

# P.H.I.N.N

Park Hill Infants News & Notes Issue 36

All different, All equal, All achieving

Summer 1—24th May 2024

## A message from Ms Charman, Headteacher

Dear Dads, Mums and Carers,

This half term has passed by quickly and we have all enjoyed every minute of it. There have been lots of trips— Reception had fun buying fruit from market stalls during their visit to Surrey Street Market, Year 1 were river dipping at Morden Hall Park and Year 2 had great fun visiting the National History Museum. As always during all these activities, the children were impeccably behaved and were an absolute credit to the school.

I would like to say a huge thank you for your contributions to our school fund. So far this year we have raised £1,960. We will use these donations to fund more in-house workshops, enrichment activities, visitors to the school and also to buy exciting curricular resources.

Finally, thank you to everybody who returned their parent questionnaires. We really do value your suggestions and comments and we always follow up any queries individually to ensure that you feel fully involved in school life. I am delighted to report that 100% of parents/ carers said they were aware of what their child will be learning about during the year which is excellent. In addition, there were so many heart warming, positive comments about the school, which I have shared with all staff.

I wish you all a happy and fun May half-term.

My love and best wishes to you all, as always, Ms Charman



We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Fox Project, a specialist ambulance service, wildlife hospital and cub rehabilitation organisation providing help for sick, injured or orphaned foxes. They recently rescued a severely dehydrated fox cub found near our school. The fox cub is now with 4 other little fox cubs and will be fostered in a site where she can run free until she is ready to be let back out into the wild. She has been affectionately named Parry.

To find out more about the charity <https://foxproject.org.uk/> and to donate to their cause visit <https://www.justgiving.com/>

## Wonderful Wishes and Warm Welcomes

Miss Esme, Miss Jannelli, Mr Fabio, Miss Deans and Miss Moolman have left Park Hill Infant School. We wish them all the best for the future.

Miss Prempeh has joined our team as a SEND Learning Support Assistant and Mrs Cherifi has joined our team as a Learning Support Assistant in Class 2. Mrs Londhe has joined our office team as a volunteer.

## Who's Who?

Every issue, we focus on a member of the team so that you can get to know them!



Hello! I am Mrs Rammohan and I am thrilled to be part of the vibrant community at Park Hill Infant School as a Year Two Teacher, working alongside Miss Hulet and Mrs Smith. My journey with Park Hill Infant School began in March 2024 and every moment has been filled with warmth and enthusiasm.

Having previously taught in a primary school in Bromley, across Key Stages 1 and 2, I bring a wealth of experience and passion for igniting young minds. The transition to Park Hill Infant School has been seamless, thanks to the unwavering support and kindness of my colleagues and the wonderful parents.

I love my job because I find it really rewarding. I firmly believe effective teaching is about more than just imparting knowledge; it is about fostering a love of learning and inspiring children to become confident individuals.

## OUR 5 SCHOOL VALUES

**Honesty, Kindness, Positivity, Respect and Courage**

### HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Every half term, we celebrate children who have consistently displayed one or more of our **10 Learning Super Skills** or **one of our School's 5 Values for Life** — or both!



Congratulations to the following Key Stage One children for earning a Headteachers' Award for this half term:



Cl 4— Siena

Cl 6—Sloane

Cl 7—Oliver

Cl 9—Urhio

Cl 4—Isabella

Cl 6—Zarif

Cl 8—Ummara

Cl 9—Matthew

Cl 5—Aadhi

Cl 7—Hanzala

Cl 8—Enes

Cl 9—Shreya

Cl 5—Amirah

Cl 7—Aadya

Cl 8—Jonas

These children's achievements were recognised in a special award assembly led by Ms Charman on Thursday 23rd May 2024.

*Congratulations and well done!*



# Curriculum Enrichment—Summer One

We have had the following after school activities this half-term: Musical Theatre, Art Club, Multi-Sports, Gymnastics, Football, and Street Dance. Details of how to request places are circulated by email to parents/ carers prior to the end of each half-term for the next half-term.

During Eid week, children took part in celebrations throughout the week and were invited to wear traditional or party clothes to school on Wednesday 17th April. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents and carers that took time to present a special assembly on Eid to our pupils. We would like to thank the PHSA for organising a 'Taste of Eid' event for children, parents and carers after school.

Each year group had a workshop linked to Dance and PE, provided by JV Dance Fitness—a specialist Dance teacher who taught dances influenced by Hip Hop music and encouraged pupils to also create their own dances. JV Dance Fitness led a special performance assembly for each year group, where children were given the opportunity to show off their impressive skills and can perform to their year group.

Year Two visited Croydon Mosque and Islamic Centre to identify artefacts and features important to the Islamic religion, as part of their learning for their current topic in Religious Education.

As part of their topic 'Food Glorious Food, Reception visited Surrey Street Market where they learnt about selecting, tasting and buying their own food.



## OUR 10 LEARNING SUPER SKILLS

An effective learner:

**makes connections, collaborates, communicates,**  
**perseveres, is reflective, is confident, is creative,**  
**is a risk taker, is resourceful, is curious.**



Year Two visited the Natural History Museum to learn about natural disasters as part of their current topic 'Extreme Earth' and to recap their knowledge of dinosaurs.



# Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete our Summer 2024 questionnaire. Please find below some of the lovely feedback we received.

## "What do Park Hill Infant School do well?"

A well rounded education that not only focuses on academics , exposes them to activities and other cultures / religions.

Opportunities for parents to form a community at class level so we can support kids better

They are brilliant in sending communication and updates. They arrange many activities for children and parents. The team is friendly, positive and approachable . We feel safe in this environment.

The teachers are invested into the learning and well being of kids, with their observation on the kid being spot on.

Thinking holistically about wellbeing, confidence and self-regulation, alongside academic progress. Arranging school visits and trips, fun days, yoga, and facilitating after school club and breakfast clubs for working parents. Having extra staff for mental wellbeing and special educational needs. Providing a safe, fun, warm and confidence building environment.

Creating safe and happy environment. Listen to children needs. Helping with emotional wellbeing. Support creativeness and outdoor learning. Engaging parents with a different types of workshops. Strong anti bullying and inclusion policies.

## "What is it like to be a parent at Park Hill Infant School?"

Good school with good teachers. I feel proud as a parent that my child studies in park hill infant school

Well respected and well informed the school events

I feel involved and part of a caring community; I look forward to the school run every day. It makes a huge difference!

It feels good, I am confident that my child is safe, well looked after, happy and thriving.

You feel included in what's goes on and how your child is taught

It's nice to be a parent at this school. Even though I tend to have to drop off and pick up at wrap around you still feel a sense of community. It has been possible to meet other parents at the PTA events and school workshops.

# You Spoke...



# ...We Listened

## School Events

In our parent questionnaire responses, a few parents stated that they felt that there was too much communication from school, whereas a few other parents stated that they did not receive enough and that they need to know about events further in advance.

We are unable to please everybody, but as a reminder, we publish our school events and term dates in advance on our website and in our half-termly newsletters. We communicate with parents/ carers through a variety of channels. We regularly send information about trips, school events or fundraising initiatives by letter, email, text messages and posters on display around the school.

Unfortunately, our texting service (provided by Teachers2Parents) is unable to automatically send text messages to more than one mobile number which is why we ask parents/ carers to always indicate the mobile number that should be used as the 1st priority for contact from the school on admissions and emergency contact forms.

We have focussed on streamlining our communication to ensure that all communication indicates which year group it is addressed to. We endeavour to keep you updated of any changes to school events as far in advance as possible, however there are occasions where that will have to be last minute.

## After-School Activities

Analysis of the feedback from our recent parent/ carer questionnaire showed that some families would like more after-school activity options to be available. We are always looking to see how we can improve the range of activities available, which is dependent on the space needed for each activity as we only have one school hall.

### What after-school activity clubs are available?

We have had the following after school activities this half-term: Musical Theatre, Art Club, Multi-Sports, Gymnastics, Football and Street Dance. We rotate our after-school activity clubs to each year group each half-term.

### How can parents/carers apply for a space?

Places for the clubs are allocated prior to the start of each half-term. Letters are published on the school website and sent out to each year group by email with the options available to select. Parents/ carers should return their request slip by the deadline specified in the letter. If you require a hard copy of the form please collect one from the school office.

### How are the clubs allocated?

Once all slips have been received, 15 children will be selected at random to take part in the clubs. In the interest of fairness, we will be randomly selecting children from a group who have **not yet had a chance to take part in an after-school activity club this academic year.** In the event that the club is not full, we will then randomly select from children who have previously attended. Parents/ Carers will be notified by email or text if their child has a place at a club, and will be able to pay for the club on ParentPay.



### Curriculum Workshops

During the Curriculum workshops for Reception, parents and carers had different activities linked to Maths to complete with their children—making their own maths board game, a hunt for 2D and 3D shapes in the Reception outdoor area, making shapes using large construction toys and making a bracelet using beads with a pattern.

During the Curriculum workshops for Key Stage 1, parents and carers had different activities linked to Maths to complete measuring capacity, length, mass and time.

## **Visits to local centres, places of worship and sacred spaces**

At Park Hill Infant School, we have always taught our pupils about tolerance and this remains an important part of our curriculum. We ensure that we always celebrate diversity, promote equality and demonstrate respect. Our teaching in Religious Education enables children to build on their own experiences and to extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, Eid and Diwali to develop their religious thinking. We organise visits to local places of worship, and invite representatives of local religious groups to come into school and talk to the children.

As a school, we value the opportunity to bring learning to life by arranging for pupils in Key Stage 1 to visit local centres and places of worship where they can meet members of the community from the tradition/ religion that they are learning about in class for Religious Education. As a minimum, pupils in KS1 should visit at least one site of traditional/ religious/ cultural significance.

We have endeavoured to ensure that we provide more opportunities for children in Key Stage 1 to visit centres for different faiths and religions. This year, pupils in Year One have visited St. Matthews Church and pupils in Year Two have visited Croydon Mosque and Islamic Centre. At these visits, pupils can ask questions, experience a religious and cultural environment, and meet members of the community who can respond to their thoughts and ideas. These visits contribute to pupils' spiritual development as well as giving many opportunities for exciting cross-curricular learning. These visits are not sessions of worship and are arranged to support children's learning in class for Religious Education, with follow up work being produced in class.

Our Religious Education Lead, Mrs Smith, has been looking for other centres that may be able to accommodate school visits and are close enough to travel to during school hours, such as a Hindu temple. If you have a suggestion of a centre/ place of worship that is close to the school, please email [enquiries@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk) to let us know.

## **Reminder about social media**

Social media (including all apps, sites and games that allow sharing and interaction between users) is a fact of modern life, and as a school, we accept that many parents and carers will use it. However, as stated in the Online Agreement which all parent/ carers sign as part of their child's admission to the school, we expect parents and carers to behave in a positive manner, engaging respectfully with the school and each other on social media, in the same way as they would face to face.

This positive manner can be summarised as not making any posts which are or could be construed as bullying, aggressive, rude, insulting, illegal or otherwise inappropriate. This applies both to public pages and to private posts, e.g. parent chats, pages or groups.

If parents have a concern about the school, we would urge them to contact us directly and in private to resolve the matter. Sharing concerns or complaints on social media is unlikely to help resolve the matter, but can cause upset to staff, pupils and parents, also undermining staff morale and the reputation of the school (which is important for the pupils we serve).

For more information, please see our Online Safety Policy and Visitors Code of Conduct (available on our website.)





# Multi-Skills Festival



A small group of pupils took part in a Multi-Skills Festival competition organised by Croydon School Sport Partnership. The event focused on participation, trying new activities and skills. We are so proud of our Park Hill Infant's Team.

### PCSO Ollie says...

- Shut and lock windows and doors, when going out or going to sleep;
- In this hot weather, please check on vulnerable neighbours, especially those on their own;
- If you have any trades people working for you, please advise them to lock their vehicles, and keep any valuable tools within sight;
- Enjoy the weather, and if it gets too hot, don't forget your sunscreen.



**Ollie White**  
**Police Community Support Officer**  
**Park Hill & Whitgift Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The police are always here to help. If you would like to get in touch, just call us on our non-emergency number **101** or visit **[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)**

In an emergency always call **999**.

If you are worried about any child, call the [NSPCC helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk). In an emergency, call **999**.

To find out about setting up parental controls, visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) For more information and advice about keeping your child safe online, visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Visit [reporting.lgfl.net](http://reporting.lgfl.net) to find out how to remove content from social media and where to report bullying, racial hatred, terrorism, sexual abuse and more.

#### Dog Safety Tips for Parents and Carers

- Don't allow your child to approach a dog they don't know, such as when you're out in the park or outside the school .
- Supervise your child when they're with your dog - if your dog looks unhappy, let them go somewhere they feel safe and happy.
- Teach your child to be kind and polite to dogs. Don't let your child climb on dogs, pull their ears or do anything you wouldn't allow them to do to another child.

Teach your child not to approach dogs when they're:

- Eating or having a treat
- Have a toy or something else they really like
- Sleeping
- Unwell, injured or tired
- Blind or deaf



Illustrations ©CattleDog Publishing

For more information on keeping children safe around dogs visit [Keeping Children Safe and Dogs Happy | RSPCA - RSPCA - rspca.org.uk](https://www.rspca.org.uk)

#### Bikes & Scooters

Please ensure that if your child rides their bike/ scooter to school, they dismount their bike/ scooter before entering the school gates and park their bike/ scooter in the scooter bay by the main school office. Park Hill Infant School cannot accept responsibility for the loss or damage to any personal belongings left on the school premises including bikes/ scooters.

## Administering Medications in School



We can administer medicine in school. You will need to come to the school office to complete a parental consent form for administration of **any medicines**, including Asthma pumps. If your child has Asthma, we will also need a copy of their Asthma Care Plan.

Please keep us updated of any changes to your child's medical needs so that we can ensure we have appropriate staff training and access to Individual Healthcare Plans (where required.)

Click [here](#) to view our policy on supporting children with medical conditions in school, and for a useful guide on when children can and cannot come to school with an infection.

## Uniform

Children should wear the following items, each clearly named:

- grey pinafore dress, grey trousers or grey shorts
- light blue shirt
- school tie
- royal blue cardigan or V-necked jumper
- for warmer weather: a light blue checked dress
- sensible school shoes.
- earrings are allowed, however, these must be studs not hoops. This is to avoid possible injury from getting them caught or pulled. (Earrings have to be removed before coming to school on swimming days—pool rules.)

## PE Uniform

For physical education, all children should have the following items, each clearly named:

- a pair of navy blue shorts
- a light blue t-shirt
- Plimsolls
- for colder weather: a pair of jogging bottoms and a blue jumper.

**None of our uniforms require a logo.**

### ***Buy new***

You can buy suitable items from many high street stores such as Sainsburys, Asda, Lidl, Marks & Spencer, as well as Hewitts of Croydon.

### ***Buy second hand***

If you wish to enquire about any donated second-hand uniforms, suitable for sale at a reduced cost of £1 per item, please send an email to [enquiries@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk) to let us know what items of uniform you are looking for and what size. We will then let you know if we have these items available and you will be able to make a payment on ParentPay. We will then have your items ready for collection at the school office.

## Reminder about school meals

Our school meals are provided by the Folio Trust via Park Hill Junior School. School meals are free for all Infant aged children (Reception to Year 2). The menu is rotated every 3 weeks and the current menu can be downloaded from our school website. Hard copies are available at the school office.

The school meals meet the mandatory requirements of the School Food Standards 2015. The menus are nutritionally analysed to ensure they meet and in most cases exceed The School Food Standards with Halal Suitable and Vegan options available.

**Therefore, these meals should not be subsidised with food from home, including condiments such as Tomato Sauce or Mayonnaise.**

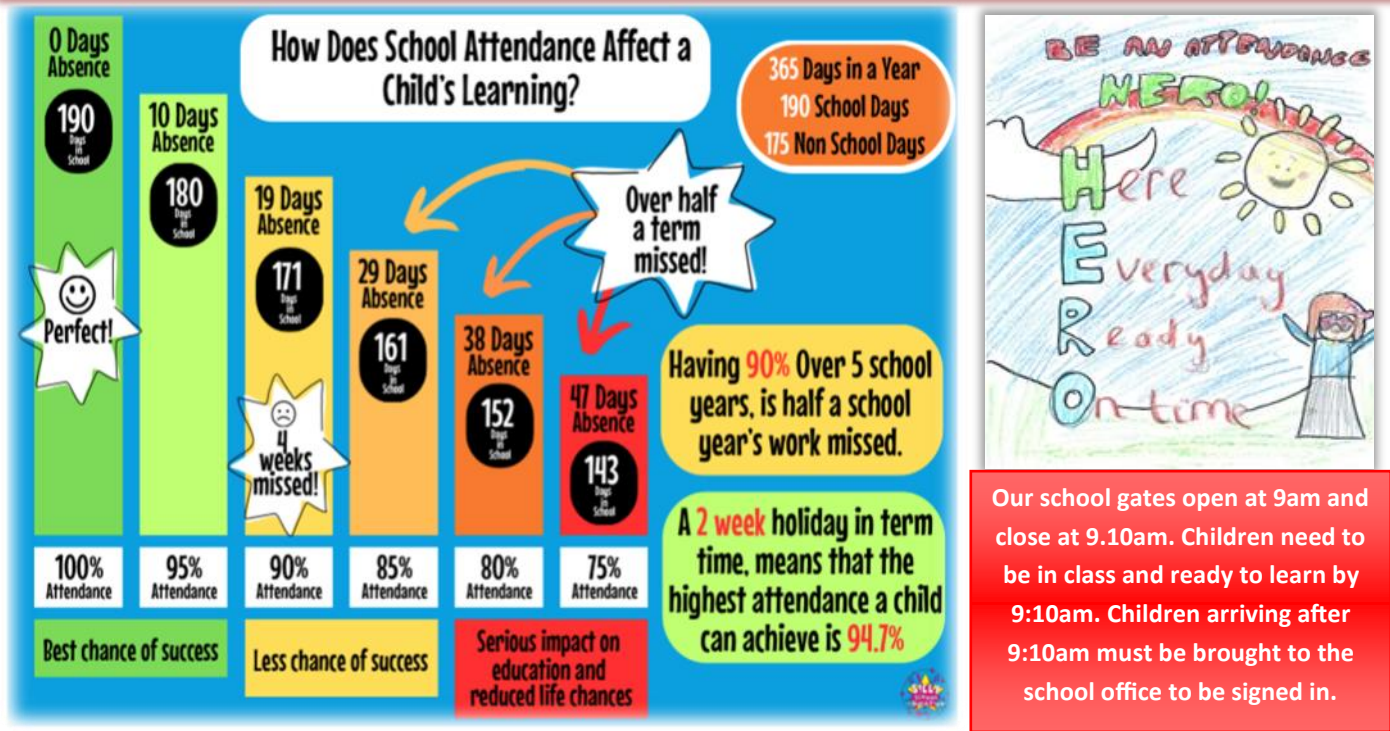
You are welcome to provide your child with a packed lunch from home every day, or on days where the school dinner is not to their taste.

# Morden Hall Park

To support their learning for the topic 'Let It Grow', Year One visited Morden Hall Park and took part in activities to learn about Minibeasts and river dipping led by a Park Explorer.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



**It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends school regularly and punctually. As a school we have a legal responsibility to advise parents if their child's attendance is a concern.**

## Leave of Absence Requests

If there are exceptional circumstances which require a leave of absence during term time, please complete the request form and return it to the school office as far in advance of the requested leave period as possible and at least one school week prior to the absence. This will give the school office adequate time to inform the Headteacher of your request. All requests for leave during term time will be considered on an individual basis and you will receive a written response.

Under section 444 of the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority may issue Penalty Notices to parents of children with unauthorised absences from school. The fines are issued to each parent, for each child, and are currently: £60 if paid within 21 days, rising to £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days.

## Changes to fines from 19th August 2024

Under new rules set by the Department for Education, from 19th August 2024, the Penalty Notice fines will increase to: £80 if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days.

Only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3 year rolling period. A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same child will be charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first Penalty Notice.

In the case where the threshold for a Penalty Notice has been met for the third time in a rolling 3 year period, a Penalty Notice cannot be issued, and the Education Welfare Officer may need to take alternative action including presenting the case straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.

PARK HILL SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION



# PHSA NEWS



## Exciting events to come

### Father's and Friend's Day - Thu 13 June

Preorder take-home Margherita pizza kits or Krispy Kreme donuts  
£4 by 6 June. <https://forms.gle/169xssMZiLMswmuw8>

### Colour Run 2024 - Sun 23 June

Book your Early Bird tickets - £5 now until 7 June

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/parkhillschools/>

Parents welcome to also run (with ticket), but not essential. All minors must be accompanied.

### Taylor Mania - Fri 5 July

Calling all Swifties - come and catch the buzz at our final event of the year! We have a fantastic Taylor tribute festival planned.

Book your tickets online £8

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/parkhillschools/>



## Other ways to help

**Buying name labels?** Try Stikins. We earn 30% commission when you quote 15355. <https://www.stikins.co.uk/?NAME-LABELS=15355>

**Are you on social media?** Follow us, like, comment [@parkhillschoolsphsa](https://www.instagram.com/parkhillschoolsphsa) (IG/FB) and [@park\\_schools](https://www.x.com/park_schools) (X).

### Ask your employer to match funds

Many companies will match funds raised by a charity. Why not ask yours?

Become an event corporate sponsor or volunteer to help

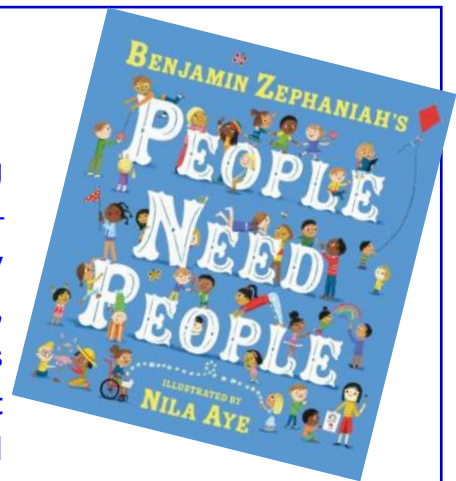
Email the PHSA team [phsa.croydon@gmail.com](mailto:phsa.croydon@gmail.com)



## Our Recommended Reads

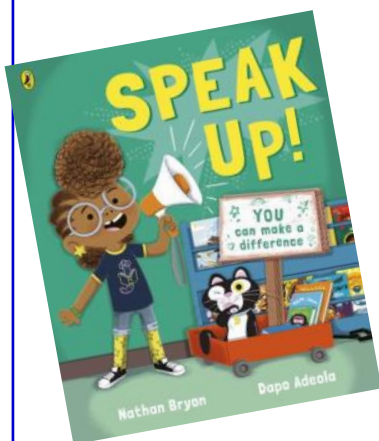
### People Need People by Benjamin Zephaniah

Everyone in the world needs people. Benjamin Zephaniah's uplifting rhyming text shares the many reasons why people need other people – to play with, to learn from and to hug! The delightful illustrations by Nila Aye show people interacting in all sorts of situations – in the park, the nursery, the airport and a family feast. It is impossible to read this book and not smile. The poem is perfect to read aloud, as you'd expect from a prize-winning poet. A wonderful celebration of community and connection.



### Speak Up! by Nathan Bryon

Rocket loves her weekly trips to the local library with her mum and older brother. So she is heartbroken when she discovers the library will be closing down forever! Then Rocket, who recently borrowed a book about Civil Rights activist Rosa Parks, decides to speak up and save the library. Rocket rallies support from her classmates, and together they lead a peaceful protest. The third book featuring the brilliantly passionate Rocket, Speak Up! is an engaging and timely story that empowers young readers to fight for libraries and community spaces.



### Lifesize: Deadly Animals by Sophy Henn

This clever book shows the exact size of deadly animals – or their key parts. It's fascinating to see how big a caiman's jaws are, and a lion's spiny tongue. The smaller predators are shown in all their deadly glory, including bullet ants, Chinese bird spiders and dragonflies. Yes, dragonflies – the most successful predators! A final spread compares sizes – the great white shark is 20 Lifesize books long, while the Bengal slow loris is only one book long – and encourages the reader to measure themselves. Sophy Henn's vibrant illustrations and the bite-size chunks of information add up to a captivating book.



### Collins Big Cat E-Books

Pupils have access to E-Books and online comprehension activities through Collins Big Cat E-Books.

If your child does not have a login for Collins Big Cat E-Books please contact the school office and we will then be able to provide you with a login for your child.

### Purple Mash

Purple Mash is an engaging and intuitive computing scheme designed specifically for EYFS and Key Stage 1 learners, offering a vibrant platform where young minds can explore and create.

If your child does not have a login for Purple Mash, please contact the school office and we will then be able to provide you with a login for your child.

### Mathletics

Mathletics is an engaging, supportive, online learning resource that will be used to further enhance your child's maths skills. Once your child's details have been uploaded by the school, they will be able to use the program both in school and at home as much as they like! This online resource compliments the National Curriculum through interactive maths games and quick recall facts.

If your child does not have a login for Mathletics, please contact the school office and we will send you a consent form to be completed and returned. We will then be able to provide you with a login for your

# Dates for your Diary



<u>Friday 24th May</u>	—	<u>School closes 3.30pm for half-term</u>
<u>Monday 3rd June</u>	—	<u>School re-opens to all pupils</u>
<u>Wednesday 5th—Thursday 6th June</u>	—	<u>Reception Vision Screening</u>
<u>Thursday 13th June</u>	—	<u>Father's and Friends PHSA Event</u>
<u>Monday 17th —Friday 21st June</u>	—	<u>Arts Week</u>
<u>Thursday 27th June</u>	—	<u>Summer-Time Dance</u>
<u>Sunday 23rd June</u>	—	<u>PHSA Colour Run</u>
<u>Friday 5th July</u>	—	<u>PHSA Taylor Mania Event @ 5.30pm (Juniors)</u>
<u>Monday 8th —Friday 12th July</u>	—	<u>Get ACTIVE Week</u>
<u>Wednesday 10th July</u>	—	<u>Race for Life</u>
<u>Friday 12th July</u>	—	<u>Sports Day</u>
<u>Wednesday 17th July</u>	—	<u>Attendance Fun Day for winning class</u>
<u>Tuesday 23rd July</u>	—	<u>School closes 1.30pm for Summer Break</u>
<u>Wednesday 24th July</u>	—	<u>School closed for staff training</u>

Please be aware that our term dates are different to Park Hill Junior School. Absences from our school due to the Junior school being closed will not be authorised. Our term dates and school calendar are available on our website.

