



Park Community School

NEWSLETTER

Monthly Update 20 December 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024. This term has been full of fantastic learning opportunities for students. Thank you for supporting, encouraging and celebrating your child's experiences at Park with us.

As you know, attendance at school is vital to take advantage of all that Park offers and our attendance streaks are used to encourage students to come into school every day. Our combined efforts have been working, and attendance this half term has been better than last year, with daily absence rates reducing for every single day of our 12 days of Christmas. The daily celebrations at morning line ups have created a real buzz. We will start with a new theme next term to continue to reward and encourage attendance to school every day. The winners of our bike and Ipad will be announced today!

The final day of the Autumn term is one of the most special of our school year. As we do every year, every student will sit down for a free Christmas lunch with staff, enjoy a live Christmas concert and spend time running off energy on the inflatables. Students have replaced their school blazer with a Christmas jumper. This day is always a fun and memorable one, and a great reminder of what it means to be part of our school.

Of course, school is also open on Christmas Day. We currently have 141 people booked in for lunch and activities and plenty of volunteers to serve dinner and celebrate with them.

We wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year and look forward to seeing students back in school on Monday 6 January 2025.



Mr Anders



Mrs Capaldi

REMINDER

RETURN TO SCHOOL:
6 JANUARY 2025

Have a wonderful
Christmas and New Year!



Elf The Musical

On the 10 and 11 December, 25 students across Years 7-9 participated in this year's production of 'Elf the Musical'. We are very proud of them all and they all worked so hard. We are grateful to our governors and the Mayor and Mayoress of Havant who came to watch. We received some amazing comments from them all.

We are also very grateful to STEM and their ambassadors for creating and selling some really lovely Christmas gifts.

Mrs Chuter



Christmas at Park





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Christmas Cupcake Fun!

The school Food Ambassadors enjoyed a festive treat this week working closely with Head Chef Alex Moody and Apprentice Chef Sarah Clamp.

The students had the chance to try using varied flavoured and coloured buttercreams, learning the art of piping watched over by the crack kitchen team. The Ambassadors then decorated their cakes with differing toppings along with piping chocolate which is a different art form.

All the Ambassadors had great fun, and the kitchen was filled with laughter and joy. It was amazing to see how students ranging from Year 7 to 11 helped each other and completed the fun task.

Mr Cross



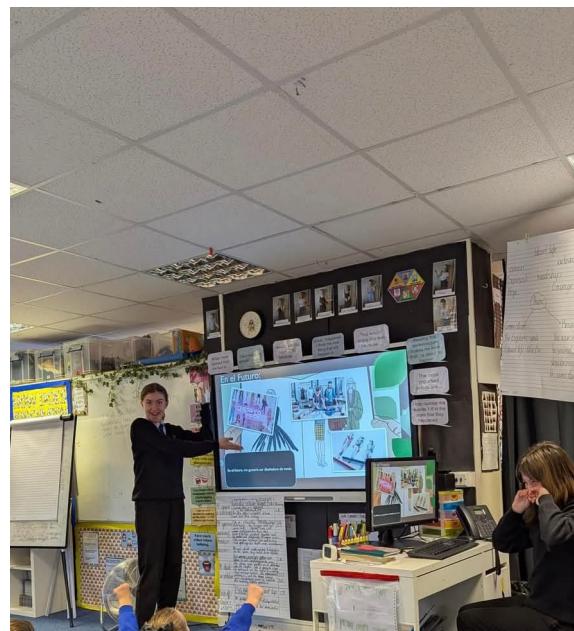
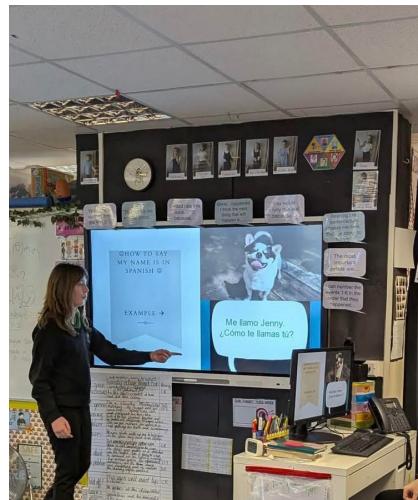
MFL Ambassadors trip to Front Lawn

This half term our MFL Ambassadors visited Front Lawn for the first time, delivering two sessions to the Year 4s.

They were confident, energetic and really got the primary students engaged and wanting to learn more Spanish!

There was a mixture of listen and repeat, translation practice, and time to ask questions about languages at Park. One of the Year 4s even said it was "the best lesson ever!"

Miss Nuttal





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Spanish reward trip to Nicholson's restaurant

As a reward for all of their hard work this half term, 25 students were taken to Nicholson's restaurant in Southsea.

All students tried a variety of 'authentic' Spanish food, although I still think the French fries were everyone's favourite.

Miss Nuttal



Year 7 Trip to the Spring

On Wednesday 11 December, seven Park students went to the Spring in Havant. It was a great day. They got to have hands-on experience of researching in an archive and using original documents to find out information about the past.

The students really enjoyed it and each one came away with a research proposal that they hope to continue with in the future. It was an exciting day that also included a visit to the museum where the students had first-hand experience of a 1950's kitchen.

The trip tied in with their most recent rich challenge and, through the museum and their research, they were able to see how Leigh Park and Havant have changed over the centuries. We loved our visit, and we hope to be back soon.

Mr Green



STEM Elves!

Over the second half of this term the STEM elves have been busy making Christmas themed gifts and treats.

These went on sale before the school production of Elf and was a huge success. The students from Y7, 8 and 9 made £250. Their enterprise and design skills were amazing. Well done girls!

Mr Green and Ms Gregory





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Performing Arts Ambassadors

On Friday the Year 9 Performing Arts Ambassadors completed their final session at Riders this term. We celebrated their achievements by bringing both Year 5 classes together to perform their dances based around their topic of Egypt.

The ambassadors have developed strong relationships with students at Riders and have used their leadership skills to choreograph and create work with them. Both staff and students at Riders have enjoyed the experience and valued our time with them. We are looking forward to continuing to work with Riders Year 2 students in the Spring term.

Year 9 Ambassadors are currently completing a level 2 qualification in Dance leadership and have been working hard in their own time to complete their workbooks. They look forward to going into Barncroft next term to work with Year 3 and 4 students and complete the next part of their qualification.



This term our Year 8 Performing Arts Ambassadors have been working with our nursery students every Friday rehearsing for their Christmas show 'Snowy Chums'. They are all looking forward to performing this to parents.

Mrs Marr

Boys Dance showcase - University of Chichester trip

On Monday, Miss Privett and I had the opportunity to take a group of boys to perform in a boys only Dance showcase at the university of Chichester.

A group of Year 7 boys has been working on developing their confidence, teamwork and creative skills by choreographing a dance piece with Miss Privett. This was to perform alongside other secondary schools from the South Coast. The boys performed their work in front of an audience of over 100 people alongside over 150 boys. Then then took part in an educational talk and jam session followed by a workshop by Fuzzy Logic Dance Theatre.



The boys had an amazing day and were excellent ambassadors. The boys said they never thought they would enjoy dancing and cannot wait to take part in the next boys' dance project after Christmas.

Mrs Marr





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WOW Speed Mentoring

In early October, six students and Miss Turp took an incredibly early train to London for a morning session of speed mentoring on the London Eye. 30 different schools from all across the South took part in this fantastic opportunity which had mentors from all walks of life — actors, politicians, business owners, historians and many more to inspire our young people.

Afterwards, the girls ventured along the Thames back to the National Theatre where they took part in a dance workshop all about body confidence, with other schools, and a chance to try on some dresses from a variety of shows that had taken place at the National Theatre itself. They all looked positively stunning as they tried their hands at modelling!

Exhausted, we boarded our train after a spot of lunch and the girls all enjoyed a long nap once home.

Miss Turp



D-Day Story

On Friday 8 November, Miss Turp and Miss Adaway took a group of history-savvy Year 7 and Year 9 students down to The D-Day Story, Portsmouth to learn more about this crucial day in history in the lead up to our annual Remembrance Day assembly.

The Year 9 students took the opportunity to share what they had recently learned in school about D-Day with the younger students and all students had a chance to explore the museum and warship outside.

Miss Turp



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YES Team Panto trip

The YES trip team took our young people to see the Pompey Panto at The Kings Theatre on 6 Decemberoh yes we did!

It was a stormy evening but they braved the walk in the wind and rain to reach the theatre. They were entertained with singing, dancing, glitz costumes and some audience participation , which they thoroughly enjoyed. The ghost bench made it's annual appearance alongside the 12 days of Christmas, Portsmouth style, which always includes toilet rolls and rubber chickens ... if you know you know!

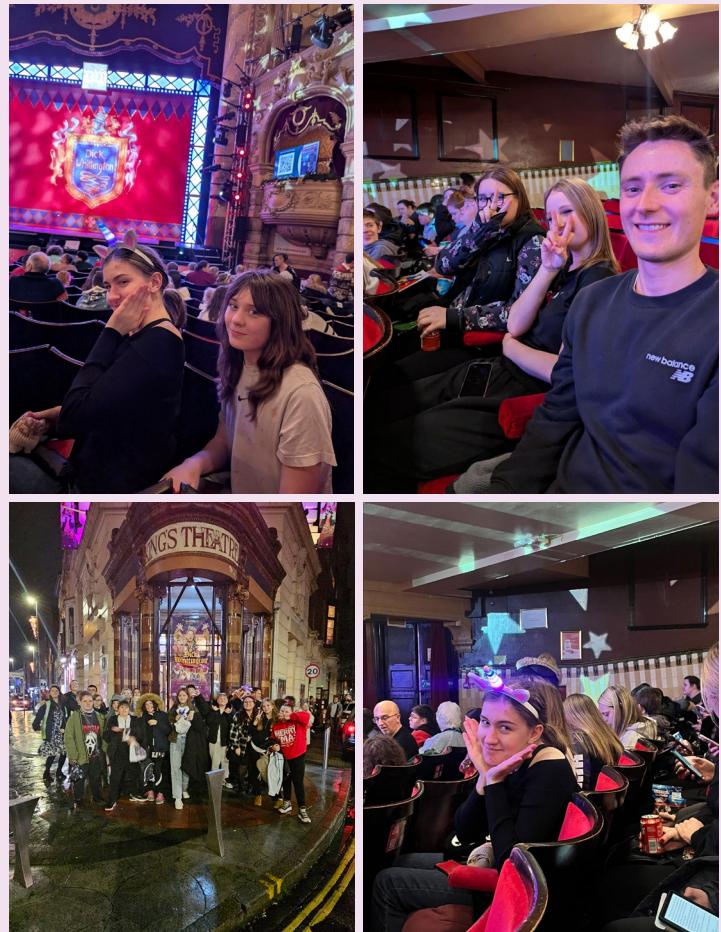
The students were perfect ambassadors for Park and it was a pleasure to spend the evening with them.

Stand out quotes :

"I'm definitely coming next year! I'm going to talk to my aunt now about letting me come again!"

"I was really anxious about this trip but I wish my friends had come they'd have loved it. I'll have to invite them next year!"

Mrs Seaman



Year 11 Practical

Some students in Year 11 completed a practical this week and they were tasked to produce a complete dish consisting of a potato rosti, wilted spinach and poached egg with caper butter sauce.

Mr Cushion





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Attendance Streaks

This half term has seen the continuation of our attendance streak challenge. Students are encouraged to make the longest chain of unbroken days in school without having time off. Those students who reach certain lengths of streaks are rewarded with prizes. We had 382 students who competed a full 15-day attendance streak following the half term holiday, earning a chocolate bar reward from their Head of Year. 254 of these students maintained their streaks to 25 days or more. They were given the opportunity to "spin the wheel" last week to win a prize ranging from Just Eat vouchers, school PE hoodie, revision guides, reading books, chocolate oranges, and a variety of different sized confectionery.

In the last week before we break up for Christmas we are spinning to win the big prize of a brand-new bike. All students who have managed to achieve 15, 25 or 50 day streak throughout the term, no matter when it occurred, will be allocated a number of tickets, depending on the size of their streak. Good luck to everyone!

Our 12 days of Christmas attendance competition has generated great excitement among the student body. Each day one student from each year group has been selected at random to win a chocolate treat for having attended the day before.

We look forward to sharing the winners with you in the New Year. Streaks will continue next term with more prizes to follow. Don't forget, streaks mean prizes!

Mr Bryce and Mr Rose



Park are going to India!

We are excited to share that 20 Year 9 students and 4 staff are going to New Delhi, India at the end of January. Mrs Capaldi visited the Manav Rachna University earlier this year to meet the leadership team and prepare for the students' visit. Students will study at an international school for 10 days, including visits to The Taj Mahal, India Gate and a local village, sponsored by Manav Rachna University. Park are visiting India with Havant and Southdown's College students, an exciting partnership for our international travels. We will share further details of their adventures early in the New Year.

Mrs Cavanagh





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Autumn Term Reading Events

It's been a busy half term in the library with lots of exciting reading opportunities for our students.

First of all, we launched our revised canon which is bigger and better than ever! Our students (and staff) have the opportunity to earn sweets and merit points for every book they read and review. Furthermore, they can collect badges to decorate their blazers. With 125 amazing and diverse books of all different styles and genres there really is something for everyone.

Well done to all those who have read and reviewed a canon book, I've had the pleasure of reading a whopping 185 insightful, entertaining and persuasive reviews so far and look forward to many more as students finish their tutor reading over the next couple of weeks.

A huge congratulations to the following students who have been awarded badges this term:

Y7 = Jessica, Mollie-Rose, Iris and Coby

Y8 = Charley, Shayth, Quinn and Scarlett

Y9 = Maddison, Alicia and Barbara

Our Year 7 and 8 were buzzing about books with our annual BookBuzz event. BookTrust's BookBuzz initiative, aims to get children reading for pleasure by providing subsidised book purchases for schools. The charity program enables us to gift our students a FREE book of their choice from sixteen amazing BookBuzz titles. We hope that BookBuzz encourages our students to read more frequently, which will help improve their wellbeing, spark interesting conversations, and inspire creativity.



Some of our Year 9's also had something to buzz about when they were lucky enough to get to meet Rachel Delahaye, author of 'Electric Life', the winning book from the 2024 Hampshire Book Awards. Rachel chatted to them about books and writing and even signed copies of her new book, 'Splinters'.

But it's not just about reading books. Our library is a calm, safe space for students to spend their breaktimes, and many take the opportunity for quiet reading, drawing or catching up on homework, but this term we have also been getting creative. Many students have been working on literary inspired jigsaw puzzles of Dickens and Mother Goose Tales. To round the year off students have been recycling old damaged books into lovely Christmas decorations to give our library a bookishly festive feel. Everyone is looking forward to more crafting fun in the new year.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all my lovely librarians without whose help none of this would have been possible.

Well all that's left to say is have a wonderful Christmas and a bookish new year!!

Ms Hucklebridge



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New Cashless System

On Wednesday 20 November students and staff were asked to have fingers scanned ready for the introduction of a replacement cashless system which started on 16 December.

Students lined up within the Activity Studio and were processed quickly by the team from Sharp who are installing and rolling out the new equipment.

New cash top up stations were installed after school on Friday 13 December and new tills appeared outside in the restaurant area.

We are pleased to confirm all went well on the roll out on Monday during the first lunch break.

Mr Seaney



Visit to Tuppenny Barn

We have been working with Abi and Liz from the education team at Tuppenny Barn on their Fork to Fork programme.

'It was an amazing adventure' Mikey
 'We learnt about where the food comes from. I loved it' Tila.
 'I loved eating the things that we made,' Reece.
 'I liked learning about the different animals and plants.
 We saw slow-worm eggs in the compost heap but we didn't see the slow-worm,' Austin.

Mrs Webb





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Unlock Your Potential with the Employability and Skills Support Program!

Are you 25+ and looking to get back into work?

Our comprehensive 4-week program is designed to help you gain the skills, confidence, and support needed to secure sustainable employment.

What We Offer:

- Practical Workshops: CV writing, interview preparation, and job application skills.
- 1:1 Coaching: Personalised support to guide you every step of the way.
- Hands-On Experience: Engage in real-world projects to boost your confidence and skills.
- Reverse Jobs Fair: Meet local employers and interview for live job opportunities.

Who Can Join?

- Unemployed or economically inactive adults aged 25+

Why Join Us?

With support from local partners like the DWP, Seetec Pluss, and Itchen College, we'll help you overcome barriers, build your confidence, and take the next step towards employment

Starting the 20/01/2025 for 4 weeks every Monday- Thursday 10am to 2pm

Venue: The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, East Street, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1BS

To book onto this course please contact Itchen College on 02380 446156 or email courses@itchen.ac.uk



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Open 10am - 5pm Everyday

**Breakfast | Lunch | Cakes
Drinks | High Tea**

07734 227058 [Tearoomsatcoachhouse](#) [@TEAROOMS2020](#)





Staunton Country Park, Petersfield Road, Havant, PO9 5HD





**Opening times: 7:30am - 6pm
51 weeks a year**

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Park Design and Print (PDP) was established by Park Community School to give young people real life work experience.

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just a school