



PARKLANDS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2026

Happy new year to you all! Welcome back for the Spring Term and a warm welcome to our new families joining us. We have a busy term planned in school so please ask your children about what they have been doing.

Important dates for this term are listed at the end of this letter. We try to give as much notice as possible for any dates and send out ClassDojo reminders but we still find that some parents/carers say they weren't aware - **please be sure to put the dates on a calendar/diary/phone.**

As always please do come and talk to me if you have any concerns or need more information about anything happening in school.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Our Parklands Person focus for Spring Term 1 is the SAFE Parklands Person. We will be talking to the children about how we keep them safe at school and how they can help to keep themselves safe out of school. A reminder that our Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection and Safeguarding in school are Mrs Callaghan, Miss Whittingham and Mrs Etchells, and Mrs Light. If you have any concerns at all about the welfare or safety of any of our children, then please share your concerns with us or telephone 'Call Derbyshire' 01629 533190. Safeguarding and child protection covers a range of areas and there are different types of child abuse that we must safeguard against. For more information please see our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (found on our school website and also in the school foyer). **Please remember that safeguarding children is everybody's business.**

Attendance

Our whole school attendance figure for the Autumn Term was 95%, a slight increase from Autumn 2024, we hope that this increase will continue, especially with the worst of the flu and chest infection season over. As you are aware, attendance is a high priority nationally and schools are obliged to ensure regular attendance is encouraged. We will continue to celebrate good attendance with our popular 'attendance celebration assemblies' for those children reaching 95% and above for a term (invites will be emailed) and also with the weekly attendance for classes resulting with the best class attendance treat at the end of each half term. We understand that children will get poorly every now and then, and we are aware of the children who have long term medical conditions, however, we are still seeing increasing cases of persistent absence (below 90% attendance) and more cases needing involvement from Education Welfare. Letters have been emailed to those parents/carers of infant school children where attendance is below 93% (regardless of age) outlining next steps. I also remind you that, penalty notices can be issued by the local authority for irregular unauthorised attendance, and for term-time holidays.

School Closures

As the weather remains cold, we have to bear in mind the possibility that under extreme circumstances, in the interests of the health and safety of our families and staff, the school and nursery may have to close. This would obviously be a last resort measure, but in the event that the school needs to close due to severe weather conditions such as snow, we will endeavour to contact our families via ClassDojo as soon as possible. As you know, our campus is prone to flooding like most of the local area so please do ensure your child wears appropriate footwear. We are aware that the pathways become extremely flooded and ask that you bear with us whilst we continue to liaise with the local authority on this matter.

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March this year. That day the children will be taking part in book related activities and be able to come to school dressed as a book character for the day or dressed ready for a bedtime story (pyjamas). If you can spare a donation for this event to go towards reading resources in school it would be greatly appreciated! Mrs Etchells, our Literacy Leader, will be sending more information nearer the time.

Early Help Practitioner and Pastoral Support

A reminder that our Early Help Practitioner, Mrs Light is working in school to support families in lots of different ways: from health issues, financial concerns, behaviour matters and much more. Mrs Light is able to offer advice and signposting to appropriate services but is also there if you just need someone to listen. Mrs Etchells is our Pastoral Lead in school and whilst Mrs Light's role mainly involves working with the whole family, Mrs Etchells' role focusses on working with children. If you would like to make an appointment with Mrs Light or Mrs Etchells, please contact the school office or speak to your child's class teacher.

On-Line Safety

On Tuesday 10th February we will be taking part in National Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. The day is a great opportunity to spark a conversation about the safe and responsible use of technology, and for children to think about creating a better internet for the future. The children will be taking part in activities to raise awareness about how to stay safe on-line and report any concerns or worries, and also to question the information they may be exposed to online. Mrs Kilarski, our Computing Leader will be organising the day and is running a short information session for parents/carers at 2:30pm that day about keeping your child safer online. I highly recommend attending the session if you are able to, if you aren't able to attend but would like some information, please get in touch with the school office who will let Mrs Kilarski know.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SPRING TERMS

*Unless otherwise stated all of the following are within normal school hours

Monday 5 th January	Start of Spring Term 1
Friday 9 th January	Deadline for Christmas card recycling
Thursday 15 th January	Infant school applications for Reception 2026 and junior school places for Year 3 2026 closes at midnight
Thursday 15 th January	Christmas card recycling winners announced
Thursday 15 th January	Y1 Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole workshop
Friday 23 rd January	Pupil Council meeting
Friday 23 rd January	Safeguarding Team meeting
Monday 26 th January	3:10pm: Year 2 Good Attendance Assembly (invite only)
Tuesday 27 th January	3:10pm: Year 1 Good attendance Assembly (invite only)
Wednesday 28 th January	9:10am – 10:30am: Maths morning for Parents/Carers (more information from Mrs Kilarski to follow)
Thursday 29 th January	am: Class 5 out – Ball Skills Festival
Thursday 29 th January	3:10pm: Reception Good Attendance Assembly (invite only)
Friday 6 th February	SEND Coffee Afternoon (more details to follow from Miss Whittingham)
W/C 9 th February:	Bird Week, Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 9 th February	Best class attendance announced
Monday 9 th February	2:45pm: Reception Topic Celebration for parents/carers
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day: parent/carer information session 2:30pm
Wednesday 11 th February	2:45pm: Year 2 Topic Celebration for parents/carers
Thursday 12 th February	2:45pm: Year 1 Topic Celebration for parents/carers
Friday 13 th February	Children's Mental Health day – children can come to school in non-uniform/whatever makes them feel comfortable
Friday 13 th February	Last day of Spring Term 1
Monday 23 rd February	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN
Tuesday 24 th February	Start of Spring Term 2
Tuesday 24 th February	am: Class 6 out – Key Stage 1 Games Festival
Friday 27 th February	Great Athletes Event (more details from Mrs Hobbs to follow)
Tuesday 3 rd March	Pupil Council meeting

Tuesday 3 rd March	Safeguarding Team meeting
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – dress up as favourite book character/wear PJs
W/C Monday 9 th March - British Science Week 'Curiosity: What's Your Question?'	
Thursday 12 th March	Science Day: Science activities taking place across school
W/C Monday 16 th March – Focus Child Meetings Week (more information about specific days/times TBC)	
Tuesday 17 th March	2:30pm: new Nursery intake meeting
Thursday 19 th March	9:15am – 10:15am: new Nursery transition visit
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief Red Nose Day (children may wear their red nose merchandise to school eg: noses, deely boppers, official T-shirts etc) School are not asking for donations of money.
Friday 20 th March	Friends of Parklands Year 1 Movie Night (more details to come)
Monday 23 rd March	Key Stage 1 Termly Progress Reports distributed to parents/carers
Monday 23 rd March	2:45pm: Reception Topic Celebration for Parents/Carers
Tuesday 24 th March	2:45pm: Year 2 Topic Celebration for parents/carers
Wednesday 25 th March	2:45pm: Year 1 Topic Celebration for parents/carers
Thursday 26 th March	Whole school sponsored Bunny Hop (more details to come)
Friday 27 th March	Last Day Spring Term 2

SCHOOL DATES: 2026

Monday 5 th January 2026	Friday 13 th February 2026
Tuesday 24 th February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026
Monday 13 th April 2026	Friday 1 st May 2026
Tuesday 5 th May 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Tuesday 2 nd June 2026	Wednesday 22 nd July 2026

INSET Days still to be taken:

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Thursday 23rd July 2026

- [DCC term dates](#) Please use this link for future term dates