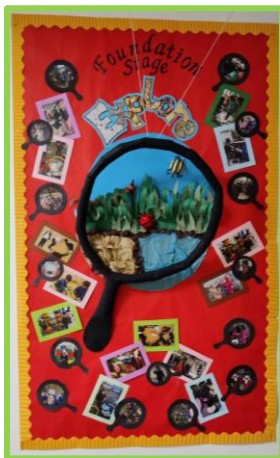


It has been another really exciting and enjoyable term at Parkwood, so before the other celebrations and reminders, I would like to share some of the great work happening across the school.

### FOUNDATION STAGE

What a very busy and enjoyable term we have had in Foundation Stage!



Our topic theme "Come outside" has led the way to some fantastic learning during the past few weeks. We have been planting up a storm and have been sowing carrot, strawberry and sunflower seeds, which was so much fun. We will update you on their progress. We have also been learning about recycling and now recycle all of our "fruit" waste so we can eventually feed our plants. We enjoyed our "Science week" and had fun finding out whether all bubbles were round and made our own magnet mazes. We definitely love investigating In FS and love learning about the world around us.

We rounded off our topic with a trip to Riverside Country Park. We met some of the park rangers and they took us on scavenger hunt around the park, where we spent time looking for signs of Spring

and local wildlife. The children were absolute superstars and they are certainly a real credit to our school!

### YEAR 1

It has been another exciting term in year 1 covering a large variety of topics. In history we have travelled through time, meeting inventors and finding out about how they have changed the world with their idea. We visited Leonardo Da Vinci and learnt how to create a technical drawing and make a parachute. The Wright Brothers had us thinking about power and how to make and move our cars.

We have also looked at the Christian festival of Easter and finding out why it is important to many people.

In maths, the children have looked at numbers, this time to 50, and also how to measure length and capacity. There was also the added excitement of the work being sent home to be completed on the computer.



The children are continuing to make good progress with their reading and a big thank you for all the support that is given with listening to the children read at home. Another enjoyable term completed.

## YEAR 2

Year Two have had a wonderful time this term, finding more about the Great Fire of London. We were lucky enough to have the Rainbow Theatre come in and give us a fully immersive theatrical experience, where the children learnt a little more about how the events of the fire unfolded and what led up to the disaster.

We have also managed to fit in writing our newspaper reports, which have now been made into books which will be placed in the school library. We had a wonderful experience this week when we burnt the houses that had been made and we had a good singsong of London's Burning whilst the fire spread from house to house.

It was interesting to listen to the children get super excited when their house caught fire. We have also been busy building our dioramas which represent the fire and particularly Pudding Lane, where the first fire began.



In maths this term, we have been learning about 2d and 3d shapes, their properties and money. We have also been learning to solve one step and 2 step problems along with regular times table practice and arithmetic. In P.E the children have been improving their gymnastic skills including balance, travelling and jumping off different types of apparatus.

## YEAR 3

Year 3 have continued their pre-historic Discover journey with both The Bronze Age and the Iron Age. A particular highlight was our Bronze Age workshop where we got to see real axes and swords from these times. The Iron Man by Ted Hughes has been our core text and we can't wait to find out what happens at the end of the book this week. Our book trailers, made using i-movie on the i-pads have been great fun to create. We have enjoyed being film makers. In Science we have investigated forces and magnets. Our parents came in to visit our Discover Exhibition and it was wonderful to hear the Year 3 children talk so enthusiastically about their learning.



## YEAR 4

Year 4 have been immersed in the world of Ancient Greece over the last two terms. The children have explored the question 'Should we accept our place in society?' and explored the concepts of democracy, duty and rights by learning about the differences between Athens and Sparta, engaging with Greek myths and exploring the significance of Greek gods and goddesses. Highlights of this term have included making their very own Greek pots and engaging with a visit from Sir Teachalot, during which the children had the opportunity to become a Greek soldier for themselves!

In English, they have enjoyed reading 'The Legend of Podkin One-Ear' by Kieran Larwood and have produced some very impressive pieces of writing too. In Science, they have taken part in various experiments (some very messy ones!) to explore the human body and have, more recently, explored melting, evaporation and condensation too. Once again, we have been blown away by the commitment the children have shown to their learning – well done, Year 4!



### YEAR 5

This term, in Year 5, we have been answering the question 'What Causes Inequality?'



The children have explored the life of Jim Jarvis who was a Victorian street child. Through his eyes, they have come to understand what the Victorian era was like for many people who lived in poverty. We then discussed what made these people unequal and how the poorer Victorians could work to improve their lives. During our Science lessons, the children had great fun exploring a variety of materials.

They conducted many experiments to see if substances would dissolve, if mixtures could be separated and how to turn materials back into their original state. We are looking forward to our Victorian school trip to Kent Life next term.

### YEAR 6

Year six have thoroughly enjoyed finishing the 'Letters for the Lighthouse' book.

They have cracked codes, learnt some German words, and written exciting stories.

More recently the children have started to get ready for their SATs as these are just around the corner.



### SCHOOL UNIFORM AND HAIRY PROBLEMS

A quick reminder that wherever possible, aside from occasional non uniform and PE days, we want all our pupils to be dressed smartly in full school uniform. We would appreciate longer hair being tied back and the avoidance of hair furniture or unnecessary overstyling or dying. Jewellery is also creeping back in, and aside from small earrings, is not necessary or safe. School bags are the most practical type of bag and there is no need for make up. This isn't about being a fashion Scrooge or indeed jealousy over those with hair, it's simply that we want our pupils to look like smart primary school children during their days at Parkwood.



### CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team have shown they are clearly the team to beat!



The girls won first team, the boys were second team and the school were the combined girls and boys winners in this year's Medway cross country League! Fantastic results. It was amazing just to start competing with other schools after covid. Well done to all the athletes that ran in these races, it was a truly outstanding team performance.

### COVID CLINGING ON

Unfortunately, the school has been hit hard by Covid in the last term. On one day we had fourteen staff off as a result of Covid and this obviously puts a great deal of stress and strain on the normal running of the school. I'm really proud that we carried on and kept disruption to the minimum from the perspective of the pupils. Things have subsided a little but the 'common sense' approach remains the same. We would ask for honesty and caution from our parents, particularly as testing is being reduced. If your children are showing Covid symptoms or you have managed to get hold of a test and they are positive, please keep them at home until they are clearly, fully better or test negative.

It has also been brought to my attention that 'Covid' is being used as a reason for other forms of absence, such as holidays.

Given the impact the last two years has had on all our lives, I would politely suggest that this is not a good example to set and does not show respect to those who have been most seriously affected. As a school we will continue to do all we can, taking the right steps when we can and minimizing risk, whilst giving the children as normal a school year as we can.

### REMINDER - FACEBOOK

Just a reminder that a lot of the positive events and Wow! moments in the school, are caught and shared on our school Facebook page. If you are able to access this, then please follow! It has been a really good way to keep lots of people up to date and share the children's experiences in school with families and the wider school community.



### PSA

I am delighted to say that the Parkwood Schools Association is back up and running after two years of events being compromised by Covid. I know the PSA will be sending out information separately about their upcoming AGM and the first events coming up but it's great to see so many parents wanting to be involved as well as such enthusiastic leadership and we can't wait to work with the PSA again, so that we can raise vital funds for the school which will directly benefit our current pupils.

### BOOK FAIR

Our Book Fair has been a great success. As a result of sponsorship as well as money spent on books by our parents, we have over £4000 to spend on new books. This is fantastic! It shows how, together, we are empowering children to want to read and building up a love of books. I wanted to thank Mrs Pigott and Mrs Bird for all they are doing to promote the book fair and reading in general across the school and parents for their support.



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Parents, Staff, Governors and most of all our pupils, for all their support and hard work and wish everyone a very restful, happy and enjoyable Spring holiday.

**Mr A Moir**  
**Headteacher**

#### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr  | Last Day of Term 4                                 |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr | Term 5 – Pupils back in School (this is a Tuesday) |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr | IOW Parents Talk – Year 6                          |
|                      | Football Match – Year 5/6 at Parkwood Primary      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr | Year 5 Trip  |
| 28 <sup>TH</sup> Apr | PSA AGM Meeting (to be confirmed)                  |
|                      | Easter Egg Hunt after School                       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> May  | KS2 – SATs Monday – Thursday                       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> May | Curriculum Presentation – Year 1 14.30pm           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> May | Last Day of Term 5                                 |