start of every new academic year. Following that, they have moved on to start exploring addition and subtraction while exchanging. They've been using practical equipment and problem-solving activities to deepen their understanding and build confidence in using different strategies. It's been a busy and exciting term, and we're so proud of how hard Year 4 has worked!



## Times Table Rockstar

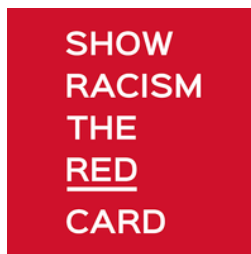
Times Tables Rock Stars is a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

If you have any issues with logins please notify the class teacher.



## Fundraising Days

A huge thank you for your incredible support and generous donations for our recent fundraising days! We're so grateful for your contributions to both Hello Yellow (supporting Young Minds Charity) and Show Racism the Red Card. Your support for these vital causes makes a real difference.



## School Hire

Host Your Next Event at Park Hill Junior School – with a 10% Discount for School Families! 🎉

We're delighted to let you know that the fantastic facilities at Park Hill Junior School are available for community hire – perfect for birthday parties, family functions, sports, clubs, and more!

Special Offer: 10% Discount for Park Hill Families!  
All current pupils, parents, and school staff receive an exclusive 10% discount on bookings for birthday parties and family events. It's our way of saying thank you for being part of the school community!  
Please book through school hire [Here](#).

## Job Opportunity

We are currently recruiting for a Midday Supervisor. If you are interested, please apply [here](#).



## Attendance

Attendance results for this half term. Well done to 4F for having the highest attendance so far! Our Overall attendance is 96.2% which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	97.5
3S	98.8
3U	97.4
4E	97.2
4H	97.3
4F	98.9
5K	97.5
5I	97.9
5M	97.8
6A	90.2
6H	92.6
6M	91.2

## PHJS Sporting Achievements Thrilling Cross Country races

Following the huge success of our whole-school Parkhill Junior cross country run, we were thrilled to have 40 pupils compete at the Croydon Schools Cross Country event at Royal Russell. Our students faced tough competition, running alongside over 150 peers from across Croydon.

On October 1st, 20 Year 3/4 pupils took part, followed by 20 Year 5/6 pupils on October 2nd. Every student loved the experience, and a huge congratulations goes to Stella Everest (5I) for her fantastic 3rd place finish in the Year 5 girls' race! Finally, a massive thank you to all the parents who volunteered as marshals for our school park run—your support made a difference!



## Celebrating More Sporting Success at PHJS! - Tag Rugby

Our outstanding team of 10 Year 5/6 boys dominated the Croydon Tag Rugby Tournament at Trinity School on October 9th. Despite fierce competition from other schools, our boys were undefeated, winning every single game! Their impressive skills and teamwork captivated both the Trinity staff and pupils from opposing teams.

We are thrilled to announce they triumphantly won the tournament! A huge well done to all the boys for their contribution, and a special commendation goes to Noah (6M), who was named Player of the Tournament!



## Celebrating Successes

If you would like to celebrate a success that your child has outside of school. Please [Click here](#) to tell us a little more about the success and add a photo! Look out for next months newsletter to celebrate!



Welcome to our

## NEURODIVERSE COMMUNITY

If you have (or think you might 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 whatsapp



**NEXT SESSION**  
Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov  
9.10-10.15 at PHJS

# E Safety

Emojis aren't just digital decoration – they're often used as a coded language that young people use to express identity, humour and emotion. Without context, they can easily be misunderstood by adults, leading to confusion or missed signals. Some emojis may even mask risky behaviours or emotional struggles. This guide helps decode this ever-evolving language, empowering families to have more open, informed conversations with the children in their care. It also highlights the meaning of some common emojis and offers practical tips for staying clued-in without snooping or suspicion.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

### MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌪️ (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

### NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'wooly' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojiipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



### CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



### ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



### PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.



## EMOJI CHEAT SHEET – The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

### COMMON EMOJIS:

- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- 😎 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 🔥 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 🗿 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🍌 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🌪️ (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudges ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojiipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.

