

# NEWSLETTER



Old Park Primary School Newsletter

October 2016

Dear Parents

We are really pleased to announce that we have achieved the highest award in our Sandwell Inclusion Quality Mark Assessment. Over the past year the school have been working on specific targets relating to inclusion. Our work has been assessed and the team of assessors were really impressed with the values and ethos of pupils, parents and staff. A huge thanks to the team of parents and pupils that worked alongside us to formulate and complete our action plan. I would also like to thank Mrs Pearce for coordinating our assessment as well as pupils, staff and governors who help to make our school the warm, welcoming and inclusive setting that it is.

**School Fund** - Each year we ask every parent to contribute to our school fund. Sadly, this year contributions have been very slow in being received. This contribution is voluntary but it is money we rely on to enable us to run events across the school year. These include Inspire afternoons, visiting theatre groups, forest school.

Without your valuable contributions we would be unable to enhance the children's experience in the same way. You can make your school fund payment on the gateway app, you can pay the full annual contribution of £10.00 or pay in two instalments across the year. If you have any difficulty making the payment please contact the school office.

**Schoolgateway**

Thank you for your continued support.

**School closes at 3.25pm on Friday 21st October for half-term. School re-opens on Tuesday 1st November 2016 as Monday 31st October is a Staff Training Day**

Calendar at a Glance!	
Mon 10th - 12th Oct 16	Years 2 & 3 Frank Chapman Visit
<b>Mon 17th Oct 16</b>	<b>School Photographs</b>
Tues 18th Oct 16	Year 4 Viking Forest Day 4C in the morning and 4S in the afternoon
Wed 19th Oct 16	2.00pm - 3.00pm Nursery & Reception Halloween Disco 4.15pm - 5.15pm Middle Phase Halloween Disco (years 1, 2 & 3) 5.30pm - 6.30pm Upper Phase Halloween Disco (Years 4, 5 & 6)
<b>Fri 21st Oct 16</b>	6M Class assembly - 2.45pm Parents welcome <b>School closes at 3.25pm for Half-Term Holiday</b>
Tues 1st Nov 16	<b>School re-opens at 8.50pm (8.40am Nursery)</b> <b>'NOT OFF IN NOVEMBER' begins.</b>

## **Online Safety Curriculum Update**

This term, all year groups have been focusing on developing their knowledge of online safety. The children have demonstrated excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe online.

### **The themes covered include:**

- Keeping personal information safe
- Age-related game play and Internet use
- How to keep safe online
- Cyber-bullying
- How to report problems online
- Being a responsible member of the online community

### **Did you know...?**

Anyone under the age of 13 should not have any social media accounts such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

YouTube Kids is now available as an app. This removes all adverts and filters unsuitable content, which can easily be clicked on when using the normal YouTube site.

There are alternative search engines designed for children, to filter results. These include Kiddle and Swiggle.

If you would like further information on the content we cover in school, or have any questions regarding Online Safety, please pop in and see Mrs Pearce.

## **BEFORE SCHOOL**

Please can we remind parents that they should not allow their children to play ball games before school. Sadly, we have to deal with too many injuries and arguments as a result of unsupervised ball games before school. For their safety please keep your child close by before school. Thank you.

## **AFTER SCHOOL**

Please be aware that children in Year 5 & 6 are given added independence and responsibility at hometime. It is expected that a responsible person over 16 collects all pupils in Year 5 & 6 but at hometime children are released into the playground to walk to their parents. Children are expected to wait by the doors next to staff if their parents have not arrived. Please could you discuss these expectations with your children. They are still too young to be walking home alone particularly as the nights get darker. Thank you for your cooperation.

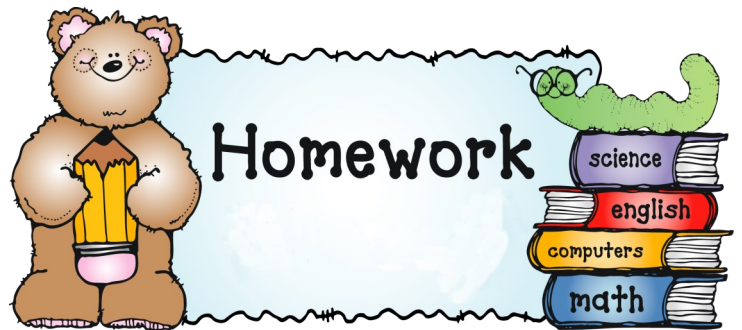
## Homework

As you are aware, homework was reviewed last year and the system in place is based on parental feedback.

The completion of homework is an expectation. We ask that a minimum of three projects are completed in a term. Homework can be handed in on any **Friday** during the term. Your child will soon receive a homework log to enable us to track and celebrate homework.

The homework grids were issued as paper copies but they can be downloaded from the school website [www.oldparkprimary.com/parents/homework/homeworkgrids](http://www.oldparkprimary.com/parents/homework/homeworkgrids). There is also an information booklet there that will provide you with more information about our homework policy.

The homework grids also give you information about useful websites and the range of skills and themes covered in your child's year group.



## Sad News

It is with great sadness that we celebrate the life of Camran, a well loved previous pupil of the school who has sadly passed away.

Camran is remembered at Old Park as a fun loving, active and bright boy. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

## DIDN'T WE DO WELL

On Friday 23rd September 2016 we raised £ 141.46 for Jeans for Genes. Well done everybody.



## Macmillan Cancer Research

On Friday 30th September Year 6 held a coffee afternoon to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research. They raised £226.11 Thank you to everyone who attended.

## Application



## Deadline Dates

Please note these deadline dates are for all Councils:

**Secondary Applications (Year 6)**  
- Mon 31st Oct16

**Primary Applications**  
- Sun 15th Jan17

## School Gateway

The launch of our school gateway for all parents to use from 1st September 2016 has been a huge success.

This simple application for you to make payments to school at any time on any day has proven to be very popular.

**May we ask that payment deadlines are met as late payments can affect the relationship we have with suppliers and providers of services for your child.**

Thank you for the positive feedback we have received from parents. One of the key benefits being no longer having to queue at the school office!

If you require any assistance or have a query, please do not hesitate to call in to see the administration team.

## School Visits

This is to clarify that we ask parents for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of school visits/enrichment. This is in line with Department of Education Policy and Guidance which also states if payments are **not** received, the visit will have to be cancelled.

Our school visits are a key part of our curriculum at Old Park. We are mindful that they may appear costly and we ensure where possible, we provide adequate time for you to budget and pay.

If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Ellis via the school office.

## Halloween Disco Tickets

FOSA have organised a disco on Wednesday 19th October 2016.

To book your child a place at the school disco please pay for a ticket on the school gateway.

Where food is not included in the price it will be available to purchase at the disco.

The times and prices are as follows:

- **Foundation (Nursery & Reception)** - 2.00pm - 3.00pm  
**Parents of AM Nursery please bring your child to the blue gates which will be open at 1.50 pm if they are attending the disco and have purchased a ticket.**  
(food is included in this price) £2.00
- **Middle Phase (Years 1,2 &3)** - 4.15pm - 5.15pm  
(food not included) £1.50
- **Upper Phase (Years 4, 5 & 6)** - 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
(food not included) £1.50

# URGENT COMPLETION!!

Thank you to all of those parents who met our deadline of 19th September to return your child's SS12A (purple) and One off Annual Consent (green) forms. However we are still missing a large number of forms and this is now a safeguarding issue. If you have mislaid your form, please collect one from the school office.

## Emergency Contact Details (purple form)

We cannot stress enough the importance of the school having up to date contact information for us to access if the need arises. To provide the school with this can we ask that you return the purple SS12A **by Friday, 21st October 2016 12.00 noon.**

## One-off Annual Consent Form (green form)

This year you will only be required to fill in a consent form at the start of the academic year. This will cover you for most school trips (a separate consent form will still need to be used for swimming and residential visits). To give consent for individual trips you will need to log into your school gateway account and tick the consent box for the relevant trip. This will also need to be done for any afterschool clubs your child wants to attend.

This form needs to be returned to school by **Friday, 21st October 2016 12.00 noon** otherwise your child **will not** be able to attend any visits or clubs in this academic year.

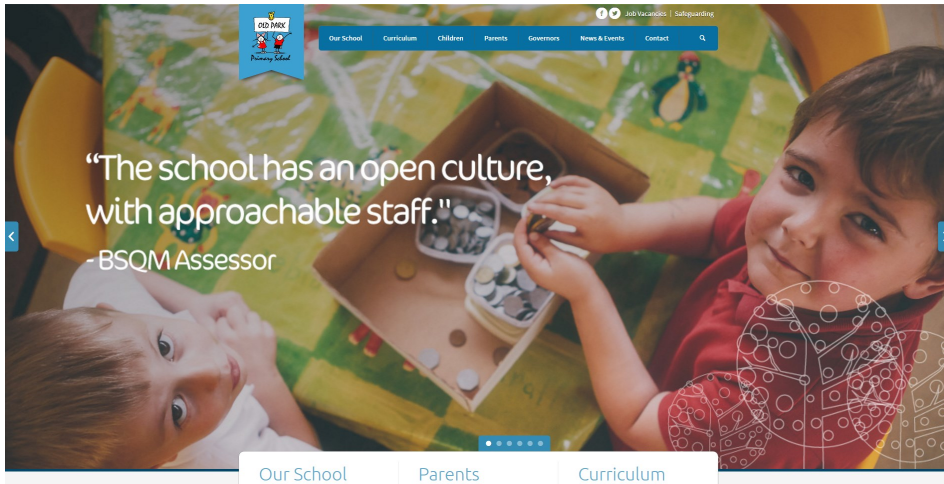
## Data Collection Letter

Can we remind parents to return the data collection letter to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Congratulations to:

- Reuben on the birth of his little sister Rae-Leigh





## Old Park Primary School Website

Remember to keep up to date with what is happening at the school at [www.oldparkprimary.com](http://www.oldparkprimary.com).

If you click on the events page you will find an up to date annual calendar. This calendar contains the term dates, training days and other events. We will keep this information as up to date as we can. You can also use the events page to check details for up coming school trips.

Newsletters and letters to parents will be available to download in the news and events section of the website.

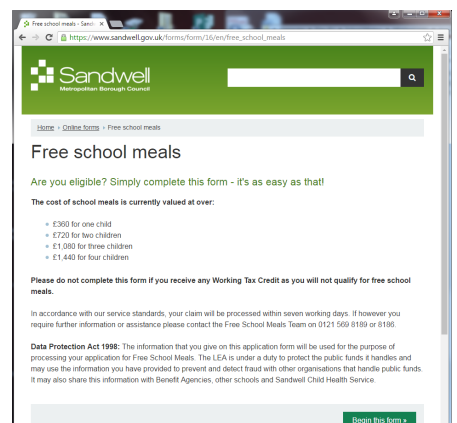
## Free School Meals

There are many families in Sandwell who are eligible for free school meals for their children but don't claim for them.

Sandwell Council can do a quick online eligibility check if you want to apply. All you need is the parent or guardian's date of birth and National Insurance number.

Your school will also receive additional funding to support your child's education.

Can I ask that parents call in to see the school administration staff to enquire if you could be eligible. It is important that you register whether or not your child chooses to have a school dinner.



Click on the picture above to be taken to Sandwell FSM page and fill in the form

# Enrichment Activities (Clubs)

	Club	Year group	Time
<b>Mon</b>	Year 5 / 6 Football Football Fitness	Years 5 & 6 Years 3 & 4	3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full) 3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full)
<b>Tue</b>	Sunflowers Sunflowers Games Club	Year 1 Year 2 Years 3 & 4	12.30pm - 1.00pm (Full) 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Full) 3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full)
<b>Wed</b>	Choir	Years 3,4,5 & 6	12.00—12.30 pm
<b>Thu</b>	The Problem solvers Computers Computers Table Tennis	Years 1,2 & 3 Years 4 - 6 Years 2-6 Years 4,5&6	12.00pm-12.30pm (Full) 12.00pm - 12.30pm (Full) 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Full) 3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full)
<b>Fri</b>	Dance TAG Rugby KS1 Fun & Fitness Handbells	Year 6 Years 5 & 6 Years 1 & 2 Year 6	12.00pm - 12.30pm (Full) 3.30pm - 4.40pm 3.25pm - 4.30pm (Full) 2.40pm—3.20pm

# Dates for your Diary

If you click on the events page you will find an up to date annual calendar. This calendar contains the term dates, training days and other events. We will keep this information as up to date as we can.



## School Photographs

This year school photographs will be taken on

**Monday 17th October 2016.**

## Year 4 Viking Forest Day—18th October 2016

The plan of the day will be:

4C will do the morning session and 4S will do the afternoon session.

We will be making Viking bread in class ready to be baked on the fire and share with a hot chocolate.

We will be making copper jewellery (this is for the children parents can help)

Viking Runes orienteering around Forest School

Making a Viking Den

Experiencing the mud kitchen

Parents please come along and join in our activities. Get your wellington boots and waterproof ready!



## 2016 Dance-a-thon

Advance warning our Dance-a-Thon will take place on Friday, 18th November, proceeds to Clic Sargent.

This is our 9th event and we have raised over £20,000 so far. The theme will be '**Greatest Hits**' and we will be re-visiting our favourite routines from the past events.

Sponsor forms will be given before half term. Fancy dress will be 'dress in your House colour'.





# House Attendance - September 2016

Winners for September are:

House points will also be awarded to the House with the best attendance



**Dragons**

**Dragons**



**96.6%**

**Eagles**



**95.2%**

**Lions**



**95.3%**

**Sharks**



**94.1%**

# Celebrations for October!

Please can you share your photo's artefacts and stories. We can then display them on our Religious Celebration board.

Celebrations for the month of October are:

## 1st - 11th October 2016 - Navaratri

- Navaratri is a nine day festival of music and dance when Hindus worship the female expression of the divine.
- During Navaratri the creative power of the Goddess is celebrated personified in forms of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.



## 11th October—Ashura

Ashura marks Noah's departure from the ark, the exodus of Moses from Egypt and the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson.

## 12th October—Yom Kippur

- Yom Kippur translates as the Day of Atonement and is the holiest date in the Jewish calendar.
- The central themes of Yom Kippur are atonement and repentance.

## 29th/30th October—Diwali

Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights and is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains albeit for different reasons.

- Hindus—it's the most important annual festival when they celebrate New Year and give thanks to the Goddess of Wealth, Lakshmi
- Sikhs celebrate the release from imprisonment of the sixth Guru Hargobind.
- Jains, it's the day when, in 527 BC, the sage Mahavira gave his last teachings and achieved ultimate liberation.



## 31st October—All Hallows' Eve

The All Hallows' Eve is commonly known as Halloween—and means eve of All Saints' (or Hallows) Day. 'Hallow is an old English word for Saint.

All Hallows' Eve marks the start of the season of Hallowtide, the time in the liturgical year when Christians remember the dead. Contemporary Halloween rituals are believed to have evolved from the Celtic Festival, Samhain, which was Christianised by the early church. It is widely accepted that the early church missionaries held a festival at this time of year to absorb native pagan practices into Christianity, thereby smoothing the conversion process.



# Parent Governor Vacancy

This is an invitation for you to stand for election as a parent governor, or nominate another parent to do so. In our school we have provision for 6 parent governor(s) and there is currently 1 vacancy.

The governing board, with the headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governing boards have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The role of governor can be demanding but very rewarding. Parent governors serve a 4 year term of office and under usual circumstances, can expect to spend between 10 and 20 days a year on governing duties. These include:

- attending meetings of the governing board, usually outside of school hours and contributing to governing board business;
- reading reports and papers and keeping up to date on the progress the school is making; and
- visiting the school from time to time during the school day.

You will be expected to sign a governors' Code of Conduct, and to have:

- a strong commitment to the role and improving outcomes for children;
- the inquisitiveness to question and analyse;
- the willingness to learn;
- good inter-personal skills;
- appropriate levels of literacy in English (unless a governing board is prepared to make special arrangements); and
- sufficient numeracy skills to understand basic data.

# Parent Governor Vacancy (continued)

No special qualifications are needed. However a DBS check is a statutory requirement and must be applied for within 21 days of election/appointment. The most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing boards work. However, we would particularly welcome nominations from parents with the following skills:

- experience of professional leadership;
- understanding of current education plan;
- ability to analyse data;
- performance management/appraisal of someone else;
- financial planning / management (e.g. as part of your job); and
- links with the community.

Training is available for all governors and this governing board has an expectation that those new to being a governor attend induction training.

Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 or more hours per academic year or who are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections. Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.

If you would like to stand for election please collect a form from the school office or download one from the school website (under [news & events| letters to parents](#)) and return it to the school no later than **Wednesday, 19th October 2016 at 12.00pm**. You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words. Self-nominations will be accepted, but if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent. If there are more nominations than vacancies the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

We must stress that new statutory guidance advises that the governing board publishes online for each governor certain information including their full name, relevant business interests, whether a governor serves on another governing board and relationships with staff in the school. There is a statutory requirement for all governors to have a DBS check and you would be expected to abide by and sign a code of conduct.

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

# Spotlight on ...



**Mrs Roberts**

Administrator



**Favourite subject:** Dance/Music

**My favourite teacher at school:** Mr Pomeroy

**Proud Moments:** Being a parent and my sister completing Austria Ironman June 2013 and June 2016 in Klagenfurt

**Pets:** We had two dogs when I lived at home named Judy and Tina but I don't have any pets now

**Hobbies:** Reading/Holidays

**Favourite Film:** The Holiday

**Favourite Music:** Eclectic Mix

**Favourite TV programme:** Morse/Silent Witness/Midsummer Murders/Our Girl

**Favourite Book:** Any books – love reading especially on holiday.



## Spotlight on Jennie Wyer

Year 2 Teacher

**Favourite subject:** History

**My favourite teacher at school:** Mr Parker – he was excellent and we had a great relationship. We are still in touch now even after him emigrating to New Zealand.

**Proud Moments:** There have been so many to name. The birth of my beautiful baby girl, travelling to Morocco to climb one of the highest peaks in the Atlas Mountains and passing my degree, masters and PGCE.

**Pets:** 3 cats

**Hobbies:** Walking at Sutton Park, spending time with my family and socialising.

**Favourite Film:** Beauty and the Beast

**Favourite Music:** I like all sorts of different types of music but I love a bit of pink

**Favourite TV programme:** Grey's Anatomy – I've been hooked on it for years!

**Favourite Book:** Each, peach, pear and plum – It brings back beautiful memories that I will cherish forever.