

December (3) 2025

Dear parents,

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding term, we want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. It has been a wonderful season of learning, growth, and shared experiences. Our thanks go to our partners in the community, Spar Parkgate, for the gifts they have provided for our pupils. The staff would like to wish all our pupils and their families a joyful and peaceful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January as we continue our exciting learning journey together.

LAST DAY OF TERM/CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Date: Friday 19 December

The last day of term will be a **non-uniform day**. There is no charge for this event.

Pupils will also be permitted to bring a treat break on this date.

School will close at **12 noon on Friday 19 December** and re-open to pupils on **Monday 5 January 2026**.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – Good News Club

Good News Club will run from **Wednesday 7 January 2026 until Wednesday 4 February 2026**. This is a **FREE** club run by Cheryl and Paul from CEF. If you wish your child/ren to attend, please register by **Tuesday 6 January** using the google form linked below.

<https://forms.gle/UWe8SXJo4sWRFoi49>

HOMEWORK CLUB

If you wish to register your child for January homework club, please complete the google form linked below by Wednesday 17 December and send payment to the school office.

<https://forms.gle/SoYcFqsmKFGYKxhZ7>

****SCHOOL MEALS – PRICE INCREASE****

The Education Authority recently set out a number of measures in response to a significant shortfall of around £300 million. As part of these measures school meal prices will increase in January for the first time since 2017. Pupils entitled to free school meals will not be affected by this rise and will continue to receive a meal as before.

The price of a school meal will rise from £2.60 to **£3.10** per day from January 2026.

Term 2 school meals will commence with **WEEK 1** on *Monday 5 January 2026*. Please note that due to the whole school trip to the pantomime all pupils will require a **packed lunch** on **Friday 9 January 2026**.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

<https://www.parkgate-primary.co.uk/>

ANNUAL PANTOMIME

The annual pantomime is a highlight of the school year and we are delighted to make a return on Friday 9 January. Our pupils look forward to their trip to the Grand Opera House each year but, as collection time for pupils is 4.30pm, it is a long day for our pupils.

To make the day more manageable therefore, ALL pupils should arrive at school on **Friday 9 January 2025** at **11am**.

There will be no school dinners on **Friday 9 January** as the pupils require an early lunch to arrive at the Grand Opera House on time. All pupils should **bring a packed lunch** on this date.

Date: Friday 9 January 2026
Time: 12.30pm – 4.30pm
School start time: 11.00am
Collection: Pupils are to be picked up from school on their return.

Refreshments: Please provide each pupil with a strong plastic bag containing **one treat** e.g., a chocolate bar or packet of crisps or sweets etc. and one drink. No cans or glass bottles are permitted on the trip. We have been informed by the Opera House that no confectionary containing nuts can be taken into the auditorium.

PTA

The next meeting of the PTA will be held in the school on **Monday 12 January** from 7pm – 8pm.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons begin for pupils in P5-P7 on **Thursday 8 January**. Further information was attached with parent newsletter December 2. Please confirm receipt of a copy of the school's 'Safeguarding Pupils at the Swimming Pool' document in writing by **Friday 19 December**.

P1 2026 APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for primary one places for the school year from September 2026 to June 2027 will open on **EA CONNECT** on Wednesday 7 January at 12 noon and close on Wednesday 21 January at 12 noon.

Admissions Helpdesk – available from Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm by telephone on **02890470177** or by email, primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

SILVER SMASH

Remember to send your silver change every Monday.

STORY & RHYME – 2026 DATES

Friday 16 January
Friday 23 January
Friday 30 January

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

LIBRARY VAN - The next visit of the library van will be on *Wednesday 14 January*.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19.12.25	End of Term – school closes at 12pm
05.01.26	Term 2 begins
07.01.26	P1 2026 Admissions Portal opens
07.01.26	Good News Club begins
08.12.26	Swimming lessons begin P5-P7
09.01.26	Pantomime, Grand Opera House – all pupils require a packed lunch
12.01.26	PTA meeting at 7pm
14.01.26	Library van
16.01.26	Rhyme Time
21.01.26	P1 2026 Admissions portal closes

Mrs V Ferguson
(Principal)

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