

November (1) 2024

Dear parent(s)/Carers,

I hope all had an enjoyable mid-term break. We were delighted to welcome everyone back to school and are excited about the run up to Christmas. There will be lots of fun events, activities and engaging learning opportunities for everyone.

Best wishes to our pupils in P7 who are sitting the upcoming SEAG tests. They have worked very hard in their preparations and we are so proud of them!

AFTER SCHOOLS

Lego Club (Led by Clay Razy) will commence on **Wednesday 6 November**.

The 6 sessions are on: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November, 4th and 11th December
£30 due in cash or cheque payable to Clay Razy on the day of the first session.

JOLLY PHONICS P1 PARENTS

A Jolly Phonics information session will be held for parents of P1 pupils on **Thursday 7 November at 2.30pm**. Please inform Mrs. Magowan if you are unable to attend.

PTA FUNDRAISING

Thank you to the PTA for organising and facilitating the Pumpkin Patch during the last week of October. The staff and children thoroughly enjoyed it and were happy to participate in this community event.

The PTA have been working very hard to organise a festive Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with local florist Chloe Clarke from Floral and Bow. The event will be on Thursday 14 November at 7pm in the school hall. Light festive refreshments will be provided and the cost is £40 per person. To book your place please email parkgateps.pta@gmail.com

BROWN MONEY FUNDRAISER

The pupils met the four targets for the brown money collection and received their rewards. The next phase of this fundraiser is to guess how much money is in jar. Pupils can pay £1 to guess the amount and the child who guesses closest to the amount will win a prize. Please send in £1 to guess the amount by Friday 8th November.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – POPPY APPEAL

Every year the school support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies and the other items listed below will be available in school from **Monday 4 November**. Donations should be sent in a sealed, named envelope stipulating which items you require.

A copy of this newsletter is available on the school website

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

Item	Suggested Donation
Pin	£2
Snap Band	£1.50
Wristband	£1.00
Zip pull	£0.50
Reflector	£0.50

Library Van – The next library van visit is **Wednesday 13th November**.

CHRISTMAS NEWS

The Parkgate and District Community Association has invited the **P4-P7** school choir to participate in the Christmas Lights Switch On. This is to be held on the evening of **Friday 22 November**. Further details to follow. Please complete the permission form below by **Friday 13 November** if your child can attend.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesgarv2sud_I-sISXDAqN7RvyAiU5MPHnYcRQ01PR8j_8Hrw/viewform?usp=sf_link

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Antrim and Newtownabbey Council are running a competition where pupils must design Santa's Sporty Outfit. The first prize will be a £100 voucher and the outfit will be manufactured for Santa to wear at the council's Christmas Lights Switch on Events. The children will design their outfits in school.

CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH

This year a Christmas Buffet Lunch will be served on **Monday 2 December**. If you wish to order a meal for your child, please complete the google form below and submit by **Friday 22 November**. Payment of £2.60 per child is **required on 25 November**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd56v3H_hJTd-RpdNRL5vmjtvSvAKNeptEBxJwSY0LNfSvuygg/viewform?usp=sf_link

CHRISTMAS GIFTING

Considering current financial stresses, the staff would like to emphasize that families are under no obligation to gift presents to staff at this time. Should you wish to, a gift to a charity supporting underprivileged children is preferred.

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SAFEGUARDING – ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Every November schools throughout the United Kingdom take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2024 will be taking place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November, with the theme 'Choose Respect'. Pupils in P4-P7 will participate in an online assembly hosted by HIP Psychology and all classes will complete activities and discussions around this important topic. We will join with many other schools on Tuesday 12th November to participate in "Odd Socks Day." The children should come to school wearing odd socks.

OPEN AFTERNOON

This year the school is hosting an open afternoon for prospective P1 pupils 2024. Parents and pupils will be able to see our classes in action, experience the foundation stage play resources, tour the school and hear a principal's address.

The open afternoon is planned for **Friday 29 November**. Pupils in **P1-P3** should be collected at **2.15pm** on this date.

Refreshments will be offered to visiting parents and pupils. If you are available to help with serving tea and coffee and chatting with parents about your experience of the school, please contact the school office for further details.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Pupils should bring a hat, scarf and gloves to school to wear during breaktimes in the colder months ahead. These items will **remain in school in a P.E. bag** to help keep our classrooms clutter free.

PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Thursday 16th January – Open evening

Primary 7 Testing- Friday 6th June or Thursday 5th June

For further detail contacts croberts943@c2ken.net

Please read on for dates for your diary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11.11.24	Anti-Bullying Week
15.11.24	Payment due for school meals
22.11.24	Staff Development Day – School closed for pupils
22.11.24	Parkgate Christmas Lights
29.11.24	New P1 Open Afternoon
07.12.24	P1-P7 Christmas Party Lunch + Games
10.12.24	Christmas Concert (6.30pm)
20.12.23	End of term – School closes at 12.00pm for all pupils and staff.
10.01.25	Annual Pantomime Grand Opera House

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