



PARKLANDS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

School Priorities

This year our school priorities include:

- Reviewing curriculum coverage
- Focus on basic skills in English
- Feedback and Marking
- Inclusion
- Attendance

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all our families and a warm welcome to our new families! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer!

The school diary is getting very full as we plan for some exciting opportunities and events for our children. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead providing a full menu of enriching experiences with visits, visitors, and family involvement.

If there is anything you need to talk to us about, please don't hesitate to contact us. Teachers will be sending out class newsletters shortly which will provide more specific information about their class.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is our highest priority at Parklands.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are Mrs Callaghan, Miss Whittingham (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Etchells (Pastoral Leader), and Mrs Light (Early Help Practitioner).

We teach children a range of strategies to help keep themselves safe, with one key message at the heart of everything we do: they should never keep a secret, especially if an adult has asked them to.

If you have any concerns about a child, please do not hesitate to contact us. Even the smallest piece of information could make a significant difference to a child's wellbeing. **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**



Labels checklist: ✓

All uniform (inc shoes!)

PE kit

Water bottle

Lunch box

Book bag

Outdoor clothing

Contact Information & Communication ✓

- Update the school office if your address, email or phone number changes.
- Ensure we have **two emergency contacts** on record.
- Check that emergency contact details are up to date.
- Use **phone calls** for urgent messages, not ClassDojo.
- Report absences directly to the school office.
- Remember staff may only respond to ClassDojo during working hours.
- Let your child's teacher know if someone different is collecting them.
- Children will only be released to authorised adults and not to anyone under 14 years old.

Campus Arrangements

Please help us keep our campus safe and welcoming for everyone by following these important reminders:

- 🚭 The campus is a **strictly no-smoking and no-vaping area**.
- 🐕 Dogs are **not permitted on campus**, except for assistance dogs.
- If bringing a dog to school drop-off or collection, please ensure it is kept away from areas used by children and that any mess is cleaned up immediately.
- 🗣️ We expect all adults on campus to behave respectfully. **Abusive language, shouting, intimidation, threatening behaviour or violence will not be tolerated** and may result in a ban from the school site.
- 🌱 As an ECO School, we encourage families to **walk to school where possible** to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce congestion.
- 🚗 **Parking in the staff car park or on the campus service road is strictly prohibited** for health and safety reasons.
- Emergency vehicles must be able to access the campus at all times. Repeated unauthorised parking may result in a campus ban.
- If you have mobility issues or additional needs and require closer parking, please contact the school office to discuss arrangements.

Parent/Carer Power!

Our school community persistence has paid off! You may have noticed that the state of the path and the area where parents/carers park has improved. This summer DCC worked over the summer to level out the 'carpark', clear the path and install drainage. We are hoping this will greatly improve access to the campus on those rainy days now.

Thank you for all your support!



Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our school community safe.

Snacks & Drinks



- Children may enjoy the fruit or vegetable snack provided by school or bring their own healthy fruit or vegetable snack.
- Please do not send sweets, fruit winders, or chocolate/yoghurt-coated fruit.
- **We are a nut-free and tomato-free school. Please do not send nuts, nut products (including Nutella), or tomatoes in snacks or lunchboxes. This is extremely important to protect children with severe allergies.**
- Grapes must be **cut lengthways** before being brought to school.
- Please ensure all snacks are in a labelled container or food bag.

Water Bottles

- Children are encouraged to bring a labelled water bottle each day.
- Please send **water only** (no juice).
- Water bottles should be taken home daily for cleaning.

Parents & Carers Opportunities

We look forward to welcoming families into school this term and offering opportunities to learn more about your child's progress and school experience.

- **Phonics Screening Information Meetings**
 - **Year 1:** Tuesday 13th October at **9:15am**
 - **Year 2 (Screening Retake):** Tuesday 13th October at **2:45pm**
- **Classroom Open Afternoon**

Join us on **Thursday 19th November, 2:20pm to 3:20pm**, for a chance to see your child's learning in action and take part in classroom activities. All visitors must sign in and out at the office. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate siblings.
- **Focus Child Meetings**

These will take place after school during the week beginning **12th October**. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Further information on booking appointments will be shared nearer the time.

We hope you can join us for these valuable opportunities to support your child's learning journey.

Attendance, Punctuality & Term-Time Leave

Every Day Counts! Thank you for helping us maintain excellent attendance. Regular attendance and punctuality give children the best chance to thrive in school.

- ☒ Please notify the school office if your child is absent.
- ☒ Wherever possible, arrange medical appointments outside school hours.
- ☒ If your child arrives after the gates have closed, they must report to the office and a parent/carer will need to complete a **late slip**.
- ☒ Please ensure children are collected promptly at the end of the school day.
- ☒ If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must stay off school for **48 hours** after their last symptoms.
- ☒ We continue to celebrate good attendance through assemblies, trophies and reward days!

If you are experiencing difficulties with your child's attendance, please speak to us. Our **Early Help Practitioner**, Mrs Light, is available to work alongside families, offering support and guidance to help overcome any barriers to regular attendance.

Term-Time Leave

Holidays during term time are not normally authorised and can only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Any requests must be submitted to the school office before making arrangements. Please remember that time away from school can have a significant impact on learning and attendance.

Assemblies

Our assemblies help children develop our **Parklands Person** values and learn about the world around them.

- **Monday:** Certificate Assembly, Star of the Week and Attendance Cup.
- **Tuesday:** Personal Development
- **Wednesday:** Religious Education and Worship.
- **Thursday:** Current affairs, special events and Parklands Person themes.
- **Friday:** British Values Assembly.

We also welcome a range of visitors throughout the year to enrich our assembly programme.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Miss Whittingham is our SENCo. Supporting pupils with SEND is a key priority at our school, and Miss Whittingham is here to help families navigate the support and processes available.

Throughout the year, she will host SEND drop-in sessions for parents and carers who have concerns, questions, or would like to learn more about SEND support, available services, and signposting. Further details, including how to book a slot, will be shared nearer the time.

Healthcare

To help us keep our records accurate, please let the school office know if there have been any changes to your child's healthcare needs or existing healthcare plan. If your child develops a long-term medical condition, please contact the office to discuss the support we can provide.

If your child requires medication during the school day, a medication consent form must be completed at the school office. Please note that we can only administer **prescribed medication** in its original pharmacy-labelled packaging. Non-prescription medicines, such as Calpol, cannot be administered unless they have been prescribed.

Early Help Practitioner and Personal Development Lead

Our Early Help Practitioner (EHP), **Mrs Light**, works in school every Monday and Tuesday. She provides support to families on a wide range of issues, including health, finances, behaviour, attendance, and family wellbeing. With extensive experience of working alongside multi-agency services, Mrs Light can offer advice, practical support, and signpost families to appropriate services. She is also available for anyone who simply needs a listening ear. If you would like to arrange an appointment with Mrs Light, please contact the school office or speak to your child's class teacher.

Mrs Etchells is our **Personal Development Lead**.

She works closely with many children across the school in a pastoral capacity, and is also available to support parents and carers when needed.



IT & Online Safety

Please supervise your child when using the internet, check age restrictions for apps and social media, and remind them never to share personal information online. To help keep all children safe, please do not post photos of other pupils or share school information on social media. Please also think carefully before sharing photos or information about your own child.

For online safety advice, visit the **CEOP** link on our school website. Please note that staff are unable to accept friend requests or follows from parents, carers, current pupils, or former pupils.



P.E.

As the weather is still pleasant, outdoor PE may continue this term. Please ensure your child has a labelled PE kit in a PE bag on their peg: a red or white T-shirt, black shorts, spare socks, and plimsolls or trainers. **Please label every item and re-label it if the name fades after washing.**

ADMISSIONS – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Infant School Admissions

Please note that a place in our Nursery **does not automatically guarantee** a place in our Infant School. School admissions are managed by **Derbyshire County Council**, not the school.

If your child was born between **1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023**, they will be eligible to start school in **September 2027**.

- **Applications open:** Monday 9th November 2026
- **Applications close:** Midnight, Friday 15th January 2027
- **National Offer Day:** Friday 16th April 2027

Applications must be made directly to Derbyshire County Council. All children are eligible to start infant school in the September following their 4th birthday. Please check the Derbyshire County Council website for the latest admissions information.

It is essential that applications are submitted on time. Late applications are considered after on-time applications and may significantly reduce your chances of securing a place.

How to apply:

- Online
- Via Call Derbyshire: 08456 058 058
- By post (paper forms available from Call Derbyshire)

School Tours

If your child is due to start school next September, we offer tours for prospective parents and carers. To arrange a visit, please contact or email Mrs Doherty in the school office.

We will also be hosting an **Open Evening on Thursday 8th October** for prospective parents and carers to find out more about our school and explore our learning environment.

Nursery Admissions

You can register your child's interest in **Parklands Nursery** at any age by applying directly through the school office. Children can start Nursery from the term after their third birthday, subject to availability. We also offer **30-hour funded places**, which must be approved in the term before your child starts. Panda Club provides wraparound care for nursery children, for families needing flexible childcare before and after nursery.



Friends of Parklands (FoP)

The Friends of Parklands play a vital role in raising funds that help provide extra opportunities and resources for our children. Their hard work and dedication make a real difference to school life.

FoP are always keen to welcome new volunteers. Whether you can help regularly or just occasionally, every contribution is valued. It's a friendly and supportive group of parents, carers, grandparents and family members, and a great way to get involved in the school community.

Why not come along to the **FoP AGM straight after school on Thursday 1st October**? It's the perfect opportunity to meet the team and find out more about the fantastic work they do.

A huge thank you to FoP for their efforts last year, including **Movie Nights, Wheelie Good Fun** and the hugely successful **Summer Fair**. We look forward to another great year ahead!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2026

It is **your responsibility** to note these dates in your diary/calendar as reminders may not be sent for all events. More details will be sent nearer to the time of the event.

September	October
7 th Autumn Term 1 begins	1 st : 3:30pm Friends of Parklands AGM (open invite)
10 th J&J Sports assembly	2 nd : 2pm – 3:30pm: SEND drop in sessions
17 th J&J Sports Gymnastic Club commences (infant school)	6 th : 3:10pm Y1 Good Attendance Assembly (Summer Term attendance)
24 th First Pupil Council & Pupil Safeguarding Team Meeting	7 th : 3:10pm: Y2 Good Attendance Assembly (Summer Term attendance)
25 th Key Strings in school performing	8 th : am Reception classes local walk
	8 th : 4pm & 5pm: Open Evening tours for Reception 2027
	w/c 12 th : Focus Child Meetings
	13 th : 9:15am – Phonics Screening meeting for Y1 parents/carers
	13 th : 2:45pm – Phonics Screening Meeting (Retake) for Y2 parents/carers
	15 th : 2:45pm – Y2 Topic Celebration
	16 th : 9:15am – Y1 Harvest Festival Celebration (all welcome)
	16 th : 3:30pm – 5:30pm – Y2 FoP Movie Night
	19 th : 2:45pm: Reception Topic Celebration
	21 st : Aspirations Day
	23 rd : Last day of Autumn Term 1

November	December
2nd Autumn Term 2 begins 5th: Photographer in for children's individual photos 5th: 5pm – 6pm: Phonics meeting for Early Years Parents/carers 6th: Infant School flu vaccines 9th: School applications open 10th: 9:15am: Nursery Rhyme Event for Nursery parent/carers 13th: Children in Need 'Challenge Yourself to 25' W/C 16th: National Anti-Bullying Week 'Break the Silence' 16th: Anti-Bullying Day – wear odd socks 19th: 2:20pm – 3:20pm: Open Afternoon (no younger siblings unfortunately) 24th: Pupil Council and Pupil Safeguarding Team Meetings	1st: Reception Classes out: Experience Christmas 4th: 2pm – 3:30pm: SEND Drop In Sessions 4th: 3:30pm – 5:30pm: FoP Winter Fair 9th: 9:30am & 2:15pm: Y2 Christmas Performance 10th: Save the Children Christmas/Winter Jumper Day 10th: FoP Present Room 11th: 9:30am & 2:15pm: Y1 Christmas Performance 14th: Best Class Termly Attendance announced 14th: Key Stage 1 end of term progress reports 15th: 9:30am & 2:15pm: Early Years Christmas Performance 16th: Cinderella Pantomime performance in school (funded by FoP) 17th: Christmas Party Day 18th: INSET Day – school closed End of Autumn Term

INSET Days for 2026-2027:

Friday 4th September 2026

Friday 18th December 2026

Monday 12th April 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

Monday 26th July 2027