



NEWSLETTER

Wishing all our pupils, parents and staff a relaxing and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to seeing pupils back in school on Monday 2nd November 2009.



23rd October 2009

Parkside Middle School

Dear Parents/Carers,

This first half term seems to have come and gone extremely quickly. We have been very busy in the last seven weeks, as we are committed to sustaining our drive for school improvement and our pledge to ensure your children receive the best possible education here at Parkside.

Our Friday afternoons have really been transformed through our new creative curriculum, all designed to equip the children with skills and understanding that will help them in adult life.

We have just completed our first of two learning and teaching observation weeks and I am delighted to say that over 80% of the lessons were graded against formal OFSTED criteria as either good or outstanding. All the staff are working extremely hard on focusing on the quality of the learning in their classrooms and we have received an extremely favourable report by our School Improvement Partner on our progress towards the targets set in the June OFSTED inspection.

Our Open Evening was a huge success and we have been absolutely inundated with requests from families to look around the school. People are coming from far and wide, out of the school's usual catchment area, and I am extremely confident we will be oversubscribed in our new intake year. Indeed there are just twenty places left across the whole school before we are officially full, at Easter there were forty-one places available, so this is an extremely positive picture.

Our new-look PTA launched its first event, the Hallowe'en-themed disco, earlier this week. This was a huge success and the children looked fantastic in their fancy-dress. May I thank our PTA members for their time and efforts and particularly praise the efforts of Miss Rigby and Mrs Aston for ensuring it all went so well.

I would like to finish by saying how proud I am of how well our pupils behave on a day-to-day basis. I have received many complimentary remarks from visitors and the children are a credit to the school, themselves and their families.

N Mills

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done and congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected to represent the school in the following way:

- Isaac Grennan - Head Boy
- Georgia Jones - Head Girl
- Kurt Lewis - Deputy Head Boy
- Rachel Pengelly - Deputy Head Girl
- Thomas Fothergill- Gloucester House Captain
- Jason Newton - Hereford House Captain
- Tom Fletcher - Malvern House Captain
- Todd Lawrence - Worcester House Captain

Also well done to our Prefects and Peer Mentors who have been doing a superb job this half term - keep up the good work!



PARKSIDE PTA

Hallowe'en Disco - Pupils had a fantastic time at the disco on Wednesday night and an amazing £190 profit was made. Thank you to parent helpers and staff for their hard work and support.

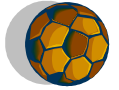
Winners of the "Best Fancy Dress Costume" on the night were: Joe Tittley 5VA, Jordane Cox 5AG, Leia Trigger 6CIS, Lewis Binns 6CIS, Emily Davies, Kyle Blythe 7LS, Jenny Taylor 8MJ and Ashley Field 8SS. Spine chilling and fantastic!!

The next **PTA meeting** will be held on Wednesday 25th November 2009 from 6.30 pm in the school staff room. All welcome.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note there will be a Teachers Education Day on Monday 22nd February 2010.

SPORTS NEWS



Netball: Year 7 and 8 girls played against Dodderhill winning both matches. Year 7 winning 12 - 0 and Year 8 winning by 9 - 0. Well done girls. Years 6, 7 and 8 girls all entered into the Bromsgrove and Droitwich School Netball League - many matches to come.

Football: The Year 8 teams were successful in all their matches. The A team against Catshill 7 - 1, Alvechurch 4 - 1 and St Johns 4 - 1 and the B team against Catshill, winning 3 - 1. Year 7 also won their matches. St Johns 5 - 2 and Catshill 4 - 1. Year 6 A team were successful against Alvechurch winning 3 - 1. B team won against Alvechurch 2 - 1. Year 6 B team lost against Catshill 5 - 0. Year 5 A team lost to Alvechurch 3 - 2 and the B team won their match against Alvechurch 8 - 1. Well done to all players - fantastic effort.

A number of pupils from Years 5, 6, 7, 8 took part in a Primary and Secondary Celebration of Inclusive Sports. They were all a credit to the school. Well done!

CREATIVE CURRICULUM

This term has seen the launch of our "Creative Curriculum." On Friday afternoons all pupils are involved in a variety of projects designed to develop life skills. We are extremely pleased with how the projects are going. Some of them include "Come Dine at Parkside" with parents, family and friends being invited to enjoy a home cooked meal." Abbie Lawson 7LH invited her Mum in for a meal who has since written into school and commented "we felt thoroughly spoiled and pampered. Abbie created a tasty meal, one worth of payment. Giving them this opportunity to shine and receive appreciation is a wonderful idea."

The Young Apprentice group involved pupils setting up a business and doing a "Dragons Den" style pitch for investment; and "Survival" where pupils have been using teamwork to put up tents, use a compass, cook outside and develop first aid skills. A range of new projects will commence after half term.








Can you help us?

As part of the Creative Curriculum we shall be creating a wildflower meadow. If parents/carers have any spare seeds could you please send them into school addressed to Mrs. Aston. Thank you.

STAY SAFE THIS HALLOWE'EN AND BONFIRE NIGHT!



Wishing our pupils an enjoyable time during Hallowe'n and Bonfire Night. Please remember to stay safe.

-  Always go trick or treating with an adult.
-  Do not talk to strangers.
-  Do not knock on doors where there is a sign saying "No trick or treating."
-  Do not enter any house, stay on the doorstep.
-  Stay in well-lit areas and make sure you are visible.

Please remember if you are planning to celebrate bonfire night to follow the fireworks safety code and attend organised events.

Books For School

Miss Drinkwater would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has sent in vouchers from the "Times Books For Schools" promotion. We will still be collecting the tokens after half term.



Welcome

We wish a warm welcome to four new members of staff this term Miss Sarah Kings Mr Paul Sumner, Mrs Sarah Westwood and Mrs Sue Wigley.

Congratulations

We send our warm wishes and congratulations to Penny Hewitt and her husband on the birth of their baby girl Poppy.



Odeon Cinema, Worcester

We have received news from the above cinema that Kids Club Screenings will now only cost £1 per child and they can take an adult for free! Films start at 10 am on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information contact the cinema on 01905 24006.

BAM Job Vacancy

Bam are advertising for a Caretaker (part-time position; minimum 20 hours per week. Responsible for the general safety, security and upkeep of school premises. Closing date for applications is 30th October 2009. For more information please contact Michael Sparks, Deputy FM Manager for BAM FM Ltd by email to mspark@bam.co.uk.