

# NEWSLETTER



Old Park Primary School Newsletter

November 2016

Dear Parents,

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. If you have been given another copy please complete and return to the school office as soon as possible as this is now a safeguarding issue.

**School closes at 3.25pm on Friday 16th December 2016 for Christmas.**

**School re-opens on Tuesday, 3rd January 2017**

## **Sandwell Well Being Chartermark**

We are pleased to announce that our school has achieved the highest rating for supporting the well-being of our families and staff. We would like to give a big thank you to all the children and parents involved in this process.

## **Calendar at a Glance!**

Monday, 14th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday, 15th November	Reception Phonics & Reading Workshop—2.30 pm onwards— Parents Welcome Select Pupils visiting Tipton Leisure Centre PM only.
Friday, 18th November	Children In Need /Dance-a-thon
Tuesday, 22nd November	Year 1 Phonics & Reading Workshop—9.15 am onwards— Parents Welcome Year 6 Inspire Afternoon—2.00 pm-3.10 pm—Parents welcome
Thursday, 24th November	Year 2 Phonics & Reading Workshop—2.30 pm onwards— Parents Welcome
Friday, 25th November	4S Class Assembly
Monday, 28th November	Class 1LP—Snowdome Visit
Tuesday, 29th November	Class 1AP—Snowdome Visit
Wednesday, 30th November	CSE Workshop for Parents—9.20 am Year 5 Inspire Afternoon—2.00 pm-3.10pm Parents Welcome

## DIDN'T WE DO WELL

### Book Fair Week

We sold **£697.50** At our book fair which means the school gets free books. Thank you for your support. We will be having another book fair in May and look forward to seeing you there.

### Halloween Disco

At the Halloween disco we raised **£548.61**

## Application Deadline Dates

Primary Applications  
- Sun 15th Jan17

Please note the deadline date for Secondary applications has already passed. If you haven't yet applied please contact your local authority as soon as possible as late applications can affect your chances of getting your chosen schools.

Telephone : 0121 569  
6765

## Parents Evening

Thank you, it was great to see so many parents attend this term. Can we say thanks to the excellent work carried out by our School Captains this year. They made amazing school ambassadors.



Thank you to parents that completed a survey and commented on possible end of year report formats. We will feedback shortly.

## SCHOOL GATEWAY ([www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com))

If you are a parent who does not have a bank account there is an alternative way to make your payments on the school gateway by a prepaid debit card by accessing a website called Pockit which we have found to be reasonable.

Please remember if any of your details change you need to notify the school office.

If your child has been offered a place at any clubs OR invited to go on a school visit **parents need to tick the consent box on the school gateway, add to basket and click ok, as without this they cannot attend the club or go on the school visit.**

Consent is also required for any lunchtime clubs your child wishes to attend.

Electronic consent and a single medical form reduces on paper and copying costs, saves time and is data protected.



## PARENT GOVERNORS

We have received resignations from our governing body from Phillip Clarke and Gina Wilkes who have served as parent governors.

On behalf of the Governing body, we would like to extend our thanks to them for their commitment and hard work.

We would like to introduce and welcome our newly appointed parent governor, Mohammed Asad who is the parent of Amaana and Amaara.

Mr David Giles, parent of Alfie and Ava Giles, and Samantha Price-Hunt our Community PCSO have been appointed as co-opted governors.

## REMINDER—GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

The deadline for final payment has now expired. We still have a few parents who have only paid their initial deposit can you please make sure that the final balance is paid by no later than Tuesday, 15th November. If this money has not paid then your child will lose their place.

**School Photographs**—Reminder to parents: Please arrange to return the proof of your child by no later than Wednesday, 16th November 2016 as the proofs are being collected by Wrates, Photographers at 12 noon.

## Christmas Performances



Tickets for Patch & Nursery,  
Years 1-6 Sing-a-long and  
Reception Nativity.

Patch, Nursery & Reception—**2 tickets per Family.**

Middle & Upper Phase—**1 ticket per family.**

You may request extra tickets but these cannot be guaranteed.

Tickets can be booked from **Monday, 20th November 2016** via:-

**Website: [www.oldparkprimary.com/tickets](http://www.oldparkprimary.com/tickets)**

Tickets will be issued to you a couple of days before the performance

### Christmas Performance Dates and Times

#### **Nursery & Patch –Fri 2nd Dec16**

Nursery AM & Patch - 10.30am

Nursery PM & Patch - 2.15pm

TICKET  
REQUIRED

#### **Reception - Tue 6th Dec16**

Reception - 9.30am

Reception - 2.15pm

TICKET  
REQUIRED

#### **Middle Phase—(Yrs 1, 2 &3)**

##### **Fri 9th Dec16**

Middle Phase (Yrs 1,2&3) - 9.15am

Middle Phase (Yrs 1,2&3) - 11.00am

Middle Phase (Yrs 1,2&3) - 2.15pm

TICKET  
REQUIRED

#### **Upper Phase - (Yrs 4, 5 & 6)**

##### **Wed 14th Dec16**

Upper Phase (Yrs 4,5&6) -9.15am

Upper Phase (Yrs 4,5&6) -2.15pm

TICKET  
REQUIRED

## Online Safety

### Christmas Video Games

It will soon be Christmas, and many children will be receiving video game consoles and games as Christmas presents. To make sure you're making informed decisions on your Christmas purchases we wanted to put a short guide together to help you make sense of the confusing world of video games and their ratings.



Video games are rated by a group called PEGI (Pan European Game Information), who rate the suitable age and content of all video games released in Europe. The ratings are aged based, **3,7,12, 16, 18**. These ratings describe how mature the content is, not the age of the skill level. A game rated 7 might be far more complex than a 7 year old could handle. These will be displayed on the front of video game boxes and on digital store fronts (like the App Store or Steam).

On the back of games and on App Stores there are also ratings called *Content Descriptors*. These describe why the video game was given a particular age rating. These are relevant to the age. So a 7 rated game with a “Fear” content descriptor will have scary parts that are suitably scary for a 7 year old, but too scary for a 3 year old.

### **Virtual Reality**

This year there are several virtual reality headsets on the market for playing video games, such as the Oculus Rift and the Playstation VR. All of these VR experiences are rated at 12 or 13, and are not considered suitable for younger children as their senses of balance and their eyesight are still developing. These crucial senses could be affected by long play sessions with a VR headset.

If you want children to take part in a virtual reality like experience, it is recommended to try a “Google Cardboard” compatible headset as these are designed for much shorter sessions and require being held by hands, meaning children will use them for less amount of time and take more breaks.








## CAR PARKING

Parents please can you be considerate to the neighbouring residents when parking. They do have to access their drives and it isn't fair for them to receive abuse from our parents if you have parked wrongly over their drives.

If such behaviour is reported to the school then your registration details will be passed onto the police.

## SNOWLINE

In the event of severe weather and a school closure we will use the following methods to inform you:

-  \* **Schools text messaging service**—if you are signed up to our schoolcomms you will receive a text message informing you of the school closure (please make sure your contact details are up to date).
-  \* **School Gateway App** – this can be downloaded onto your mobile phone (search for “school gateway app”), then follow the on screen instructions.
-  \* **Website** - [www.oldparkprimary.com](http://www.oldparkprimary.com)
-  \* **Facebook**—[www.facebook.com/oldparkprimary](http://www.facebook.com/oldparkprimary)
-  \* **Twitter**—[twitter.com/oldpark](http://twitter.com/oldpark)
-  \* **Google+** - Search for Old Park Primary
-  \* **Radio Stations**—Free Radio, Smooth Radio, Capital, Radio WM and Heart FM.

Please do not ring the school as staff will require to use the telephones to inform the methods above.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Sandwell Welfare Rights Newsletter

Get support and information on : Personal Independence Payment, Employment & Support Allowance, Save £140.00 on your electric, Council Tax Consultation and Help for Carers. Find out more by logging on to our website: <http://www.oldparkprimary.com/2016/11/09/welfare-rights-newsletter/>

# Enrichment Activities (Clubs)

	Club	Year group	Time
<b>Mon</b>	Year 5 / 6 Football	Years 5 & 6	3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full)
	Football Fitness	Years 3 & 4	3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full)
<b>Tue</b>	Sunflowers	Year 1	12.30pm - 1.00pm (Full)
	Sunflowers	Year 2	3.30pm - 4.30pm (Full)
	Games Club	Years 3 & 4	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	Years 1,2 & 3	12.00pm-12.30pm (Full)
	Computers	Years 4 - 6	12.00pm - 12.30pm (Full)
	Computers	Years 2-6	3.30pm - 4.30pm (Full)
	Table Tennis	Years 4,5&6	3.30pm - 4.40pm (Full)
	Mad Science (£45.00) per 6 weeks session	Years 1-2	3.30 pm—4.30pm (Full)
<b>Fri</b>	Dance	Year 6	12.00pm - 12.30pm (Full)
	TAG Rugby	Years 5 & 6	3.30pm - 4.40pm
	KS1 Fun & Fitness	Years 1 & 2	3.25pm - 4.30pm (Full)
	Handbells	Year 6	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.

## This month is Not off in November

Primary Schools in Wednesbury are taking part in the scheme where we will be rewarding pupils who are on time and in school every day for the month of November.

At the end of the campaign all children who complete the challenge will be awarded a certificate in a special assembly. They will be able to place their completed stamp sheet in a prize draw and several children will be picked to win a prize, there will also be house points up for grabs throughout the campaign as well as a small gift for full attendance.

Please support us in being the best school in Wednesbury for attendance.



Thank you for your continued support.



## CLIC SARGENT DANCE-A-THON—In memory of Rahul

Our Dance-a-thon will take place on Friday, 18th November, proceeds to Clic Sargent.

We will be dancing to our 'Dance-a-thon' greatest hits of the past eight years.

Sponsor forms have been sent out and are available on our website. Parents and ex-pupils can join in the hall for a dance after school.

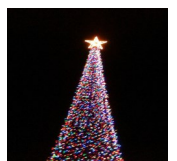
The event runs annually and is organised in Memory of Rahul. Don't forget to dress in house colours.

After the event sponsor money can be paid in via the school gateway— just input the amount you have raised.

## Christmas Art Competition We have two art competitions running this year.

1. Dolce, our dinner provider. It's a 'Snowman Competition' children to create an A4 Snowman picture using paint, crayons or chalk (no glitter or cotton wool). There will be two school winners that will go into a nationwide competition to win a Nintendo 3DS.
2. A second competition is to design a Christmas card on A4 paper. The winning entry will be used as the official Christmas Card used by Mitchell & Mitchell Salons in Wednesbury.

**Christmas Lights** - The Christmas light switch on in Wednesbury is Friday, 25th November. There will be an ice rink, fireater, numerous stalls, entertainment, fair and a visit from Santa.



# Celebrations for November!

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 November are:

## 13th November 2016—Remembrance Sunday

The Sunday nearest to Armistice Day, devoted to remembering the dead of the two World wars and subsequent wars.



## 14th November 2016 - Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib

Guru Nanak Dev was the founder of the Sikh faith and way of life. Sikhism stresses the importance of doing good deeds rather than merely carrying out rituals.



## 15th November 2016—Shchi-go-san (seven-five-three) Japanese

Girls of seven, boys of five and girls of three are dressed up in new clothes and taken to Shinto shrine to pray for their future well-being.



## 24th November 2016 - Martydom (Shahidi) of Guru Tegh Bahadur

Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Guru, sacrificed his life to defend the religious freedom of another faith.

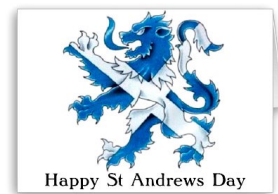
## 27th November 2016—Advent Sunday Christian.



The start of the Christian year, four Sundays before Christmas. It is often celebrated by lighting the first candle in the advent crown—a circular wreath of greenery. A further three candles are lit on subsequent Sundays, culminating with the Christmas candle on the 25th December. This signifies the transition from darkness to light.

## 30th November 2016—St Andrew's Day

The patron saint of Scotland since the 8th Century. Andrew was an apostle and brother of St Peter. In the Anglican communion he is associated with missionary activity.





# House Attendance - October 2016

Winners October are:

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



**Eagles**

**97.7%**

**Eagles**



**97.7%**

**Dragons**



**96.5%**

**Sharks**



**96.5%**

**Lions**



**95.7%**

# Spotlight on ...



## Spotlight on Ms Taylor

Family Support/Attendance Officer

**Favourite subject:** ICT

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

**Proud Moments:** Anything my children do make me proud.

**Pets:** Harris Hawk called Dylan, Cocker Spaniel called Jesse, Budgie called Jabs

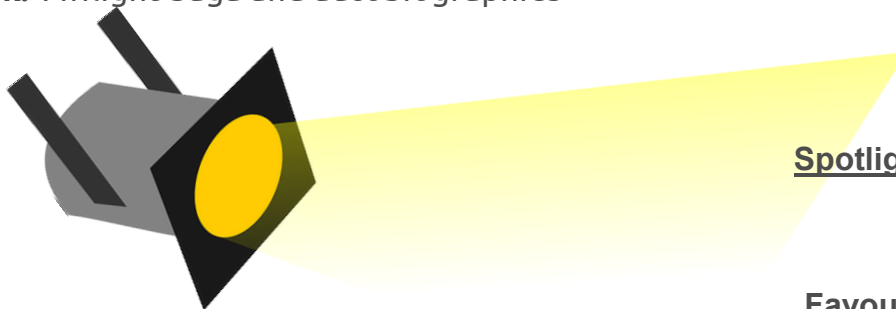
**Hobbies:** Flying the Harris Hawk, long walks with the dog, meeting up with friends for a gossip.

**Favourite Film:** Twilight Saga

**Favourite Music:** I like all genres of music especially rock and 80s stuff but NOT Justin Beiber

**Favourite TV programme:** Eastenders, Big Brother, wildlife/nature programmes

**Favourite Book:** Twilight Saga and autobiographies



## Spotlight on Mrs Douglas

Year 6 HLTA

**Favourite subject:** Maths

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

**Proud Moments:** Birth of my 2 children

**Pets:** None

**Hobbies:** Knitting, crochet, reading

**Favourite Film:** Baby's Day out

**Favourite Music:** All genres of music

**Favourite TV programme:** Criminal Minds

**Favourite Book:** Pride and Prejudice

### Visit into School

I have been lucky enough to be able to spend some time in school recently to get an update on the SEN and Inclusion provision that is being provided to pupils. I also had the opportunity to observe some of the interventions that the school are putting in place to help the children and the range of activities that are run on a daily and weekly basis, which are fantastic.

It is important to ensure that all children have the opportunity to thrive at school; that their needs are met and that they feel safe and content. It is always great to see the relationship that the pupils and teaching staff have with one another and that each child is invested in on an individual basis.

I also had the chance to attend an external "Emotional Coaching, Resilience and Trauma" training course recently which was primarily aimed at teaching staff from both primary and secondary schools but also had a range of people and professions there. The aim of the course was to encourage teaching staff to think differently about why a child may be behaving in a certain way; that there is always something that triggers an emotional reaction (whether this is a child being upset, or being angry etc.) and that teaching staff should look to 'coach' a child to explore why they are feeling the way that they do, to think about the behaviour/boundaries that are needed in school, and what they (with help from staff) can do differently in the future. Towards the end of the training, everyone was asked to think about creating an action plan of how this concept could be introduced into schools and it was really positive to see that Old Park have adapted this concept over the past 12 months, but there is more that could be done and so an action plan was created (part of this involved holding a coffee morning for parents/carers - Look out for this soon!) to get these implemented.

I am a parent with a child at Old Park and it fills me with confidence, every time I have chance to spend time in school, to see the positive culture that is evident throughout!



Governor Kelly Harding



---

To contact the Patch Day Nursery regarding any of the information on this page please ring 0121 526 2669 and then press 1 for the Patch

---

### **Oak Tree Owls Out of school club**

Oak Tree owls out of school club is currently full to capacity although we do have emergency places in case you are unable to collect your child from school. We may be able to offer an emergency place in our provision at a cost of £8.50 until 5:00pm and £12.50 for 5:30pm.

To access this service you MUST call up the patch directly to see if there is availability and then the school to notify your child's class teacher.

### **Christmas Fun Days**

We will be holding 2 Christmas fun activity days on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Of December from 10.00 till 3:00pm. We will be providing fun activities for children aged 5 to 11 at a cost of £15.00 places will be limited please email [the.patch@oldpark.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:the.patch@oldpark.sandwell.sch.uk) if you would like to book a place.

### **The Patch Day Nursery – Baby Places for January**

We are now taking bookings for our baby room from January. If you would like to view our baby room please call 0121 526 2669 press 1 or call into The Patch Reception to organise a visit.

### **Nursery Education Funding for 3 and 4 year olds**

Is your child fast approaching 3? Did you know you may be able to claim 15 free hours within our Day Nursery Provision. If you would like to know if you are eligible please call 0121 526 2669 (press 1) for further information.