Park Hall Junior Academy

https://www.parkhalljuniorac.co.uk/

Wednesday 21st October 2026

Newsletter No 5

Stepping forward together

Dates for Diary - October 2026

Wednesday 21st	Year 6, Class 10 After School Sports Club - last session
	Year 4, 5 and 6 Choir
Thursday 22nd	Year 3, Class 1 Swimming
Friday 23rd	**School breaks up for October half term**
	Year 5, Class 7 After School Sports Club - last session

November 2026

Monday 2nd	Year 4, Class 5 After School Sports Club
Tuesday 3rd	Year 3, Class 2 After School Sports Club
Wednesday 4th	Year 6, Class 11 After School Sports Club
Thursday 5th	Year 3, Class 1 Swimming - last session

Training Day is on Friday 13th November 2026

Secondary School Applications for September 2027 Closing Date - 31st October 2026

Applying for a secondary school place for your child is an important step in your child's educational journey. For those encountering this for the first time we know that this process may feel a little overwhelming. However, there is plenty of help and advice to support all parents applying. It is advised that parents submit their application before the end of Autumn 1 on Friday 23rd October 2026 - particularly if you think you may need assistance.

The online portal is open for applications and the deadline for applications is 31st October 2026. All details needed to make your online application may be found on the Walsall Council website. Home– Schools and Learning– Apply for a Secondary School Place Online applications are made to the local authority where you reside and pay your Council Tax to, for example, Sandwell, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, etc. Residents in these boroughs will need to create an account, if you have not already done so, prior to completion.

If you wish to speak to us, please do so before Friday 23rd October 2026. If you apply late, you may not get a place at one of your preferred schools. If you live outside Walsall, you should complete an application from your home local authority (even if you are applying for a Walsall school).

School Council Takes Over A-Stars!

Our School Council have taken over A-Stars! They will be working together, sharing ideas, and taken on new responsibilities. This is a new fantastic opportunity to develop teamwork, leadership, and confidence while making a positive contribution to our school community. We can't wait to get started!

POPPY APPEAL 2026



Poppies and other merchandise will be on sale from Monday 2nd November 2026.

Merchandise available: Snap bands £1.50; Festival band £1.00; Pencils 50p; Reflector keyring 50p; If your child wishes to buy a paper poppy or poppy sticker they should bring a donation. If there is any poppy merchandise left over, please look out for a table near the main school gate on Tuesday 10th November.

GOLD STAR WORK W/B 12TH OCTOBER 2026

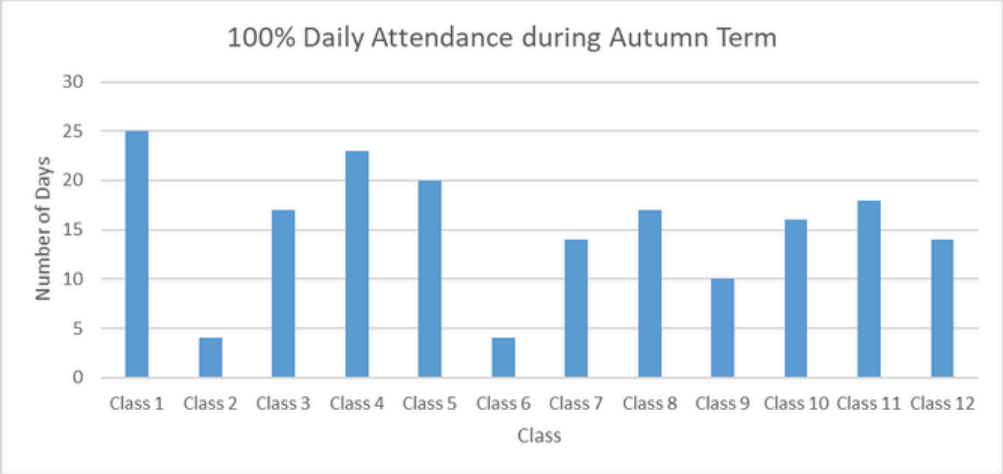
I have had the privilege to enjoy looking at a variety of work this week from all year groups. Work that has been showcased this week have included children demonstrating their understanding of their topics in Science. Finished art masterpieces have been put up on display in the school reception area. Reading inference skills has been shared where children have read between the lines, drawing on conclusions. Well done to Aleena, Arjan H, Behram, Conrad, Elizabeth, Evan B, Harleen, Jasnoor, Kain, Kalyan, Tristan, Zainab K and Zidaan.

One of the activities that impressed me was the work completed by Jasnoor. She used her inference skills to complete her reading activity. Inference means when we ask children to read between the lines and draw on logical conclusions using clues from the text. When children are reading at home, you could use the following questions to find out what they understand:

- How is the character feeling in the chapter you read? Why do you think this?
- Explain how you know what mood or feeling the setting creates.
- Using the text you have read, can you describe what message or lesson the story gives?

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

100% Daily Attendance during Autumn Term



ALWAYS HERE... ALWAYS LEARNING!

Currently, well done to Class 1 - best attenders overall

Class 1, Class 4, Class 8 and Class 11 for best attenders in their year group!

Well done to class 8 - you are now in the lead for Year 5!

Year 6 for best year group attenders!



Hello – my name is Coco and I am a Hermanns Tortoise!

I was born in July 2024. Mrs Amos has measured my shell and from my head to my tail, I measure 10 centimetres. When Mrs Amos weighed me, the scales said 107 grams. I enjoy eating rocket, romaine lettuce and dandelion leaves from the garden. Occasionally, I enjoy a strawberry or a grape. I have special calcium powder and essential vitamins to help me to grow healthily. I have a special light shining into my habitat which acts like the sun because I must feel warm while I am awake.

I have been adopted by school and my habitat is set up outside Ms Bracebridge's office at the juniors. I am just getting used to all of the new noises in school because I am only 2 years and 3 months old. I have already met some of you, which has been lovely because you have been very quiet when visiting me. My very close friends are Taranpreet and Bhani. Once I feel ready, I am looking forward to coming into your class to learn in some of your lessons.

What children have been learning.....

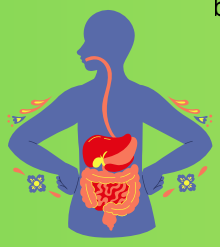
Year 3



Year 3 have made a brilliant start to the new school year! Class 1 have particularly enjoyed their swimming sessions, while across the year group, the children have been busy exploring a range of exciting topics. In History, the children have been learning about Through the Ages, exploring life during the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They have developed their understanding of timelines and chronological order, investigated what everyday life was like during these periods, and explored how people's lives, homes, tools and ways of living changed over time.

To consolidate their learning, the children also wrote their own non-chronological reports about the Bronze Age. It has been wonderful to see the children embracing their learning with such enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity. We look forward to another exciting term ahead!

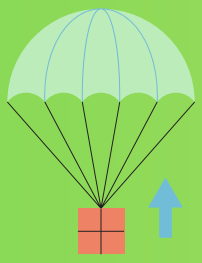
Year 4



Year 4 have had a busy and exciting half term. Children have enjoyed exploring colour in Art lessons by mixing primary colours to create warm and cool colours and have applied this to their art work. In science, children have been learning about the human digestive system. They explored the main parts, including the mouth and teeth, and learned about the different types of teeth and what they do. They also took part in a practical activity to find out what happens to food as it moves through our bodies.

In our PE lessons, the children learnt the key skills of tag rugby and enjoyed using them in different game based activities. As part of music, they listened and appraised different songs by ABBA and learnt how to sing 'Mamma Mia'. They also used the glockenspiels to play alongside the song.

Year 5



Well done Year 5. We are settling into routines and enjoying learning about a wide range of topics. In Science, we learnt about gravity, frictional forces of air and water resistance and observed these in action. We made our own parachutes and watched how air resistance had an effect on them. We learnt about friction and carried out an investigation to explore its effect by measuring how far a toy car travelled along different surfaces. We also explored different mechanisms, including gears, pulleys and levers and investigated how these simple machines use forces to make tasks easier.

In History, we learnt about ancient China, focusing on the Shang Dynasty, and explored the lasting legacy of the first five Chinese dynasties, some of which can still be seen in the world today. It was particularly interesting to discover how oracle bones were used to communicate with ancestors and gods.

In RE, we learnt about Dharma Day, or Asalha Puja, celebrated by Buddhists around the world. We learnt that Buddhists celebrate Dharma Day by studying Buddha's teachings and feeling graduate for what they have learned.

We studied tints, shades and tones in Art and learnt about the features of landscapes before using this knowledge to create our own landscape paintings.

We thoroughly enjoyed learning to play handball where we were able to improve passing, receiving, shooting and tactical awareness through our PE lessons building up to developing our teamwork and confidence in game situations.

Year 6



Year Six have made a fantastic start to the year, settling into routines and embracing their new learning with enthusiasm. In Science, we have explored the circulatory system through practical investigations, including looking at the impact of exercise on our bodies. We also welcomed a visitor who brought our learning to life and helped us understand the importance of physical activity.

We explored the Jewish New Year, learning about its traditions and significance. Tasting apples and honey gave us an opportunity to experience part of the celebration and discuss how different communities mark important events.

Our residential was full of exciting challenges, including canoeing, abseiling and climbing. Those who stayed at school enjoyed creative activities, including designing board games and making leaf bowls. Everyone had opportunities to develop their teamwork, problem-solving and independence.

In History, we explored the transatlantic slave trade, taking part in thoughtful discussions about the experiences of enslaved people and the wider impact of the trade. Hugo Cabret (our class reading book) captivated us with its mystery and suspense as we explored characters, setting and the author's use of tension.

We are excited to begin our next learning block, which has already got off to a thrilling start. There was a predator on the loose! The children have been busy investigating and asking questions, and we cannot wait to see where their curiosity takes them next!

School Council Visit to the Local Food Bank



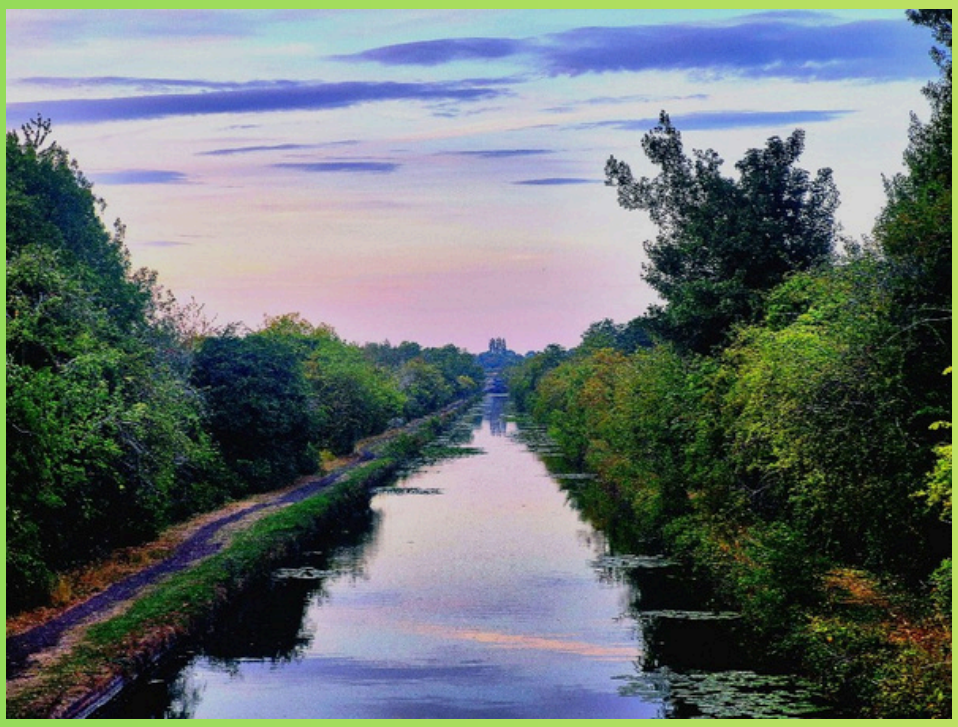
School Council along with Mrs Bates and Mrs Amos attended the Black Country Foodbank this week and they were truly thankful for all of your donations – they send a huge thank you!



Last year, we filled two shopping trolleys to support our Walsall families and this year, the children astounded the staff at Ablewell Street with their three shopping trolleys full of food and toiletries.

The children were delighted to volunteer their help, learning how to stock control the items, check best before dates and they prepared bags of food for people coming to collect food.

The children said it was an interesting morning and enjoyed learning what happens at the food bank. They were surprised to hear how the charity have supported over 3000 families with food since our last visit. Malakai's group shared "We sometimes don't realise how lucky we are to have food so easily available at home."



We have some amazing photographers of the future!

A huge well done and thank you to Ayva, Taranpreet, Arjan, Rubaani, Yahya, Shayan, Marissa, Jeevan, Himmat, Holi and Aizah for the photographs taken during their adventures.

The picture above taken by Holi is of the evening summer sky overlooking Rushall Canal in Walsall. How lucky for Holi to be able to capture this moment. Many of the photographs taken are on display in our new Green Room at school. Visitors we have had in the Green Room have all commented on the fantastic settings the children have taken.

BOOK FAIR COMPETITION

Children have the opportunity to win a £5 voucher to spend at our upcoming Book Fair. To do this, they will need to enter our bookmark competition which will be shared via homework tomorrow. Book Fair will be in school from Monday 9th November. Parents and carers will be able to browse the titles available after school on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November. More information about Book Fair will be shared next half-term.

‘YOU SAID, WE DID…’



You said: In our last two parent and carer views, a number of respondents asked for a wider variety of clubs.
We did: For the academic year 2026-2027, we have introduced a new system for our after-school clubs. All children have been offered a choice of 3 clubs which will take place throughout the year in addition to Sports Club. We have ensured that these clubs cover a range of themes and activities and children were very excited to be able to rank their preferences.

TEACHING & LEARNING FOCUS

This week, children have started their new English book. It has been lovely to hear the buzz of talk around school following their hook activities. We had a ‘wild animal’ on the loose, a mysterious message in a bottle, abandoned belongings to investigate and some classes even travelled back in time. We would suggest that you ask your child about their new book so that they can tell you more about their experience this week. We look forward to seeing the fantastic writing that will be created inspired by these texts.

CONSIDERATE PARKING!

We work closely with Walsall Council, through the A*Stars Programme, we also work closely with PCSO Littlehales who is very supportive.

We have and will continue to receive occasional warden visits to the area at the start or end to the school day through which drivers are advised and/or fined.

We ask that if poor, ill advised, illegal or dangerous parking is evident that a quick photograph of the vehicle and licence plate is taken (such as the evidence you have provided to us) and is emailed directly to the police at

contactus@westmidlands.pnn.police.uk
and Walsall Council at carparks@walsall.gov.uk





As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our school community safe, we would like to remind everyone that the school car park is, first and foromost, a car park. This means vehicles will be moving in and out throughout the day.

For everyone’s safety — especially our children — please take extra care when walking through the area. Please remember to use designated footpaths, hold children’s hands, and remain mindful of vehicles that may be manoeuvring. Thank you for helping us keep our school environment safe for all.

We have been advised that the link below is for contacting police for illegal parking:
https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/

Contact Walsall Council to keep them informed and allow them to monitor our school area:
https://go.walsall.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/parking-and-travel/tell-us-about-parking-problems

This link is used to report illegal parking, notably parking on zigzag lines, parking dangerously or parking in a way that prevents emergency vehicle access.