



PARKLANDS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2025

Welcome back to all our families and a warm welcome to our new families! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. A special welcome back to Mrs Bargrove who has returned from her maternity leave to teach in Year 1.

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 your child's class newsletter shortly which will provide more specific information about their class.

Our school priorities this year are ensuring that pupils have fluency in Mathematics, encouraging writing for pleasure, and securing retrieval of knowledge for the wider curriculum.

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.**

Our new look website is now live so please go and have a look at it! It has been quite a process to migrate all information over and there are still parts which are a work in progress so please bear with us. If you do notice something which doesn't seem quite right, please let us know!

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is our priority. At Parklands our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are myself (Mrs Callaghan), Miss Whittingham (Deputy Head Teacher), Mrs Etchells (Pastoral Leader), and Mrs Light (Early Help Practitioner).

We teach the children at Parklands many ways to keep themselves safe in different situations but overarching all of that is the message that they should never keep a secret (particularly an adult's secret).

If you have any concerns about a child/children please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss, even the smallest piece of information could make the difference to a child's welfare. Safeguarding and child protection is everyone's business!

Panda Wrap Around Club

After discussions with Premier Education who run Panda Club wrap around care, we are pleased to let you know that from January 2026, Panda Club will be accepting 3 year olds. This will mean that our nursery children, and any children joining our nursery will be able to access before and after school provision just as our infant school children are. We still need to work out some details but we know that this will be a very useful resource for many of our families who have to use a different early years provider for their younger children.

Parent/Carer Action!

As many of you know, we have been liaising with Derbyshire County Council for a very long time about path from Derby Road. At the moment the path is accessible but, as you know, it is prone to flooding when the rain comes. This time last year we were told that Derbyshire would be resurfacing the path and ensuring there were soakaways for the excess rainwater, however, despite numerous attempts to move this along, we have received no further updates about this project. Whilst we are not at liberty to encourage our school community to act on our behalf, we have reached a point where parent/carers power might be the only option! If families do decide that they want to work together to bring this plight to the attention of figures in the community who may be able to help, then they are more than welcome to!

ClassDojo

We've had a whole year of using ClassDojo now and its hard to imagine life before using it! Just a couple of reminders to help keep communication lines as clear as possible; members of staff may not get to see ClassDojo messages until the end of the school day so if you need to contact school urgently please

telephone the school office, and please ensure to always report any absences to the school office and not on ClassDojo. Our policy does cover 'quiet hours' for staff so please be aware that messages will only be responded to during teachers' working hours.

LABELS!!!:

A reminder to label **all** of your child's property: uniform - including shoes, PE kit, book bag, outdoor clothing, water bottles etc. It is amazing how quickly the items in our Lost Property Bin mount up – items which cannot be returned to their owners because they either haven't been labelled or the label has washed off. We appreciate that items can still be lost even if they have name labels but it is such a shame that so many items are left unclaimed. Lost property is collected and put into a basket in the foyer. I also take this opportunity to remind you that **children should wear dark, sensible shoes for school.**

Attendance and Punctuality

Last year we saw a great improvement in attendance bringing figures above the national average. Attendance will continue to be a priority and we stress that it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that your child attends school on a regular basis. Please ring the School Office if your child is absent and give the reason. If you have to make a medical appointment for your child, please try to do this after school, if an appointment during the school day is unavoidable, we do ask for proof of appointment. In the interests of child protection and safeguarding we will investigate prolonged or repeated absences if we feel it is necessary and report this to the relevant authorities. We will continue to regularly monitor attendance and support any families facing attendance issues. However, if a child's attendance drops below 95% without any valid reason that child, by government standards, is then considered to be a 'persistent absentee' and their attendance will be scrutinised by the Education Welfare Officer, parents/carers will then have to attend an interview to discuss their child's attendance. We will also continue to celebrate good attendance (95%+) through celebration assemblies, the attendance trophy, and treat days. We can't stress enough the importance of getting to school on time and collecting your child on time. We understand that there may be occasions when this happens but we have found that this can become a regular pattern for some of our children. If your child arrives at school after the playground gates have closed they must be taken to the main school office and you will be required to complete a 'Late slip'. Just a reminder that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they must be kept away from school for **48 hours** after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Term-time Leave

The Education Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively (after they have been taken). Any requests should be on an official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made. You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.

Exceptional circumstances at Parklands are events such as a wedding, funeral or if your child is competing in an organised sporting event. The school can ask to be provided with evidence of this. If you do need your child to have an authorised leave of absence, please speak to the school office at least 3 weeks beforehand. Over a child's life in school a two week holiday each year adds up to 24 weeks – nearly two thirds of an academic school year!!!!!! If illnesses are added on top it is clear to see that some children are disadvantaged as they miss so much school. Our Education Welfare Officer will regularly check on attendance. I would hate for families to be out of pocket so please don't book a term time holiday assuming it will be agreed!

Parents/Carers Meetings/opportunities

Phonics Screening Meetings will be taking place at 9:15am on Tuesday 14th October for Year 1 parents/carers and 2:45pm on the same day for Year 2 (phonics screening retake).

We are holding an opportunity for Parents/Carers to spend some time in school to get an idea of what the children are doing and get involved with the activities. This will be on Thursday 20th November; 2:20pm – 3:20pm. It will not be necessary for you to have DBS clearance in place for this event as all

activities are supervised. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate siblings. We hope that you'll be able to join us. All visitors will need to sign in at the office and also sign out when leaving. You do not have to stay for the entire time but will need to sign out again before you leave. If you have more than one child in school then you are welcome to move between classes but must inform a member of staff when you do this so that you can be chaperoned.

Our Focus Child meetings will take place after school w/c 20th October. This is an opportunity for you to book a slot with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress. Your child's teacher will send more information about this nearer the time.

Campus Arrangements:

The whole Campus is a **no smoking area** this also includes the use of vapes. It is also a **no dog area**. Dogs, unless they are assistance dogs, are not allowed onto the campus when you bring or collect your children. Please ensure that if you are leaving your dog somewhere while you drop off/collect your children that it is not left in a place our children will need to walk past, and please clean up any mess it may have made.

Unacceptable behaviour from adults on the campus will not be tolerated and any incidents involving unacceptable behaviour, which includes using abusive language, shouting, violence, and intimidation, will be taken further and can result in the school issuing a ban on entry to the campus and school.

As an ECO school we do encourage you to walk to school - not only does this reduce congestion around our school, it also promotes healthy living.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE 'CAR PARK' AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DRIVE IS NOT THE PROPERTY OF PARKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL. You are able to park your car in that area but do so at your own risk.

Parking in the staff car park or on the service road leading through the campus **is strictly prohibited** in the interest of health and safety. If you do need to park closer to school due to having any additional needs or mobility issues please speak to the school office. We have had issues previously with emergency service vehicles not being able to access the schools on campus due to cars parked along the service road. Again, anyone repeatedly found parking in these areas could face a campus ban.

Contact Information/Communication

Just a reminder to please inform the office staff if you have any changes to personal contact information such as a change of address, e-mail address or telephone number. Please make sure that the office are aware if you are having difficulty with your phone or if your phone number changes.

We send most letters via e-mail/ClassDojo but there are paper copies available at the office. Please also keep us abreast of any changes for your emergency contact details should you not be available (ie: grandparents, child minder etc). We must insist that school has **two emergency contacts**.

Please make sure you inform your child's class teacher if anyone other than the usual person who collects your child is collecting them from school/nursery. **Staff will not allow children to go with anyone they have not been informed about or older siblings/children who are younger than 14 years old.**

Assemblies

We promote our Parklands Person ethos through all our assemblies and inform the children about important events and things that are happening not only in the local area but the world beyond their immediate community also. We also use our assemblies for the children to listen to a variety of visitors. However, we have a regular weekly 'plan' for assemblies:

Monday – Certificate Assembly: a child from each class is nominated by their teacher and TA to receive a certificate for being a Parklands Person (this half term our focus is 'respectful') and a child from each class is also nominated for 'Star of the Week'. We also find out which class has won the Attendance Cup.

Tuesday – Mrs Roseveare and Mrs Etchells alternate taking assembly on Tuesdays. The focus of these are on PSHCE (Personal, social, health, citizenship Education) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) but this is also the assembly when Rainbow Reader awards are given out.

Wednesday –Wednesday assemblies have a focus on religion and worship.

Thursday – we look at current issues in school and beyond, or special/national events taking place and discuss how these relate to us and the Parklands Person.

Friday – Miss Whittingham takes assembly on Fridays and covers topics including British Values.

Snacks and drinks

As you may be aware our children receive a fruit or vegetable snack as part of a healthy schools initiative. We appreciate that not all children will like the fruit and vegetables on offer and therefore we also allow children to bring their own **fruit or vegetable snack**. However, we do ask that the children do not bring things like 'Fruit Winders' or chocolate/yoghurt coated fruit etc as this would defeat the purpose of a 'healthy' snack. We also ask that children **do not bring nuts or tomatoes** as some children have allergies. (for this reason we also ask that lunchboxes do not contain tomatoes or nuts or nut products such as Nutella). If you are providing grapes for your child, please make sure you have cut them in half **lengthways** as they are a choking hazard. Please ensure that any snacks brought to school are in a labelled container or food bag.

Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring water bottles to school. Please **only send water and not juice**. Please ensure that bottles are taken home each day to be cleaned and that they are labelled.

Healthcare

Just a reminder that if you filled in an individual healthcare/treatment plan for your child last year and any details have changed please contact the office for a form to update the information we hold. Also if your child becomes subject to a long term medical condition please inform the school and also collect a form from the office.

If your child has medication which has to be administered during school hours you must complete a form at the school office. Please note that we can only administer prescribed medication which must be in it's original container with the label printed by the pharmacy stating your child's name. We cannot administer medicine such as Calpol unless prescribed.

Eco News

Our ECO team needs you! The Eco-team meets roughly every six weeks and includes pupils, staff and parents/carers and headed up by Mrs Hobbs. If you are interested in attending the meetings and supporting the school's environmental commitments, please see/email Mrs Doherty in the office. If you are unable to attend in the daytime but would like to be kept updated with our activities by e-mail, or can help out occasionally, or have any connections or credentials which could be useful, please get in touch. All volunteers working in the school will be required to have a DBS check that the school office can arrange. If you belong to a local business who would like to volunteer for a day in our Garden of Dreams and Wonders as part of a community initiative we'd be more than happy to have you!

Mrs Hobbs welcomes any keen gardeners to volunteer their time to our gardening spaces in school so please get in touch if you are interested.

Confidential Reporting Code

I wish to draw your attention to our Confidential Reporting Code. This code provides you with a confidential procedure for making disclosures about suspected wrongdoing, irregularity or a failure of standards within our School.

Any serious concerns that you have about an aspect of service provision or the conduct of employees or Governors of the School or others acting on behalf of the School can be reported under this code. This may be about something that: a) makes you feel uncomfortable in terms of known standards, your experience or the standards you believe the School subscribes to, b) is against the School's policies, c) falls below established standards of practice, d) amounts to improper conduct.

This code is intended to provide you with a route within the school to make disclosures of malpractice. The school hopes you will be satisfied with any action taken. A copy of the Code is available at the School Office and also on the school website. The code shouldn't be mistaken for normal arrangements for making a complaint. The school has a separate policy for this, again, available at the school office and on the school website.

SEND Coffee Afternoon

Miss Whittingham will be hosting our SENCo coffee afternoon again this term on Friday 10th October between 2:30pm-3:30pm. This is an open invitation to all parents and carers. The aim is to enable parents/carers to discover more about the SEND process and procedures at Parklands and ask any questions you may have. Miss Whittingham will be sending out more information nearer the time.

Harvest Celebrations

Our Year 1 children will be hosting our Harvest celebration again this year. As always we shall be donating food to the homeless charity The Canaan Trust, and are asking for children in all year groups to donate tins/packets of food. The Harvest Festival will be taking place on Wednesday 8th October at 9:15am, all are welcome to join us to celebrate.

P.E. / ART

Hopefully children will still be able to do some of their PE outside this term as the weather is still quite pleasant. Please make sure that your child has a red or white t-shirt, black shorts, a change of socks and either plimsolls or trainers in a PE bag. This bag should be hung on your child's peg. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU NAME EVERY PIECE OF CLOTHING AND REWRITE THE NAME IF IT WASHES OFF.**

It is also a good idea for your child to have an old adult sized shirt or an apron in school to wear during art lessons. This could be kept in your child's tray or on their peg, again please label.

Friends of Parklands (FoP)

The Friends of Parklands do a fantastic job of organising events and activities to raise money for the school in order for us to provide our children with things we wouldn't ordinarily be able to afford. FoP are always looking for more volunteers to help out in any way they can even if it isn't something you can commit to regularly. They really are a wonderful, friendly bunch of parents/carers, grandads, grandmas so if you are interested in finding out more the FoP please contact the school office. FoP will be holding their AGM straight after school on **Thursday 9th October**, this is a great way to meet the team and learn more about the things FoP do. A massive thank you for all the effort and time FoP put in last year with events including movie nights, Wheelie Good Fun and the very successful summer fair!

IT/Computer Information for Parents and Carers

Please make sure that you always monitor what your child is doing if they are working on the internet. Please check the age that children should be before they use social network sites, this is usually 13. It is so important that you monitor the sites that your child visits and make sure that they do not give away personal information. **Please do not put any photographs of our pupils (who are not your children) on social media sites.** I cannot stress how important it is to not to name or put information about the school on networking sites. We want to protect our children as much as we possibly can. Please also take care when posting information/photos about your own child.

On our website you can find links to a variety of educational sites and there is also a **CEOP** link button on the main website page. Please do visit the CEOP website to stay informed about on-line safety. Do visit our website regularly to catch up with our news or to check a date.

Derbyshire County Council have issued guidance to school staff about the use of social media and networking. **Staff are not permitted to accept friend requests/follows from parents/carers or pupils (including former pupils)** therefore please do not assume that they are being rude if they do not accept a friend request/follow you have sent them!!!

Early Help Practitioner and Pastoral Leader

Our EHP, Mrs Light, will continue to work in our school on a Monday and Tuesday each week. Mrs Light's role is to support families in lots of different ways: from health issues, financial concerns, behaviour matters and much more. Having extensive experience working for multi-agency teams, Mrs Light is able to offer advice and signposting to appropriate services but is also there if you just need someone to listen. If you would like to make an appointment with Mrs Light, please contact the school office or speak to your child's class teacher. Mrs Etchells is our Pastoral Leader in school. She works with many children and often supports parents/carers also.

ADMISSIONS – VERY IMPORTANT!!!!

Applying for an infant place

Unfortunately if your child has a place in our Nursery it does not automatically guarantee that they will get a place in our Infant school. Applications and allocation of places are dealt with by the local authority and not the school.

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 your child will be eligible to start school in the 2026/2027 academic year. Applications open on **Monday 10th November 2025**. The application process will close at midnight on **Thursday 15th January 2026**. Applications are made directly to Derbyshire County Council and not to school. All children are eligible to start infant school in the September after their 4th birthday. Please check the Derbyshire County Council website (school admissions section) for updates on procedures and dates. Parents will be informed by the local authority about where their child has received a place (National Offer Day) on **Thursday 16th April 2026** (decisions available on-line and posted 2nd class where applicable).

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE THE APPLICATION ON TIME. IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS UNFORTUNATELY YOU GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST!!!!

Applications:

You will be able to apply:

- online
- through Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058
- by post. Paper forms are available on request from Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058.

Visits for prospective parents:

If you have a child who is due to start school next September then we do have tours of our school for prospective parents/carers. If you are interested in having a tour of the school please speak to/email Mrs Doherty in the office.

Nursery admissions

You are welcome to put your child's name down for a place in Parklands Nursery at any age. Please apply directly to Parklands Infant and Nursery School Office. Children can join our Nursery the term after they are three but please be aware that can be limited. We also offer places for the 30 hours funding but this has to be in place for the term prior to your child starting.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERMS: [Please copy these dates to your diary/calendar/phone](#)

Thursday 25 th September	Year 2 Mini-Leaders training (pupils chosen will be sent more information)
Tuesday 30 th September	Class 5 out - Shooting Stars Festival
Thursday 2 nd October	Pupil Council meeting and Pupil Safeguarding Team meeting
Friday 3 rd October	Key Strings Music Company in school performance for pupils
Tuesday 7 th October	Key Stage One Fun Run with Wilsthorpe
Wednesday 8 th October	9:15am school hall – Year 1 Harvest Festival (donations of tins/packets of food much appreciated)
Wednesday 8 th October	Reception children out on a local visit
Thursday 9 th October	3:30pm: FoP AGM – all welcome!
Friday 10 th October	2:30pm: SENCo coffee afternoon sessions
Monday 13 th October	Class 3 out – PE fundamentals
Tuesday 14 th October	9:15am Phonics Screening for Year 1 meeting for parents/carers

Tuesday 14 th October	2:45pm Phonics Screening for Year 2 (retake) meeting for parents/carers
Wednesday 15 th October	3:10pm: Y2 Good Attendance Assembly (invites to be sent shortly)
Thursday 16 th October	3:10pm: Y1 Good Attendance Assembly (invites to be sent shortly)
W/C 20 th October	Focus Child meetings (Class teachers will let you know which days they are having these)
Monday 20 th October	2:45pm: Reception Topic Celebration (families of Reception children welcome)
Tuesday 21 st October	Class 4 out – Mini Movers
Tuesday 21 st October	2:45pm: Year 2 Topic Celebration (families of Y2 welcome)
Thursday 23 rd October	2:45pm: Year 1 Topic Celebration (families of Y1 welcome)
Friday 24 th October	ESSP Fitness Morning for Key Stage 1 children Last day of Autumn Term 1
Monday 3 rd November	Start of Autumn Term 2
Tuesday 4 th November	Photographer in school to take Individual children's photos (more info to follow)
Wednesday 5 th November	am: pupil Council meeting, pm: Safeguarding Team meeting
Friday 7 th November	3:30pm – 5:30pm: FoP Year 2 Movie Night
W/C 10 th November	– National Anti-Bullying Week: 'Power For Good'
Monday 10 th November	School applications process opens
Tuesday 11 th November	Anti-bullying Day: wear odd socks
Wednesday 12 th November	Flu immunisations for infant school children
Thursday 13 th November	5pm – 6pm: Early Years Phonics Meeting for Nursery/Reception parents/carer
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need: The Great SPOTacular Appeal– children invited to come to school dressed in a SPOTacular way! Any donations of money gratefully received!
W/C 17 th November	– Nursery Rhyme Week (Nursery children)
Monday 17 th November	2:30pm: new Nursery parent/carer meeting (January starters)
Wednesday 19 th November	9:15am – Nursery Rhyme Event in hall (Nursery parents/carers)
Thursday 20 th November	2:20pm – 3:20pm: Open Afternoon session for parents/carers (apologies we cannot accommodate siblings)
Friday 21 st November	Year 1 children out – bike festival (pupils chosen will be sent more information)
Tuesday 2 nd December	Infant school children out – PE Leaders Festival (pupils chosen will be sent more information)
Tuesday 9 th December	Class 6 out – Sports Hall Athletics
Wednesday 10 th December	9:30am + 2:15pm: Year 1 Christmas production (not a ticket event)
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day (donations for Save the Children)
Thursday 11 th December	FoP Christmas Present Room (more details to follow)
Friday 12 th December	9:30am + 2:15pm: Reception Christmas production (not a ticket event)
Friday 12 th December	9:15am – 10:15am: new nursery children transition session
Monday 15 th December	1:15pm – 2:15pm: new nursery children transition session
Monday 15 th December	Key Stage 1 end of term progress reports sent out today
Tuesday 16 th December	9:30am: Nursery Christmas production (not a ticket event)
Wednesday 17 th December	9:30am + 2:15pm: Year 2 Christmas production (not a ticket event)
Thursday 18 th December	3:30pm – 5pm: FoP Christmas Fair
Friday 19 th December	Party Day! (More details nearer the time) Last day of Autumn Term 2

Dates for the Academic Year 2025-26

Please ensure that you note these dates in your diary/calendar.

The School Year 2025-26

School Opens session

Monday 8th September 2025 (KS1+ existing Nursery)
(New Reception staggered start Tuesday 9th September)

Monday 3rd November 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 24th February 2026

Monday 13th April 2026

Tuesday 5th May 2026

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

School closes at the end of

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Friday 27th March 2026

Friday 1st May 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

INSET Days for 2025-2026:

Thursday 4th September 2025

Friday 5th September 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Thursday 23rd July 2026

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

Mrs K Callaghan
Headteacher