



Be kind. Be ambitious. Be the best you can be!

Issue Number 18: Friday 23rd January 2026

This week has been another busy week in school. As is always the case, it has been great popping in and out of the classes, seeing all of the wonderful learning taking place.

During our Monday assemblies, we focussed in on 'Big Schools Bird Watch' which runs from January 7th right through to February 14th. As part of our learning, we were able to pause and reflect on the beauty of birds and the wonders of nature. As part of our assembly, we watched a video which showed children in other schools finding out how to help birds and provide a suitable habitat for them in their school grounds. All of the children were set a challenge for the week, to identify different birds during play time and lunchtime and to see if they could draw pictures of the birds they saw. It was lovely seeing some of the drawings completed by children from across the whole school. Miss Brown and some of our Y3/4 children completed a bird survey to see which birds we have in our school environment.

On Wednesday, we continued our outdoor work with our Eco ambassadors, School Council and OPaL ambassadors helping to plant trees on our school grounds with Jessica from the Royal Forestry Society. Our task now will be to look after them, enabling them to grow into well-established trees.



This week, Year 5 were lucky to complete an online session focussing on understanding health and emotional wellbeing. The session focussed on what it means to be emotionally, and socially healthy. It provided the children with practical ways to cope with worries and anxiety and to develop tools to support their emotional wellbeing every day.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend.

Mrs Chard

PARENTS EVENING:

This term, parents evening will take place during the week commencing Monday 16th March. Once available, you will be able to sign up on Arbor for your parents evening slot. More information to follow.

Don't forget
parents
evening!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2026:

Thurs 19th Feb – last day of term

Fri 20th Feb – training day **school closed**

Mon 23rd – Fri 27th Feb – half term **school closed**

Mon 2nd Mar - back to school

w/c Mon 16th Mar – parent's evenings

Thurs 2nd Apr – last day of term

Fri 3rd Apr – bank holiday **school closed**

Mon 6th – Fri 17th Apr – Easter holidays **school closed**

Mon 20th Apr – back to school

Mon 4th May – Bank holiday **school closed**

**Mon 11th – Thurs 14th May 2026
KS2 SATS – YEAR 6**

Fri 22nd May – last day of term

Mon 25 - Fri 29 May – half term **school closed**

Mon 1st June – occasional day **school closed**

Tues 2nd June – back to school

**Tues 2nd June – 2 weeks Y4
Multiplication checks**

**Mon 8 June – Fri 12th June Y1
Phonic screening checks**

Fri 17th Jul – last day of term

Please note we will continue to send all other dates in a separate email to parents/carers only. These will include dates of trips and events in school.

NUMBER DAY:

Next month on 6th Feb, we will be joining schools across the country to celebrate **Number Day**, the NSPCC's nationwide mega-maths event. Our pupils will be taking part in a range of fun, number-based activities that we hope will build confidence, curiosity and problem-solving skills, while celebrating the importance of maths in everyday life.



SAFER INTERNET DAY:

We know how much our pupils enjoy spending time online, and we're proud of how computer-literate Parkhead pupils are becoming. We will therefore be marking **Safer Internet Day, 10th Feb**, with a variety of age-appropriate activities to help children learn how to stay safe online. Further information about the activities planned, including how families can support learning at home, will be sent soon.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK:

Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will take place from 9–15 February. The theme this year is "This is My Place", which focuses on helping children and young people feel a sense of belonging. The aim of the week is to support children and young people so they feel safe, valued, and accepted. Throughout the week, we will be taking part in activities linked to the theme to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.



WORKSHOPS:

We are inviting parents/carers from Early Years and Key Stage 2 into school this half term to take part in at least one session with your child. This is a great opportunity for you to see what happens in school and gives you the opportunity to speak to the adults who work with your child. Please see separate email sent today, with a list of key dates for your diary.

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY:

This week **273** children have had 100% attendance which is fantastic. It's important that children attend school every day when they can. The negative impact of even a few days off can prevent your child from reaching their full potential. Did you know that when a child is absent for ten school days during the course of the year their attendance drops to 95%?

Being on time is just as important as every minute of learning lost impacts upon your child. Arriving late by just 10 minutes each day adds up to to nearly **6 days** of learning lost per year

How does the number of days that your child misses in a school year affect attendance ?			
Approximate days absent since September			
Attendance Rate	By end of autumn term	By end of spring term	By end of summer term
100%	0	0	0
95%	4	7	10
90%	7	13	20
85%	11	19	30
80%	14	27	40

BATTLE OF THE BANDS:

All of our Key Stage 2 children have shown motivation and determination this week with our TT rockstars Battle of the Bands. I am pleased to announce that the winning class for lower key stage 2 was Maple and the winning class for upper key stage 2 was Oak. The three most valuable players for lower key stage 2 were Veronica, Max and Alisha. The three most valuable players for upper key stage 2 were Noah, Sahand and Imogen



The children can't wait for their next battle to commence.

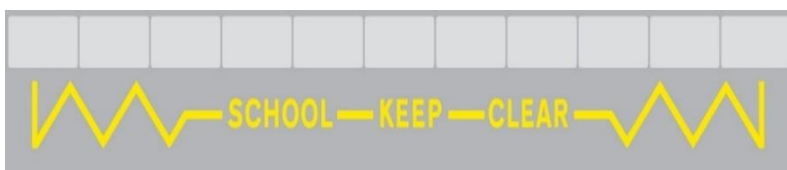
BIG SCHOOLS BIRDWATCH:

This week, as part of the Big School's Birdwatch, a group of Year 3 and Year 4 children became bird detectives and carried out a survey to find out which birds visit our school grounds. We were very excited to spot magpies, seagulls, blackbirds, wood pigeons and chaffinches. We then submitted our data on the RSPB website.



SAFEGUARDING: PARKING

It has been brought to our attention that many cars are being parked on the double yellow lines and zig zag lines outside of our school. These lines mean you cannot park here. Cars are also being parked half on the path which is making it extremely difficult for people with push chairs or in wheelchairs to get by safely or at all, forcing them into the road. Please be courteous and think carefully about where to park. Please can we ask that you do not drive into the staff car parks when collecting children before and after school for pedestrian safety.



Star of the week

Class	Star
Seedlings	Wilf
Acorns	Kayla-Rae
Saplings	Layla
Beech	Thomas
Elm	Lyla
Willow	George
Cherry	Harvey
Maple	Ollie
Spruce	Leon
Cedar	Skye
Oak	Mia
Birch	Ellie
Pine	Noah

Mrs Chard's Stars of the week	
Early Years	Quarratul-Ain
Key Stage 1	Layla
Key Stage 2	Stas Lacey

FunClub



Parkhead Community Primary School is a safeguarding school and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services.