

PARKFIELDS NEWS



Parkfields School
FLOURISH, LEARN AND GROW

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Welcome!

It's always a joy to welcome everyone back at the start of the new academic year; I think we are privileged to have this opportunity and fresh start.

With this in mind, I want to extend a very warm **welcome** to all our new children and their families to our Parkfields community.

Meeting many of you at the **Key Stage 3 Orientation** meetings was a lovely opportunity to reconnect. As I was speaking with the Year 8 parents, it seemed strange to think they are in their last year with us - a helpful reminder to **enjoy the moment** and make every day count. Please find the presentations on the [school website](#).

As we begin the year, the opportunities are many and varied. I want to thank the **ambassadors** for their commitment and support with the stationery shop and helping to host the parent meetings.



YEAR 8 AMBASSADORS

Please encourage your children to '**get stuck in**' and be involved in as many things as they can. We really **appreciate** the extra work staff do to make this possible for pupils.

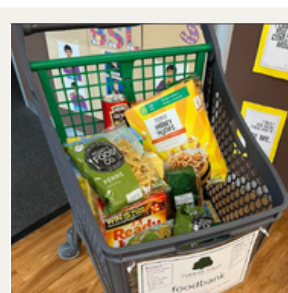


Appreciation

Values are really important to us at Parkfields and throughout the year, we focus on something different for a fortnight at a time. So far, we have tried to develop our sense of appreciation and from the start of next week, our value will be '**diversity**'. How nice to make a space to celebrate and appreciate the different skills, backgrounds and viewpoints that make our community so rich!



Diversity



HARVEST DONATIONS

Harvest

Following the hot weather of the summer, and being surrounded by farms and crops, it is a good moment to remember those that provide our food and

share what we have with those less fortunate.

We are supporting Dunstable Foodbank and ask for food contributions to be brought in over the next four weeks. Our Harvest Assembly is on **Wednesday 14th October**.

Thank you for your ongoing support and looking forward to another year of opportunity and success.

Celebrating Parkfields School Attendance 2025/2026



94.9%
Overall Attendance



12.0%
Persistent Absence
(Half the national average!)



#1
Locally for Unauthorised Absence

How We Compare

Parkfields School	94.9%
National Top 10% Benchmark	94.4%
National Average	91.6%

Local Standings

Out of 26 schools

Overall Attendance:	#2
Unauthorised Absence:	#1 ★
Severe Absence:	#1 ★
Persistent Absence:	#4

Regular, daily attendance is essential because it builds a strong foundation for learning and creates a culture of aspiration in which pupils feel safe, valued, and motivated to succeed.

The collaborative effort between our staff, pupils, and parents has delivered exceptional results for the 2025/2026 academic year:

Overall Attendance last year reached 94.9%, ranking Parkfields 2nd out of 26 local schools and placing us in the top 10% of all schools nationally. Parkfields ranked 1st locally for minimizing unauthorized absences (just 0.6%) and severe absences (just 0.4%), showing the incredible support of our parent community.

Thank you to all of our families for your outstanding partnership and dedication to ensuring our pupils thrive!

We continue to aspire to achieve the very best outcomes for Parkfields pupils with an overall attendance target of between 96% and 100% for the upcoming academic year.



COMMUNITY IN ACTION

The children across the school are beginning the process of voting for this year's School Councillors. Two representatives will be elected from each form, and we are planning a wide range of opportunities to ensure they truly serve as the active 'student voice' for the 2026/2027 academic year and beyond.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This half term, several of our school community events encourage an outward-looking perspective on the world and the complex challenges within it. We are proud to support, discuss, and incorporate the following initiatives into our school community:



WEAR RED DAY 26

Friday Oct 16th



MAKE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT

Friday Sept 25th



PTA - Preloved Uniform

A Warm Welcome back!

Welcome back to a fantastic new school year! Following a incredibly successful first year, the Parkfields PTA is ready to dive into even more exciting activities to raise funds and enrich our students' experience with unforgettable opportunities. We would love for you to get involved!

Thanks to the incredible generosity and support of our community, our first 9 to 10 months have been a triumph!

This week, the PTA presented at the Year 7 and Year 8 Orientation Evenings to share our progress and highlight what we can achieve together:



Working together for our children

Support Fundraise Make a difference

TOTAL RAISED FROM DECEMBER TO DATE

£3,546

AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIRST 9-10 MONTHS!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported, shopped, volunteered and helped us so far!

Pre Loved Uniform

£780 RAISED

230 ITEMS SOLD! 270 ORDERS

The biggest and well used initiative!

Arts Festival

We ran the Bar, BBQ, Sweet Stall and Raffle at the Arts Festival.

Father's, Mother's & Christmas Secret Shop

Introduced Father's, Mother's & Christmas Secret Shop.

Funds Donated & Purchased

Chessboards

Football Table

Funds donated for Chessboards and we purchased a Football table.

Watch this space for more to come...

pta@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

REMINDER

PARKING SAFETY REMINDER

Please park considerately
when dropping off
your child.

 **Please do not:**

Stop at the bottom of the school driveway,
or park opposite the gates or on the yellow
lines

This causes dangerous obstructions for pupils,
cars and buses accessing the school, as well as
creating traffic problems for our community and
neighbours.

Thank you for keeping our school safe! 

Parkfields School



SCHOOL PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE!

Individual school photos are ready to
order! Check your email for the link to
purchase your child's photos. Don't miss
out - order yours today! Free delivery to
school if ordered by 18th September.



THIS SCHOOL IS NUT FREE



12.1 The following items are banned from the school premises:
• Fire lighting equipment - Matches, lighters, etc.
• Drugs and smoking equipment - Cigarettes - Tobacco - Cigarette
papers - Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) - Alcohol - Solvents - Any
form of liquid drug - Any other drugs, sexual medicines covered by
the prescribed medicines procedure
• Weapons and other dangerous implements or substances - Knives -
Stamps - Canebats - Clubs (including batons and BB guns) - Laser
guns - Airsoft guns and related air guns - Stings or similar items
• Flame sprays and gas canisters - Fireworks - Dangerous chemicals
• Other items - Liquid correction fluid - Chewing gum - Caffeinated
energy drinks - Offensive materials (e.g. pornography, homophobic,
racist, etc.) - Articles including headbands and hairnets
12.2 All members of staff can use their power to search without
consent for any of the items listed above



REMINDER

Please remember to complete
the Permissions and
Agreements Google form ASAP,
if you haven't already done so

[Year 5 Google form](#)



Harvest Appeal

Help support your local
community this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest,
the food bank will provide over 500 food
parcels for local individuals and families
facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our
shopping list, ensuring we can
provide food for people facing
hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of
storing and distributing food,
as well as developing
sustainable projects.



Shopping list

Meat in sauce (e.g. meatballs)

Tinned meat (e.g. corned beef)

Pasta sauce

Milk cartons (long life)

Tinned vegetables

Rice pudding & custard

Sponge puddings

Instant mashed potato

Jam/Honey/Peanut Butter

Snacks (crisps, biscuits, sweets)



Can you help us? Scan to Donate!

info@dunstable.foodbank.org.uk 07874200056



Dunstable Foodbank is not in partnership with local churches and is not part of the Trussell Trust network,
offering emergency food assistance to individuals and families living in £10 and £15 per week.
Dunstable Foodbank operates as a CIO and is a Registered Charity (England & Wales 1198625)



REMINDER

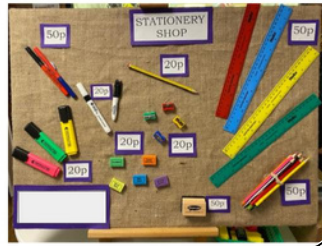
Please remember to complete
the Permissions and
Agreements Google form ASAP,
if you haven't already done so

[Year 5 Google form](#)

Please ensure your child has the correct equipment with them each day. Our stationery shop is open daily with essential items for sale.

Stationery Shop

Every day: Before school / Breaktime
At the top of the dining room stairs

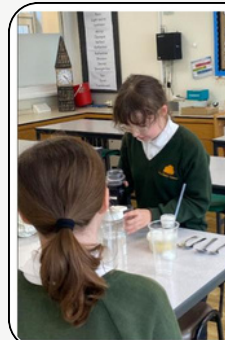


CELEBRATE!



02/09/26 - 09/09/26

- Whole school (last week)
 - ◆ 97%
- Whole school (this year)
 - ◆ 97%
- Star Classes:
- KS2: 5 Cedar 99.43%
- KS3: 8 Ash 97.80%



Georgia V
Science Leader

CONGRATULATIONS

EVIE H (6A)

**WINNER OF THE
YEAR 6
LOGO
COMPETITION**



community



WOW!

Ruby, Lily, Emily,
Fleur, Nula

Dunstable Town Cricket Club



WOW!

Pelle B

Player of the Season
Dunstable Town Youth U10

Lily P

Gymnastics



 PARKFIELDSSCHOOL



PARKFIELDSSCHOOL.CO.UK



PARKFIELDS.SCHOOL

Year 5



A Year 5 Milestone!

One of the highlights of the week was the excitement of the children getting their very own lockers for the first time! It was a special Year 5 moment and another sign that they are settling into life at Parkfields. Here are a few photos capturing the excitement!



First Day Memories

A big thank you to all the parents who sent in photos of their children on their first day at Parkfields. We are hoping to include all the photos we received in the village magazine, especially if we are lucky enough to have a double-page spread!

In the meantime, here are a few of those special first-day moments for you to enjoy.



Message from Miss Hayward

It has been a fantastic first week getting to know all of our Year 5 children.

We have been incredibly impressed by how smart they look, how well they are settling into new routines and, most importantly, the positive attitude they have brought with them each day.

There have been lots of smiles around the year group, and it has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence as the week has progressed.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch with your child's form teacher. Their email addresses can be found below.

HoY: nhayward@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

5 Ash: bferris@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

5 Beech: crobinson@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

5 Cedar: ssiddle@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

5 Oak: groberts@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

We are really looking forward to a happy and successful year together!



Year 6 -

There were some excellent entries for the Year 6 logo competition. Congratulations to Evie, who won. Runners up will be revealed fortnightly.



INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL started this week. Well done to all those who took part, great team work!

ASH 3-2 BEECH



Message from Mrs Phillips

Welcome to Year 6, happy new year to you all!

I am proud to report that we have made a fantastic start to our Year 6 adventure.

This year is all about trying new things, building great friendships, and discovering what you are capable of.

To our parents and carers: thank you in advance for your support and partnership. Year 6 is a dynamic time of growing independence. Please encourage the children to come directly to us if they have any worries, we can then help them to navigate through challenges and 'nip any worries in the bud'.

Homework is starting today.

Maths & English will be set on Fridays, and are due in on the following Thursday/Friday respectively.

Other details will be on ClassCharts. This half term's Enrichment will be issued in lessons (& ClassCharts) next week.

WOW!



Well done Pelle - for achieving player of the season at Dunstable Town FC

Well done Ruby, Lily, Emily, Fleur and Nuala - for their Dunstable Town Cricket medals



If you have any worries or helpful information please contact form teachers in the first instance, unless you have a subject specific query then contact the teacher directly.

ClassCharts is now up & running- make sure you keep up to date.

A reminder of our team for Year 6:

Head of Year: Mrs Phillips

6 Ash = Mrs Phillips (cphillips@parkfieldsscholl.co.uk)

6 Beech = Mr Vickers (jvickers@parkfieldsschool.co.uk)

6 Cedar = Mrs Rudd (arudd@parkfieldsschool.co.uk)

6 Oak = Mon. & Tues. Mrs Carter (kcarter@parkfieldsschool.co.uk).

Wed.-Fri. Mrs Jarvis (cjarvis@parkfieldsschool.co.uk)

ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMEWORK CONTACT THE SUBJECT TEACHER BY EMAIL

Warmest wishes, The Year 6 Team



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Year 7

Mr O Hill



7

7 Ash Form Teacher &
PE Teacher

Favourite Subject?

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

PE

Memorable Moment?

What is the most memorable thing a pupil has said to you?

"I couldn't have achieved my goals without your support"

Surprising Hobby?

What hobby or skill might surprise your students?

One hobby of mine is collectables. I have a range of collectables such as old football programmes, football kits, trading cards and even retro game consoles.

Last Book Read?

What is the last book you read?

The Reversal by Michael Connelly

Superpower?

If you had a superpower to help you teach, what would it be?

Teleportation so I could move instantly between lessons

Mrs P Ward



7

7 Beech Form Teacher &
PE Teacher

Favourite Subject?

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

PE

Memorable Moment?

What is the most memorable thing a pupil has said to you?

"Thanks for pushing me to try harder today. I didn't think I could actually do that."

Surprising Hobby?

What hobby or skill might surprise your students?

Travelling in my Campervan

Last Book Read?

What is the last book you read?

Nobody's Fool - Harlan Coben

Superpower?

If you had a superpower to help you teach, what would it be?

Weather Manipulation because I could instantly turn a torrential downpour into a perfect 21 degrees sunny afternoon so outdoor sports are never ruined.

Mr C Price

Head of Year 7 &
Science Teacher

Ms L Mafuta



7

7 Cedar Form Teacher &
Teacher of French

Favourite Subject?

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

English!

Memorable Moment?

What is the most memorable thing a pupil has said to you?

It was when a pupil told me I was very kind, good-looking and smart, a comment that stayed with me because of its innocence and sincerity.

Surprising Hobby?

What hobby or skill might surprise your students?

I like cooking African and French food, and I enjoy drawing: two creative hobbies that influence my teaching style.

Last Book Read?

What is the last book you read?

I read Why Learning Fails (And What To Do About It) by Alex Quigley, which deepened my understanding of how to remove barriers to learning.

Superpower?

If you had a superpower to help you teach, what would it be?

It would be the ability to instantly understand every pupil's learning needs and emotions so I could adapt my approach perfectly and help every child feel confident and supported.

Mr J Winn



7

7 Oak Form Teacher &
Subject Leader - Music

Favourite Subject?

What was your favourite subject when you were in school?

PE

Memorable Moment?

What is the most memorable thing a pupil has said to you?

"You have made a massive impact in my life pushing me to love Music the way I do"

Surprising Hobby?

What hobby or skill might surprise your students?

My music can be heard on The One Show and Gardener's World.

Last Book Read?

What is the last book you read?

The Hidden Life of Trees - Peter Wohlleben

Superpower?

If you had a superpower to help you teach, what would it be?

Instant perfect tuning on the violin.



Year 8



Congratulations to everyone who has already been accepted into a Leadership role.
Keep an eye on your inboxes for more information about other roles.
Remember that these are roles of responsibility and you need to ensure you display Parkfields values if you want to be chosen!

Upper School information

[CBC Upper School Application Information](#)

HUS Open Evening – Thursday 8th October 2026

[RUS Open Evening – Thursday 24th September 2026](#)

Calculators

We do ask that pupils have this calculator for Maths lessons. It is the one requested at HUS for GCSEs. We have them in stock for better value than the supermarkets! Follow the link below for the letter detailing how to order one if you don't already have one. This is available for payment on [School Money](#).



CALCULATOR LETTER

For any issues, please contact your form teacher in the first instance, unless you have a subject specific query.

A reminder of our team for Year 8:

Head of Year: Mrs Ruck

8 Ash = Mrs Ashby

8 Beech = Mrs McNeil/Mrs Chesterton

8 Cedar = Mr Pitts

8 Oak = Mrs Bracey



Message from Mrs. Ruck

Welcome to our first Year 8 newsletter.

We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer.

It has been fabulous to see everyone returning for a busy term. Thank you for ensuring uniform and equipment matches our policies.

Thank you to those of you who attended our Orientation Evening on Wednesday – it was lovely to meet some of you. If you were unable to attend, the slides are available on the [website](#).

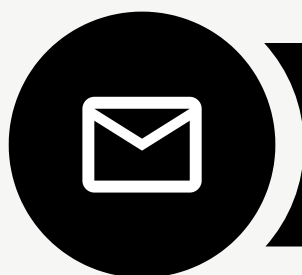
One of the topics covered in Miss Cooper's presentation was transition. We have added some information, links and dates which you need to be aware of. Please also see the link below to our school calendar.

We also want to reiterate the high standards we expect from Year 8 as the top of the school. Our younger pupils look to us to set the example – and we have a high standard to follow from last year! Please make sure uniform, behaviour and examples are befitting for school leaders at all times.

Here's to a great start.

The Year 8 team

[School Calendar](#)



CONTACT US

5

Year 5	Contact Name	Contact email address
Head of Year	Miss N Hayward	nhayward@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
5 Ash	Mrs B Ferris	bferris@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
5 Beech	Mrs C Robinson	crobinson@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
5 Cedar	Mr S Siddle	ssiddle@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
5 Oak	Mr G Roberts	groberts@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

6

Year 6	Contact Name	Contact email address
Head of Year	Mrs C Phillips	cphillips@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
6 Ash	Mrs C Phillips	cphillips@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
6 Beech	Mr J Vickers	jvickers@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
6 Cedar	Mrs A Rudd	arudd@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
6 Oak	Mrs K Carter/ Mrs C Jarvis	kcarter@parkfieldsschool.co.uk cjarvis@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

7

Year 7	Contact Name	Contact email address
Head of Year	Mr C Price	cprice@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
7 Ash	Mr O Hill	ohill@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
7 Beech	Mrs P Ward	pward@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
7 Cedar	Mrs L Mafuta	lmafutansona@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
7 Oak	Mr J Winn	jwinn@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

8

Year 8	Contact Name	Contact email address
Head of Year	Mrs S Ruck	sruck@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
8 Ash	Mrs B Ashby	bashby@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
8 Beech	Mrs C McNeill/ Mrs K Chesterton	cmcneil@parkfieldsschool.co.uk kchesterton@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
8 Cedar	Mr R Pitts	rpitts@parkfieldsschool.co.uk
8 Oak	Mr S Bracey	sbracey@parkfieldsschool.co.uk

Additional Support

Young Minds are a UK charity dedicated to supporting the mental wellbeing of children and young people. Learn more about their support for parents [here](#)

If you are a young person experiencing a mental health crisis, you can text the Young Minds **Crisis Messenger** for free, 24/7 support. Text YM to 85258.



Chathealth – School Nurse text support service for year 11–19 year olds – Text 07507331450 to speak with a school nurse for any emotional support or health advice (Monday – Friday 9am – 4.30pm, except bank holidays).

Bedford Open Door – www.bedfordopendoor.org.uk : 01234 360 388

Childline (children's telephone counselling or online) – Ring 0800 1111 or visit their website www.childline.org.uk

Kooth – Online free counselling service for children and young people www.kooth.com

Sorted – www.sortedbedfordshire.org.uk: 01582 891435

Samaritans – 24 hour confidential listening and support for anyone who needs it. (Parents/carers included.)
Email – jo@samaritans.org
Phone 116 123 (24 hours)

Relate – www.relate.org.uk : 01234 356 350

More-Life – Weight management programme for children and families, information and self-referral form available via <https://www.more-life.co.uk/in-your-area/bedsmk/>

If you are concerned about the immediate health or safety of a child you can contact:

YOUNGMINDS Crisis Messenger
<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/>
Call 111 Option 2 – 24/7 ALL AGES
Young people can talk to a CAMHS professional directly who can arrange additional support.

0 – 18 CAMHS SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY
A CAMHS clinician will respond and they can also provide self- help resources and psychoeducation. For enquiries, please call 01234 893362

