

Parkhead Community Primary School

Weekly News Bulletin



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

Issue Number 32: Friday 23rd May 2025

Our final week has again been a very busy one with lots of fun activities and learning. We started off with our assembly all about National Smile Month; a charity campaign all about championing the benefits of having good oral health and promoting the value of a healthy smile.

On Wednesday, our fabulous Year 3 and 4 children went out of school to visit The Forge. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they thoroughly enjoyed their time. It is always great to learn about local History. Winlaton Forge is the last surviving link in the village with Crowley's Iron Works. Ambrose Crowley's works dominated the iron manufacturing trade in the North East throughout the 18th Century - Crowley's Iron Works at Winlaton, Winlaton Mill, and at Swalwell were probably, at the time, Europe's biggest industrial location. The small forge behind the library in Winlaton has been preserved. The forge is Grade II listed on the National Heritage List for England.

On Thursday, some of our year 5 and 6 children represented the school in a cricket event. All of the children were fantastic throughout the day, showing determination, resilience and motivation. We are extremely proud of how they conducted themselves. Well done to all of them.



On Friday, our Year 6 children had an extra treat as a well done for their hard work on the build up to and including SATs week. They all enjoyed popcorn, ice lollies and a film. Once again, well done to our amazing children, and thanks to all of our parents/carers who have supported them not only this year, but right through their time in our school.

I hope the weather remains nice for the half term holiday; I hope you all enjoy whatever you have planned. See you all on Tuesday 3rd June.

Mrs Chard



SUMMER TERM EVENTS:

- Reception visit
- KS2 SATs
- Leaver hoodies
- Local History week
- Y5 Bikeability
- Y1 Visit
- Y4 Multiplication checks
- Y1 Phonics checks
- Field work week
- Sports week
- Police workshops
- Water safety assembly
- School reports
- Transition day
- Summer Fayre
- Y6 Visit
- Reception graduation
- Leaver's graduation
- Nursery stay and play for new starters
- Reception stay and play for new starters
- School closed:**
 - 26th – 30th May Half term
 - Mon 2nd June

Further info will be sent next week with a list of dates and details of the above.

STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS:

Year 1 phonics screening will be taking place week beginning 9th June.

Year 4 multiplication tables check will be taking place during the first two weeks back after May half term.

If you have any queries about any of the above, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

TRANSITION DATE AND MEET THE TEACHER SESSION:

I can't believe that it is already that time of year. This year, our children will visit their new teacher and classroom on the morning of Wednesday 2nd July. We will send out more information before this date. Parents / carers will also have the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher at the very start of the new term in September. This will provide you with the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the year ahead and for the class teacher to share all of the lovely learning experiences the children will experience throughout the year. Once we have confirmed our staffing for next year and have completed class lists, we will get these out to yourselves as soon as possible.

OPAL

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is a huge part of our play times at Parkhead. We really try to make the most of our wonderful school site and give children as many opportunities as possible to be active and involved. As well as continuing our normal play provision we have also had some new fixed exercise equipment installed this year. Therefore, we would like to invite all families for a Stay and Play session after school. This is an opportunity for parents to come and play with their children and get a taste of what OPAL is like at Parkhead. Further information has been sent out on Operoo.

INVEST IN FUN – Did you know you can support our OPAL with donations of items we can use in our outdoor learning? Any donation is fantastic and really makes a difference to our children helping them play, learn and grow. We are currently developing some the OPAL areas, to give our children the best experience. **This week we are looking for dressing up items for example high viz jackets, hard hats, bags etc.** If you have anything like this that you no longer use, we'd love to take them. Please pop them to the office at any time.



NATIONAL SMILE MONTH:

Between 12 May and 12 June 2025, the Oral Health Foundation will be raising awareness of important health issues and are ready to put a smile on everybody's face. They want us to join them and make a positive difference to the oral health of millions of people. Please follow the link below for further information about National Smile Month. <https://www.dentalhealth.org/nationalsmilemonth2025>

BIKEABILITY:

We have Bikeability in school the first two weeks back after half term for Year 5.

If you would like your child to take part, please complete the consent form on Operoo if you haven't already.



LOCAL HISTORY WEEK:

We've had an amazing time in school this week learning about all of the history on our doorstep. We've learned all about how Winlaton and Blaydon have changed over the past 300 years and about some of the people who made our community into the place it is today. The Winlaton Local History Society were kind enough to volunteer their time to take our Year 3 and 4 children on a walk around some of our most interesting sites. We hope all of the children have ended the week feeling really proud of the area that we come from and know that they are part of its story.

SPORTS DAYS:

We will be holding our annual sports days very soon. Mrs Bewley is working hard on organising these events. This year, we will be selling refreshments for our spectators so make sure you bring along some loose change. For further information on dates and times, please see our key dates info.

RESIDENTIAL:

During the Autumn term our Year 6 children will be going on their residential. A meeting has been arranged with Mrs Leach for Year 5 parents/carers to discuss this in more detail. It will give you a chance to have any questions answered and also provide you with information on what the children will need to bring with them for their stay.

FIELDWORK WEEK:

The week commencing 9th June promises to be an exciting time as we embark on an enriching fieldwork week! Children across school will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the great outdoors, observing the ever-changing weather patterns that surround us and comparing these to the actual weather forecasts. They will take measurements of temperature, rainfall and wind speed, applying their classroom knowledge to real-world situations. Additionally, some children will conduct interviews to collect data and record their findings in a variety of ways. Back in the classroom, they will be presenting their findings by weaving together their observations and the data they collected.



ARTS WEEK:

In the week commencing Monday 16th June, the children will be taking part in Sky Arts' Access All Arts Week dedicated to promoting and celebrating the arts. This year Access All Arts Week will feature daily Live Lessons led by well-known artists, including dancer Darcey Bussell and Marvel artist Will Sliney. From rap to photography, poetry to drawing, all the activities are designed to spark creativity and inspire imaginations. We can't wait!



CARE FOR THE PLANET FORTNIGHT:

After half-term, as part of our Care for our Planet Fortnight, Alex, from Northern Gas Networks, will be in school to deliver interactive and engaging workshops, linking to Net Zero, climate change, sustainability, and industry to all classes across school (Reception – Year 6).



Over the two weeks, the Eco Ambassadors will take part in another litter pick and the whole school will take part in a 'Switch Off' afternoon, where all classes will turn off lights and appliances for the entire afternoon in order to raise awareness and to remind children of the importance of saving electricity.

We will also have Lydia from Groundworks in school to deliver assemblies to KS1 and KS2 on how recycling effectively can also save energy.

Remember to recycle your batteries correctly! If you have any batteries that require recycling, please place them in our battery bin located at the main entrance.



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Y5/6 CRICKET:



FunClub



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SAFEGUARDING: Please see below for Using and Reviewing Parental Controls

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered Internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this: blocking out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

- ### 1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting undesirable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.
- ### 2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as something unsecured can run the risk of being open to the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's cell phone is on, for instance — but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.
- ### 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that control everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option — or you may just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unsecured laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.
- ### 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Deal with Internet content can be harmful if it's accessed in excess. Not only are certain apps available enough to divert lives like minutes, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit — either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day — so be sure to consider these.
- ### 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some sometimes attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings offer ways to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.
- ### 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content may and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the Internet as well as its benefits.
- ### 7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-based parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover Wi-Fi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpredictable aspects of social media and the web.
- ### 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel targeted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without your knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.
- ### 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a "set and forget" deal. Not only can parental companies provide a frequent overview of a child's digital life — to let you spot any warning signs — but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.
- ### 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 11 — and as young people approach adulthood, it's often stepping the Internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the Internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and Internet culture website *the Verge*. He has contributed articles to publications including *The New York Times*, *CBZ*, *The Evening Standard*, *Wired*, *Roll Paper*, *Burgen*, *Ukweek*, *Practi*, *Orange*, *Mail*, *IT*, *PC Pro*, *Macworld*, *Technet* and *trusted reviews*.








KLUBZ After School Focussed Activity Timetable – Week Commencing Monday 2nd June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
CLOSED	Dragonfly clips	Dream catchers	Butterfly sun catcher	I pad night

Star of the week

Class	Star
Seedlings	River
Acorns	Franky
Saplings	Ada
Beech	Bodhi
Elm	Reese
Willow	Harley
Cherry	Blake
Spruce	Olivia
Maple	Nelin
Birch	Elicia
Cedar	Olly
Pine	Vinnie

Mrs Chard's Stars of the week	
Early Years	Louis
Key Stage 1	Adeeb
Key Stage 2	Sophia Ryan

