PARK ROAD
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEEKLY UPDATE

6 November 2026



Next Week in School at a Glance

Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12	Friday 13
* Lunch Menu Wk 2 * 12.00 pm - Deadline for Parent Governor applications	* 2.40 pm - Y3 & Y4 Music Assembly **entry via KS2 gate** * 3.15-4.15 pm Rec to Y3 Performing Arts * 3.15-4.15pm Y4-6 Choir * 3.15 - 4.15pm Y3/Y4 Forest School	* Y3 Trip to Brockholes * 2.35 pm – Y6 Museum of Learning **entry via KS2 gate**	* 3.15 - 4.15pm R/1/2/3 Football * 3.15 - 4.15pm KS2 Musical Theatre * 3.15 – 4.15 pm Y5/6 Forest School	* Children In Need Day – donation via Parentpay link * 2.45 pm Y1 Museum of learning **entry via KS1 gate**

Mrs. Quigley's weekly message

Unique Individuals Learning Together

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term. It promises to be a busy and exciting few weeks, with lots of learning taking place, open days showcasing our wonderful school and, for those who celebrate, plenty of Christmas festivities to look forward to.

This week we held our Parents' Evening. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. If you have not yet met with your child's teacher, they will be in touch to arrange a convenient time. Thank you also to those who completed our parent questionnaire. We will review the feedback carefully and share any actions arising from your suggestions in the coming weeks.

Over this half term, most classes will be holding their Museum Showcase as part of the Belong phase of our Legacy Framework. Reception set a very high standard before the holidays, confidently sharing their learning and talking about the people who are special to them. Dates have already been shared, but please check the next page and make a note if you have not done so already. As well as presenting their learning, children will have the opportunity to share their books and take part in learning activities with you.

We have also noticed an increase in misplaced coats, jumpers and cardigans this week. Most items are eventually found, but many are unnamed, making it difficult to return them to the correct child. Please check that all uniform and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Finally, please take note of the Christmas dates on the next page, including performances, our whole-school Forest School Day and the PFA Movie Night. Christmas performance tickets will operate in the same way as previous years. Families will be allocated 1 ticket for each performance their child(ren) is (are) in and you are welcome to swap with others or give it to another parent if you do not need a ticket. If there are any tickets remaining, we will let you know how you can request one. Please keep tickets safe, as anyone arriving without a ticket will need to wait until all ticket holders have been seated and we can check that there is space, ensuring that we comply with fire safety regulations.

As always, have a wonderful weekend. I look forward to seeing you on the gate on Monday morning.
Mrs Quigley

Picture News

The Picture News topic for next week is …

'Should traditions always stay the same?'



Diwali celebrations in Leicester return this November. It's one of the UK's biggest Diwali festival locations, with music, dancing, colourful lights and family activities. However, the traditional public fireworks display will not take place this year as part of Diwali celebrations, due to crowd safety concerns at the park venue. Organisers hope the celebrations will still bring thousands of people together to enjoy the Festival of Lights, despite some familiar traditions being different.

Things to talk about at home:

* What traditions do you celebrate with your family? Why are they special to you?
* Why do you think some people might feel upset when a tradition changes?
* In your opinion, is it more important to keep traditions the same or find new ways to celebrate? Why?
* If you could create a brand-new tradition for your family, what would it be and why?

Hot Chocolate and Cake

Well done to the following children chosen this week:

Reception	Miriam-Leigh S
Year 1	Evelyn T
Year 2	George C
Year 3	Ellen C
Year 4	Oliver P
Year 5	Charlotte D
Year 6	Daniel G

If a child is unable to attend their Hot Chocolate and Cake event because of an approved absence, we will provide a 'carry out' pack so they can enjoy it at home at their leisure!

Museum of Learning Year 6 and Year 1

Parents/carers are able to come to view their child's Museum as per the timings below.

On Wednesday 11 November Year 6 will be holding their Museum of Learning. They plan to share their learning from this half term relating to 'WW2. The **KS2 Gate** for this will open at **2.30** pm and close at **2.35** pm promptly, so the event can start.

On Friday 13 November Year 1 will be holding their Museum of Learning. They plan to share their learning from this half term relating to 'Guy Fawkes'. The **KS1 gate** will open at **2.40** pm and close at **2.45** pm promptly, so the event can start.

The dates for the remaining classes are as follows and timings will be confirmed nearer the time, but it is expected to be approximately 2.30/2.40 pm.

Year 2	Friday 20 November
Year 3	Wednesday 25 November
Year 4	Wednesday 18 November
Year 5	Thursday 19 November

REMINDER—Y3/4 Class Musical Performance

As mentioned in a previous Weekly Update last academic year, we are holding our next class musical performance on **Tuesday 10 November**. The session is to showcase the children's learning in music lessons and parents/carers for Years 3/4 are invited to come along and watch the performances.

The timings for the performance are as follows:

2.35 pm KS2 gate opens for parents/carers
2.40 pm promptly KS2 gate locked, performance starts
3.15 pm Performance ends

Children In Need– Friday 13 November

We will be joining in the fundraising fun for Children in Need on Friday 13 November. Children can come to school in their own clothes with Pudsey, spots or with something yellow in exchange for a donation of £1 (or more if you can spare it!) to Children in Need.

We will provide you with a link for Parentpay next week and the money will be paid directly to Children in Need – if you are a UK taxpayer, you can also choose to give Gift Aid for your donation

It is a great organisation that works hard to support people locally and international and we hope you will support them. We will let you know how much we raise in next week's update!

Royal Legion



We still have a limited number of Poppy products in school to purchase. The paper poppies are available for a donation of any amount or children can purchase the items shown above, please send orders together with the cash payment in a clearly marked envelope with

- your child's name
- class
- details of the items you wish to purchase (including colours if appropriate)

Please note, we have limited stock on all items and will not be able to replenish them so when they are gone, they're gone! Last year we raised £686!

Key Dates for DECEMBER

Monday 14 December	Christmas Dinner/ Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 17 December	Whole school Winter Forest school Day
Thursday 17 December	PFA Movie night
Friday 18 December	Party Day – **school closes at 2.00pm**

Christmas Performance dates Reminder

Thursday 10 December	**2.15 pm** KS1 Christmas performance **(Strictly adults only)**
Friday 11 December	**9.30 am** KS1 Christmas performance **(children welcome)**
Tuesday 15 December	**2.15 pm** – KS2 Christmas Performance **(Strictly adults only)**
Wednesday 16 December	**9.30 am** – KS2 Christmas Performance **(children welcome)**

What Parents and Educators Need to Know About …

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 26 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



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