

November 2025

NEWSLETTER

Park Hill Junior School



Learning Update

As the final week of the autumn term draws to a close, I am immensely proud of the focus and hard work demonstrated by our pupils and staff. This term has been rich with academic progress and exciting festive activities. We celebrated the spectacular success of our Christmas Performances, which truly showcased the spirit and talents of our pupils. We have also enjoyed a special Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day! As we enter the Christmas period, I want to emphasise one of our core school values: Kindness. Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the importance of showing empathy, generosity, and compassion to those around us, and I encourage all our pupils to carry this spirit of kindness into their holidays and their interactions within the wider community.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of our community—our dedicated staff, supportive governors, and, of course, our wonderful families. Your partnership is invaluable, and it ensures that our school remains a safe and stimulating place for every child to thrive.

We look forward to welcoming you all back, refreshed and ready for the Spring Term, on Tuesday, January 6th.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you and your families a peaceful, joyful, and restful Christmas break. Please enjoy this special time together, and we eagerly anticipate another successful term when we return in the New Year. With best wishes for the festive season,

Miss Arli
Head Teacher



5 th January 2026	Inset Day (school closed to pupils)
6 th January 2026	Children return Spring Term 1
8 th January 2026 9.10am-10.15am	Neurodiverse Coffee Morning
14 th January 2026 2.45pm-3.15pm	Parent Maths Workshop
21 st January 2026	Young Voices Concert O2
10 th February 2026	Safer Internet Day

Spotlight: Year 6

Year 6 Update

Year 6 has successfully completed an exceptionally rewarding term, marked by significant academic growth and a focus on procedural discipline. Our cross-curricular study of Ancient Benin and South Africa provided a rich framework, integrating History, Geography, and Art into a holistic learning experience.

Literacy

Students developed nuanced communication skills by writing diaries from the perspectives of figures like Nelson Mandela to build emotional literacy. They also mastered the art of formal letter writing, adapting their tone for different audiences.

Mathematics

We focused on precision and problem-solving. Students tackled the multi-step long division algorithm and became proficient in complex fraction operations, including adding and dividing mixed numbers with different denominators.

Science

The term was dedicated to human biology. Students studied the circulatory and digestive systems in detail, alongside a rigorous look at how diet, exercise, and lifestyle choices impact the human body.

PE & Outdoor Learning

Our physical education program promoted discipline through gymnastics, dance, and football, complemented by dedicated swimming instruction for both 6H and 6A.

Working Together for a Safer School

Community

We recently held a meeting with local agencies to review traffic and parking safety around the school. The safety of our children remains our highest priority.

A key concern raised is the practice of parking on the pavement and dangerous parking around the school. This makes it difficult and dangerous for children, parents, and community members (especially those with pushchairs or mobility issues) to walk safely.

To address this and enforce the law:

- Parking Enforcement Officers will now be making regular visits to the area.
- Please remember that parking on the pavement is illegal and offenders are subject to a £65 fine.

Your cooperation in parking correctly and safely is essential. Thank you for helping us keep our community and children safe!

Supporting our Neurodiverse Community At PHJS

We proudly champion neurodiversity. To support our families, we host a parent/carer group that meets every half-term to build community and share practical resources.

Our most recent meeting featured school counsellor Tara Green, who shared valuable strategies for fostering confidence and resilience in our children. Whether you're looking for expert advice or just a friendly chat over coffee, we'd love to see you there.

- Get Involved: Contact the office to join our WhatsApp group or check the latest flier for upcoming meeting details.



Attendance

Well done to (4F) for having the highest attendance so far!
Our Overall attendance is % which is above National.

Class	Attendance so far %
3D	96.3
3S	97.7
3U	96.2
4E	96.8
4H	97.3
4F	98.5
5K	96.2
5I	96.4
5M	97.4
6A	92.2
6H	92.7
6M	90.2

Christmas Lunch

It was a joy to see so many smiling faces enjoying our special School Christmas Lunch last week. The dining hall was filled with festive cheer, delicious food, and laughter. A huge thank you must be extended to our wonderful catering team for preparing such a magnificent feast, to our staff that all joined in to serve the children - including a special guest behind the counter and to the generous PSHA for donating the Christmas crackers, which added a perfect celebratory touch to the occasion!



Christmas Performance

Christmas Around The World

A huge thank you to all the parents for attending the show and for your hard work preparing the children at home. The students did a brilliant job, and we are so proud of them!

A special shout-out to Mrs. Cooper for putting the entire show together, and to Sandra's mum from 4E for the amazing choreography!

We couldn't have done it without your support!



Support this Christmas

During the school closure, we want to remind all families that support is still available if you or your child are struggling. If you have any serious concerns for a child's safety

- Please call the local Children's Services team or the Police on 999 in an emergency.
- For confidential emotional or mental health support, Childline (0800 1111) is available for children
- parents can contact YoungMinds Parents Helpline (0808 802 5544).
- If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse, the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (0808 2000 247) offers free, confidential 24-hour support.

Please know you are not alone, and help is always available.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Park Hill Community

A big thankyou to our Park Hill community for your food donations. Your kindness is supporting families in our school who need it most and we're so grateful for your continued care. Please see below support outside of school.

- [Lambeth & Croydon Foodbank \(Trussell Trust\)](#): Provides emergency food parcels; requires a referral voucher from an agency (like Centre 70 at 020 8670 0070).
- [The Salvation Army - Croydon Citadel](#): Offers emergency food parcels with agency referral.
- [Purley Food Hub](#): Coordinates Christmas food parcels and community support; check their site for updates.
- [Croydon Voluntary Action \(CVA\)](#): Works with local groups to support families with food, shopping, and gifts during Christmas.
- Hot Meals & Companionship:
 - New Testament Church of God (183 Handcroft Road): Hot meals & clothes on Saturdays.
 - St Mildred's Church (30 Bingham Road): Hot meals, social space, clothing (check first & third Sundays).

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 temporarily closed as we add all names and will reopen soon - stay tuned.



Navya 5K

Navya has been selected for Surrey girls U10 CAG (County Age Group). She had a two stage trials and end of it we were informed about her selection. Winter training will start soon and in summer she will be playing for Surrey U10 girls team against other county age group girls. She is one among the 40 girls who have been selected. We are all so proud of her!



Khloe 4F

Received her black belt in Kung Fu and was 25 metres in swimming.



Gyanshi 4H

Judo Gold medalist in Dartford "We will remember them" competition and best Judo Mon grade in Croydon Judo club 2025, and won 5 gold medal in Swimming



Nanmaya 3D

Individual Championship in Kids category for UUKMA(Union of UK Malayalee Associations) competition in OCT 2025. Solo singing First Prize, Solo dance First Prize, Story telling Second Prize.

Ranveer 6H

Selected for the Surrey County Cricket Under11 Squad. He has shown remarkable progress and consistency, earning his spot among Surrey county's best young players.

Amari 4F

Swimming 400m in less than 30minutes



E Safety

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young ones' attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions of how to make the most of the online world this Christmas. In this guide, you'll find ideas such as video calling relatives, playing video games as a family and listening to your favourite seasonal songs online.

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

1

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs - no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizard.

2

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

3

4 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

4

5 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

5

6 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

6

7 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide - curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

7

8 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

8

9 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents - and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.

9

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday