



End of Term Newsletter Summer 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to be able to write our final ever newsletter from Dorset House! Our time here has been too long, punctuated with disappointments and broken promises from those who have held the purse strings. However, as I write this to you, we are packing up in readiness for the move. The water is being tested, dates for moving our things have been set and we are beginning to imagine our bigger, brighter future. Roll on September!

Good News on student outcomes

We have now had our KS2 outcomes published and these present a very positive picture alongside our results from KS1 and Reception.

So, how have we done so far?

Results in Reception:

In Reception children are assessed on whether they have made a 'good level of development' (GLD). I am pleased to be able to report that our outcomes have improved significantly this year, rising 9% to 86%. Last year the national average was 69% whilst the Bournemouth average was 72%. I am sure you can agree that the Reception team deserve a huge pat on the back – well done team!

Results in Key Stage 1:

In the Summer Term in Year 1, the pupils are assessed on their phonics knowledge. This year's pass rate was 83%. This was a 9% increase on the previous year's results and 3% above last year's National Average.

In Year 2 this year, the children who did not pass this Phonics Screening Check in Year 1, are reassessed on their phonics ability. Last year, the school result was 86%. This year, we achieved a pass rate of 97%, an 11% increase.

Year 2 are also assessed in the subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths. In Reading, we achieved 77%, an 11% increase on last year and 3% higher than the national average (2015-16). For Writing, we achieved 77%, a 6% increase on last year and 2% above the national average (2015-16). In Maths, 74% achieved the Expected Standard, this was above National Averages (2016-2017) by 1%.

Over the course of this year, and with a very transient year group, we are especially proud of our results and achievements in Year 2.

Results in Key Stage 2

At KS2, the children are assessed under framework of working towards, working at age related expectations or working at greater depth. We are incredibly happy to report good news in terms of attainment and pupil progress for the current year 6 children. It is clear that there has been a significant increase from last years combined score (reading, writing and maths.) We achieved 61%, an incredible rise of 31%. In Maths, 71% achieved age related expectations, in writing 68% and in reading 67%. The children made wonderful progress and demonstrated a huge level of commitment to their studies throughout the year. A big congratulations and well done to Year 6!

Staff changes:

At this time of year all schools have to say goodbye to teachers, whilst this is often very sad, it is all part and parcel of school life.

Miss Josey is moving on to Parley First School, this is taking her love of small schools to a whole new level as her new role is teacher in a very small school. I know that all the students in Holly class have made great progress this year, she will be hugely missed.

Mr Gibbons is moving on from his role as a Year 5 teacher. Mr Gibbons has turned his hand to many things in his time at Parkfield. We will particularly miss his love of music and the passion he has helped to fire up in so many of our budding Musicians. He will be joining Lee Hurst Swan School in Salisbury.

Mrs Cowgill is taking her maths expertise to a local primary school, their gain is very much our loss. A brilliant mathematician and teacher, we will miss her wonderful, calm and generous spirit.

Mr Symons is moving a short distance from our new site to a teaching role in a well-established local school. I am sure he will benefit from being part of a bigger team and we thank him for his service.

Ms Griggs has been our teacher of Spanish for two years, she has thrown herself into all aspects of school life and has made an invaluable contribution, particularly on many residential trips. Her expertise will now benefit children in a primary school closer to home.

Mr Journeaux is swapping the sunshine of Bournemouth for the even sunnier climes of Dubai. He has been an incredibly popular teacher and will be missed by staff, students and parents.

Mr Claxton is moving on to his first Deputy Headship, congratulations to him. He has done a great job this year helping to improve student progress, he has undoubtedly played a significant role in improving our results.

Finally, we will be saying farewell to **Mr Thurstan** who is re-igniting his own travel bug by taking on the Deputy Headship of an international school in Bologna. I for one will miss his matter of fact northern approach to well, everything. I can see a remake of 'Last of the Summer Wine' set in Italy, I'm sure it would work.

Mrs Ware, Mrs Grit and Mrs Phillips, three of our wonderful Learning Support Assistants are also moving on to pastures new. We wish them well in their new roles.

We have been very successful in recruiting a number of new Teachers to join us in September.

Mr Alam is joining us as a PE teacher, he has been working in and around Bournemouth since graduating and if we are ever able to muster a staff cricket team, he will be number 1 on the team sheet.

We have been very fortunate to recruit an extremely experienced Maths teacher in **Mrs Barrett**. She joins us from a very successful school in the city and has a track record in helping students reach their grades. She will take on the leadership of Maths in the Secondary school.

I am also delighted to announce that we have recruited an excellent geography teacher in **Ms Walton**, a great teacher and Bournemouth resident who joins us from a school in Southampton.

I am also pleased to inform you that **Miss Richard** will be changing her role with us from September. Having completed her degree here in Bournemouth, she has worked within the catering industry and as deputy manager in a nursery, has a Montessori Diploma, speaks multiple languages as well as being a general all round wonder woman. We are delighted that she will take on the role of Year 1 teacher.

We have also been very pleased to appoint **Mrs Darwich** as our part time teacher of Spanish, she comes with a wealth of experience and being from Spain, she is a fluent in everything Spanish.

Finally on staffing news we should be congratulating Miss Goodrum as she is getting married in the summer. She will returning in September as **Mrs Cooke**.

The New Site:

With the move to the new site finally upon us, we need to carefully consider how we will get access to the site at various times.

Drop off in the morning:

In the morning will be from 7.30am for those booked in with St Claire's and from 8.00am for all other students. Parents will come through the main entrance (gate 2), turn right and park in the bays available.

All students who arrive between 8.00 - 8.25am will be encouraged to come on to the site via the gate opposite the parents' car park. Parents will be able to walk through and drop off their children into reception and Year 1. We hope that parents of children from Year 2 onwards will say goodbye to their children, they will then be supervised until 8.20am when a bell will ring and they will be expected to join their respective class lines.

When leaving the site, parents will need to leave from gate 3, this will be an exit only route during pick up and drop off periods.

Pick up at the end of the school day:

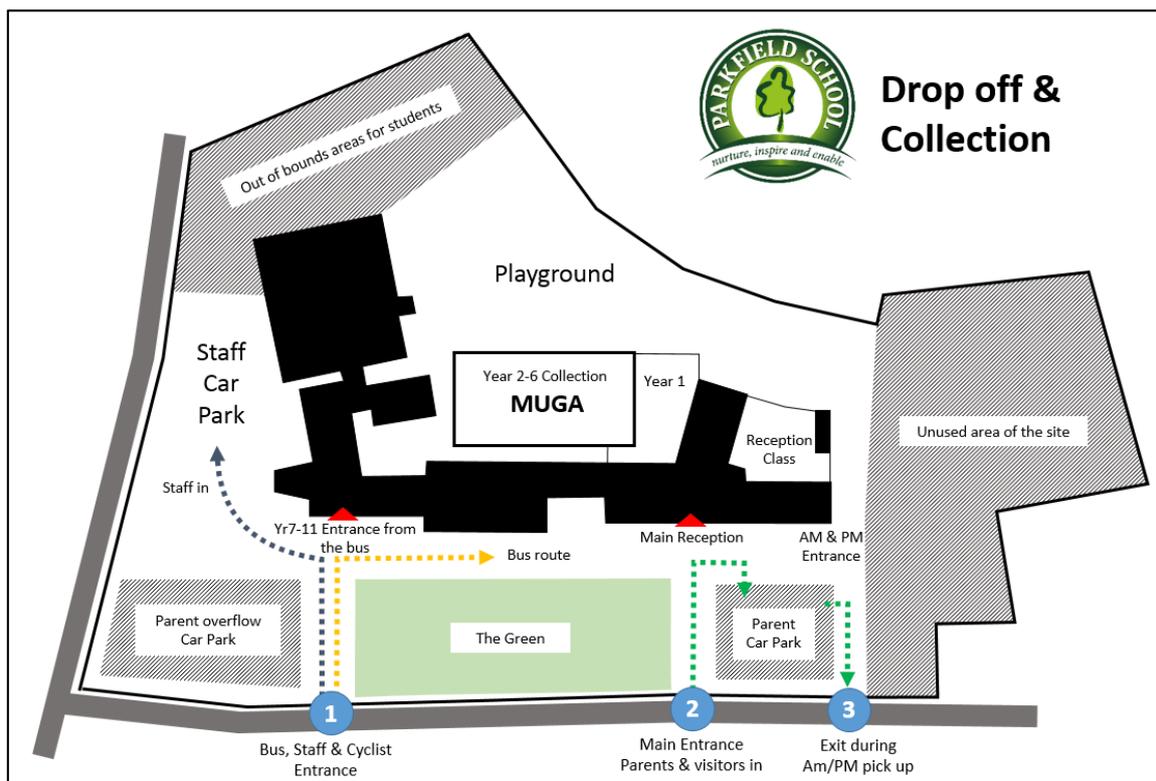
Access to the site in the afternoon will be through the main entrance (gate 2). Parents can park in front of the main reception. In the event that these spaces are filled, parents will be encouraged to carefully drive to the other end of the site adjacent to the staff parking area. Access to the site will then be via the pavement at the front of the site. Primary children are ready to be collected at 3.20pm. Reception and Year 1 can be collected from their classroom doors. Years 2-6 can be collected from the Multi Use Games Area (Muga). Secondary students being collected will need to make their own way to parent

vehicles. Children leaving on the bus will be lined up separately and escorted to the buses. The buses will be parked in front of the sports hall, the bus will leave at 3.30pm.

Parental access outside of drop off and pick up:

Parents needing to visit the site during the day will need to enter and leave through gate 2, park in the car park on the right and enter the building through the main reception.

We would actively encourage families to use our bus or to car share with other parents. We will do our very best to ensure that access to and from the site will be smooth during the early weeks of the term. However, we will be learning about the site in the same way you are. We would ask that you are patient with us, whilst encouraging you to give us feedback on anything that isn't working for you.



Bicycles:

Students cycling to school will be able to lock their bicycles to secure railings at the front of the sports hall. We strongly recommend students to wear helmets and other safety equipment when cycling.

School uniform:

We have reviewed the school uniform policy during the summer term. Very little has changed, however I want to signal our intent to enforce the uniform rules next year. I have been particularly concerned by the uniform of children in the secondary section of the school. The main problems centre on incorrect footwear and general untidiness (untucked shirts, top buttons etc). In September, students will no longer be allowed to wear trainers, even if they are black. All children will be required to wear sensible shoes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are unsure about what to buy for your child.

If children attend school in incorrect uniform, we will do our best to provide something for the day (including black plimsolls.) However if students are regularly coming to school in incorrect uniform they will be placed into isolation for the day.

Attendance:

Attendance continues to be a huge area of concern for the school. At both Primary and Secondary we fall some way behind the national averages. Our approach to attendance in terms of procedures is in the process of changing considerably, it may be that you have already noticed some differences.

Leave of absence is a significant issue for the school and families taking a holiday during term time is particularly problematic. It is unlikely that the school will grant leave of absence for anything other than exceptional circumstances. This will then lead to families being fined if they take time off during term time.

We are also very worried that a fairly large group of students, particularly in the Secondary school are deemed to be 'persistently absent' (absence that is below 90%). Whilst it is always our intention to work in partnership with families to resolve poor attendance, it is important to remember that the legal responsibility for good attendance lies with the parent, and poor attendance that does not improve can lead to legal action being taken. We hope that through positive dialogue we can avoid this.

Home school Agreement:

We have re-written our home school agreement for September, we now have simplified version for Year R – Year 5 and a fuller version for Year 6 – Year 11. This will be sent out with the data checking packs in September. Please talk to your child about the agreement, sign it and return it for our records.

Behaviour expectations in the secondary school:

At times all schools revisit their expectations of students. In September we will be very much 'lifting the bar' on what we expect from our secondary students in terms of behaviour and attitude to learning. The vast majority of students behave well every lesson, every day. However, a small group of students are on occasions letting themselves down.

So, at the start of the new term we will have higher expectations of all our young people. However, those students who are occasionally disrupting learning will be a particular focus. If a student is disrupting the learning of other students, they will be given one warning about their behaviour. If this warning is not heeded, the student will be removed to isolation for five consecutive periods, including any breaks during this time. If students have repeated periods of isolation they are likely to receive a fixed term exclusion.

CAT testing:

Early in the new term, Year 7 students will be asked to complete CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests). These tests provide us with additional useful information that can be helpful when thinking about a child's strengths and weaknesses. The information provided are then used alongside the SATs results.

Key events in the Autumn Term 1:

Monday	04-Sep	Unpacking Day
Tuesday	05-Sep	Unpacking Day
Wednesday	06-Sep	Reception stay and play
Thursday	07-Sep	Reception stay and play
Friday	08-Sep	Teddy bear picnic
Monday	11-Sep	Reception half days
Tuesday	12-Sep	Reception half days
Wednesday	13-Sep	Reception half days
Friday	15-Sep	Reception Full Time
Thursday	28-Sep	Open Evening
Tuesday	17-Oct	Parents Evening (Class/Subject)

Food

We have decided to renew our contract with Chartwells for the foreseeable future. However, we would be interested in talking to families about alternatives that may be available.

In the new term we intend to serve hot food from the multi-purpose hall (when it is finished), this is very close to the primary half of the school. In the first instance we will need to use the main canteen on the secondary side. When all the building work is completed the multi-purpose hall will deliver hot meals and the main canteen will be used for secondary packed lunches.

Healthy Snacks

We would just like to remind all Primary parents that we are a healthy eating school so we would be most grateful if you could bear this in mind when sending children with snacks for break time. We like to see the children eating fresh fruit and vegetables, which are provided by the school, as these are vital for good health. We are also a **nut free** school as a number of children have severe allergies.

The Creative Curriculum:

Look out for exciting news of our new creative curriculum during the Autumn term.

And finally...

We very much hope that you and your families have a wonderful summer break. The staff at Parkfield are very excited about the new term ahead and after a well-deserved rest, they will be raring to go. Thank you for all the support I have received from families in my short time at Parkfield. I am very much looking forward to the coming academic year and seeing what we might achieve now that we are home.

Best wishes

