

# UPDATES & GENERAL INFO



Old Park Primary School

September 2024

Welcome back to all our returning families, and a warm welcome to our new children and their families!

The children have returned with great confidence, and most have settled smoothly into their new classes. We understand that, after such a long break at home, some children may still find it a little hard to say goodbye in the mornings. However, once in school, they quickly settle and enjoy their busy days.

It's wonderful to see that the children remember our school values and the Makaton signs learned last year. Our Year 1 children are also picking these up quickly. Ask your child to share the signs and school values they know: Optimism, Love of Learning, Diversity, Perseverance, Ambition, Responsibility and Kindness.

## Attendance:

Your children are doing an amazing job, and we love seeing them every day!

A huge thank you for helping us maintain excellent attendance, with many children still at 100%! We aim to continue this throughout the year, as regular attendance supports confidence, learning progress and strong friendships. We'll keep celebrating and promoting good attendance all year long.



Mrs Grice

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Teaching Staff, Mrs Grice (year 3) and Miss Robbins (year 1).



Miss Robbins

We also said goodbye in July to Mrs Lal and Mrs Lamb, we would like to send them our best wishes for the future.



Wednesday 25th Sept	3TG Swimming 2.15 - 2.45      Year 6 Targeted Swimming 9.30 - 10.00
Thursday 26th Sept	Year 4 Forest School Session
Monday 30th Sept	5W local area walk (consent required via Arbor, Visits)

## October 2024

Tue 1st Oct	Exploration Day Year 1, 2, 3
Wed 2nd Oct	5L local area walk (consent required via Arbor, Visits) Year 1 Parents Phonics Workshop 2pm 3TG Swimming 2.15 - 2.45      Year 6 Targeted Swimming 9.30 - 10.00
Thur 3rd Oct	Exploration Day Year 4, 5, 6
Fri 4th Oct	RR Forest School Session with parents (AM) RB Forest School Session with parents (PM)
Mon 7th Oct	We Are Readers Celebration Week Forest School Storybook Session- Years 4, 5 & 6 (see email) Wear something Green! - This is for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Students ONLY. All Other Students (Key Stage 2) are to attend in normal uniform.
Tue 8th Oct	We Are Readers Celebration Week Forest School Storybook Session - Years 1, 2 & 3 (see email)
Wed 9th Oct	We Are Readers Celebration Week School Photographs (children to wear school uniform, no PE clothes) 3TG Swimming 2.15 - 2.45      Year 6 Targeted Swimming 9.30 - 10.00
Thur 10th Oct	We Are Readers Celebration Week Forest School Storybook Session- Nursery and Reception (see email)
Fri 11th Oct	We Are Readers Celebration Week
Tue 15th Oct	<i><u>Mental Health Awareness Day - staff and pupils to wear something yellow (non-uniform, no charge)</u></i> EYFS, Year 1 and 2 parent consultations Rec to Year 2 - 3.20pm - 6.15pm Nursery - 3.45pm - 6.15pm (Squirrels & Foxes) To be held in the hall please arrive at the main school office entrance and wait in the dinner hall. If possible do not bring your child with you.
Wed 16th Oct	EYFS, Year 1 and 2 parent consultations Rec to Year 2 - 3.20pm - 6.15pm Nursery - 3.45pm - 6.15pm Hedgehogs, Squirrels & Foxes) To be held in the hall please arrive at the main school office entrance and wait in the dinner hall. If possible do not bring your child with you. 3TG Swimming 2.15 - 2.45      Year 6 Targeted Swimming 9.30 - 10.00
Thur 17th Oct	Year 2 Forest School Session
Fri 18th Oct	50p non-uniform - Show Racism the Red card
Tue 22nd Oct	Year 6 Trip to Nottingham Criminal Justice Museum Reading Volunteer Coffee Session 9am
Wed 23rd Oct	Halloween Disco EYFS only - 1.45pm - 3pm (Nursery & Reception come to school dressed in non-uniform to school) Y1, Y2 & Y3: 4.00pm - 5.15pm, Year 4, 5 & 6: 5.30pm - 6.45pm Normal Uniform School day for all KS1 & KS2. 3TG Swimming 2.15 - 2.45      Year 6 Targeted Swimming 9.30 - 10.00
Fri 25th Oct	House Attendance Winner - Non-Uniform Day (for the winning house only). Last day of school
Half term	



# Annual Calendar

PLEASE USE THIS CALENDAR TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH EVENTS IN SCHOOL WE ADD EVENTS TO THE ANNUAL CALENDAR ON A REGULAR BASIS.

PLEASE CHECK THE ONLINE ANNUAL CALENDAR  
REGULARLY FOR ANY CHANGES/ADDITIONS, THIS CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE.

<http://www.oldparkprimary.com/news/annual-calendar/>

## Admission Arrangements – September 2025

### Secondary School – year 7 pupils

The application window for parents of current year 6 pupils to apply online for a secondary place is open. Please note, the national closing date is 31st October 2024.

### Reception Class

The application for parents of current nursery children (D.O.B: 1/9/2020- 31/8/2021) to apply online for a reception place will open:

Sandwell MBC - 16/9/2024

Walsall MBC - 4/11/2024

Please note, the closing date is the 15th January 2025 for both Sandwell and Walsall MBC.

Can you please inform the school office when you have completed your online application either by emailing [school.office@oldparkprimary.com](mailto:school.office@oldparkprimary.com).

Please check you have received an online receipt as confirmation you have submitted your application correctly. It is important to keep this receipt safe.

The school office staff are available from 8.15am-4.15pm (Monday-Thursday) and 8.15am-4.00pm (Fridays). 0121 526 2669.

Any queries please call or email [school.office@oldparkprimary.com](mailto:school.office@oldparkprimary.com) or call 0121 526 2669. You can also message via Arbor.

If you telephone the school *before* 8.15am and after 4.15pm, you will hear the following message and options:-

Please leave a message or call back during our open hours or alternatively email [school.office@oldparkprimary.com](mailto:school.office@oldparkprimary.com)

Press 1 to report your child's absence (voicemail)

Press 2 to speak to the school office

IF YOU ARE REPORTING YOUR CHILD ABSENT PLEASE GIVE US THE  
REASON FOR THIS ABSENCE.

## Communication & Provision

As you are aware our main form of communication is email. Although we are aware that many parents prefer text message communications this is a costly provision. Therefore email communications will continue as the school works to cut costs to avoid staffing cuts. Unfortunately, the school is in the position where funding limitations means that we have to make difficult decisions regarding expenditure in all areas. The senior leadership team and the governing body look to prioritise spend to ensure safety and learning. However, this means that we are not able to always provide provision to the children in the ways we have in previous years.

We thank you for your continued support.

## School Fund Contributions

School fund is extremely important to help us provide wider experiences for our children at Old Park. All funds raised subsidise many opportunities, including:

- Resources for our Exploration Days, where children explore a range of activities that are not provided through the normal curriculum.
- Playground equipment to be used at lunchtimes.
- Equipment for Forest School sessions, that our children are lucky enough to immerse themselves in.
- Equipment for our careers and Skills Builder projects which develop the children's ambition and essential skills.
- Theatre company visits or visiting expert experiences.

School Fund can be made via Arbor, School Shop. We would like to thank you for your support with this, as without it, we could not offer the wonderful 'extras' that we do.



Tomorrow (Friday 20th September) is Jeans for Genes Day, please send your child to school in non uniform with a 50p donation.

Thank you

Friday 18th October 2024 is Show Racism the Red Card Day, please send your child to school in non uniform wearing red with a 50p donation.

Thank you for your support.



# CHARACTER FAVOURITES

Thursday 3rd October 2024

## Mains

- Spongebob's Krabby Patty with Cheese (Cheeseburger)
- Lilo & Stitch's Hawaiian Pizza Adventure
- Sonic's Golden Coins (Vegetable Nuggets) (VG)
- Mr Jacket Potato Head (GF)

## Sides

- Mickey's All American Fries
- Super Mario Slaw
- Barbie Beans
- Ken's Ketchup
- Spiderman Salad Bar

## Desserts

- Willy Wonka's Ice Cream Factory (V)
- Gingerbread Man from Far Far Away (VG)
- Fresh Fruit (VG) (GF)

PLEASE PRE PAY VIA SCHOOL GRID (IF APPLICABLE) BEFORE YOU BOOK YOUR CHILDS MEAL.

CHILDREN WILL RECEIVE A MINI SLINKY TOY TO TAKE HOME ON CENSUS DAY WHEN THE MEAL HAS BEEN BOOKED. THEY WILL ALSO BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW TO WIN A SONIC OR STITCH BAG.

dolce

Reception Children Over 5'S  
Please let us know if your child still requires milk after their 5th birthday. It has to be ordered and costs 28p per day - payable on Arbor. 'School Shop' (year 2 and below)



IF ANY PARENT WISHES TO BUY A WATER BOTTLE THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE £1.65 (CASH ONLY)



### Book Bags/Satchels

We have red book bags for sale (Nursery to Year 2) and also satchels (Year 3 to Year 6)

Prices:

Red Book Bags £6.50

Satchels Red (New Logo) £8.50

Please order on Arbor and let the school office know.



### BIRTHDAYS

Please do not send your child into school with sweets or chocolates for Birthdays. Natasha's law is in place to protect children and ensures any food provided by or via the school has to be agreed in advance by parents.

If you wish to send in something to mark a birthday celebration you can send in non-food items or wrap a book for the class reading area.



### Nursery Place for Academic Year 2024-25

If you have completed a Nursery form for a January 2025 start, school will be hoping to be in touch with parents by mid October.

### SCHOOL LUNCHES - SCHOOL GRID



Please be mindful that Dolce has a pre-payment system so you will no longer be able to book meals and pay later.

If your child has moved from Year 2 to 3 then unless you are in receipt of free school meals you will need to make payment for the meals ordered. Universal Free Schools meals are for Reception, year 1 & 2 pupils only.

There are lot of uneaten meals due to parents booking but also sending in a packed lunch. We do not want to waste food so please unbook the meal if it is not wanted.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL THE MORNING TO TRY TO LOG ONTO SCHOOL GRID TO BOOK A SCHOOL MEAL. YOUR CHILD WILL ONLY RECEIVE A JACKET POTATO/SANDWICH IF THE SITE IS UNAVAILABLE

Thank you

## Breakfast Care Provision

The School provides a Breakfast Provision. If you are interested in applying for annual membership please contact: [breakfast@oldparkprimary.com](mailto:breakfast@oldparkprimary.com)

Children will be provided with breakfast each day and take part in a range of activities.

Annual Membership options are below:

Cost: £4.50 Early Bird from 7.45am each day

Cost: £3.50 Normal from 7.30am each day

## After School Provision

The School provides an After School Provision. If you think you will require a place for After School Provision, please contact [afterschool@oldparkprimary.com](mailto:afterschool@oldparkprimary.com)

Children will be provided with a light snack and take part in a range of activities.

Annual Membership options are below:

Cost: £9.00 each day until 5.00pm

Cost: £10.50 each day until 5.30pm

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Please be aware that there is a waiting list.

Please read the Policies for our terms and conditions of membership on our website.

Parents are reminded that if children are absent either for sickness or holiday, payment for days missed will still need to be paid. If your child is poorly and unable to attend please email the appropriate email address.

Payments are made through a Standing Order payable on 28th of each month for 11 months (not July 28th).

Please read our policy and terms and conditions before applying for annual membership. The policies can be found on the school website.

### PAYMENTS FOR NURSERY 30, BREAKFAST CARE PROVISION AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

CAN WE REMIND PARENTS TO SET UP THEIR STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS  
FOR THE 28TH OF EACH MONTH. THIS WILL ENSURE YOU DO NOT ACCRUE A  
£10.00 LATE CHARGE.

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SET UP A  
STANDING ORDER.

## LOGO SCHOOL UNIFORM/PE KIT UPDATE

The school uniform is as follows:

Red sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

Red or white shirt, polo shirt or t-shirt

Grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore (jogging bottoms are not acceptable)

Black flat shoes (not trainers)

Pe Kit:

PE T-Shirts (red, blue yellow, green - house colours)

Black Tracksuit (plain)

You can now purchase logo school uniform and PE tops from the following suppliers:

Clive Marks store in Walsall or by clicking here <https://clivemark.co.uk/>,

SchoolClothing4U Store in Wednesbury or by clicking

<https://schoolclothing4u.com/>

CC Uniforms in West Bromwich or by clicking <https://www.ccuniforms.co.uk/>

Black Tracksuits can be purchased from: (or purchase plain

black from any supermarket:

([click here for the link to the decathlon tracksuit](#)).

As always you do not need to purchase uniform with the logo.



## From September 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply

### National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

The 10-school week period can span over different terms and school years.

**Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.**

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

1

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

### Second Offence

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

(Unpaid Penalty Notices after 28 days may result in a prosecution)

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### Third Offence and any further Offences

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or Irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure.

If found guilty of the offence of 'failure to secure their child's regular attendance at a school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1,000 and you will have a criminal record

PLEASE NOTE: If you take any Leave of Absence PRIOR to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (e.g. in July 2024) then the Penalty Notice will be at the old rate of £60/£120. Any Leave of Absence taken in September 2024 will be charged at the new rates as above.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

# 12 Social Media

# Online Safety Tips

## FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

### 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.



### 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

### 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.



### 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.



### 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.



### 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.



### 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.



### 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.



### 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.



### 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.



### 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.



### 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.

