



# Park School and Outreach Service



Newsletter September 2024

It's all in how you look at things...

*We have 185 school days or 185 opportunities each year, to make a difference, to strive for improvement, to develop and nurture talent and most of all, to have FUN whilst we are doing it. This term we will see a huge push for improved attendance across the school and if you read on (although I'm hoping you will, seeing as you opened the file) you'll see why being in school is so important.*

*The first few weeks in school are always a busy time, so please keep your eyes peeled for updates on details about the Year 8 Bonding Day, School Photographer and lots more. As always, the school Facebook page, website, Class Dojo and this astronomical newsletter will keep you posted.*

Just a reminder, if you haven't already, to **join Parent Mail** as the school would like to be 100% cashless. If you could pay your child's HE money and school fund contribution this way too. Please check that you are signed up to Parent Mail and **contact the office if you need support.**

**Return me ASAP**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



*Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfill their potential.*

*Here at Park, we recognise that punctual and regular attendance, alongside high standards of behaviour, is an essential prerequisite to effective learning and therefore, we are committed to maintaining high levels of attendance, punctuality and positive behaviour.*

*90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.*

*We know that there are many reasons why a student may be absent and there are times when it can be challenging to maintain a high level of attendance. On pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter we take a closer look at how we can all work together to provide the best possible start for the pupils of Park School.*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 19.09.24 - School Council Elections
- 20.09.24 - Jeans for Genes Day
- 25/26.09.24 - Photographer
- 27.09.24 - Year 8 Bonding Day
- 30.09.24 - Exceptional Closure. School will be closed to all students.
- 10.10.24 - Young Minds Hello Yellow Day
- 24.10.24 - Parent Teacher meetings
- 25.10.24 - Halloween Bop
- 28.10.24 - 01.11.2024 - Half-Term break.
- 04.11.24 - School re-opens for the new half-term.

Website: [www.parkschoolbelfast.co.uk](http://www.parkschoolbelfast.co.uk)  
Telephone: 02890450513  
Email: [info@park.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@park.belfast.ni.sch.uk)  
Facebook: Park School

### **The Refurb continues...**

I'm sure if you've visited school, it all seems a little hectic at the moment. This is because of building work to convert the changing rooms into a classroom with a toilet and store, a multipurpose room and a hygiene facilities room.



for 28th October completion!!

We are also getting a new roof on part of the school and we've had both staircases' vinyl replaced!

## **Speech Therapy at Park**

We are pleased to announce that Park has been allocated one morning per month for speech therapy. Speech therapists will attend and work at developing speech, language and communication skills in school. Although this is not a great deal of time; it's a great start. We hope it will increase to further meet the needs of our students in the future.



To try to help our families as much as possible, we continue to run a pre-loved uniform shop.

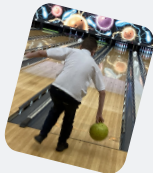
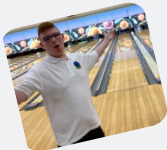
There are still items remaining if you would like to avail of this **FREE** service.

If you have any uniform that your child's grown out of, then you can donate it to school, and we'll help it find a new home.

Please contact the school office for more information.

## **Back to School Antics...**

Each year group have enjoyed activities outside of school this month. As you can see from the images below, the opportunity to build relationships and develop a sense of togetherness has been a success.



## **Runderful\***

\* Adjective (informal) how you feel the minute after your run.

Following on from the success of Miss Johnston's first Belfast marathon on Sunday 5th May, she's actually agreed to do another one!

On Sunday 27th October, Miss Johnston will be running the Dublin Marathon to raise funds for Park.

Good luck to Miss Johnston in all of her training!



# Attendance Special - The 100%ers have their say...

100%  
ATTENDANCE  
2023 - 2024



I like coming to school to do my favourite lessons. P.E. is great and so is H.E.

100%  
ATTENDANCE  
2023 -



I had 100% attendance because I love coming to school.

100%  
ATTENDANCE  
2023



I am very proud of achieving 100% attendance. Will I do it again this year? Why not!

100%  
ATTENDANCE  
2023 - 2024



Although my mum makes me come to school, I'm pleased she does because I have fun and learn things.

100%  
ATTENDANCE  
2023 - 2024



Attendance certificates will be awarded to pupils who achieve 100% attendance at the end of each month. Those pupils will be in with the chance of winning an Amazon Voucher.

A gold attendance badge will be awarded to pupils for excellent attendance if they achieve it over the combined next three months, so they have to achieve 100% September, 100% October and 100% November.

# HOW PARENTS AND CARERS CAN HELP IMPROVE ATTENDANCE...

*Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.*



*Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.*



*Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours where possible.*

*Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness.*



*Take family holidays outside of term time.*

*Talk to your child about their day at school and take an interest in their school work (including homework).*

*Attend parent evenings and school events when possible.*

*Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.*

*Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.*



**Miss School -  
Miss Out!!**



## Attendance percentages explained...

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

## NEW TO PARK

And finally, a HUGE Park welcome to all the new staff who have joined us in school this year. In the next issue we will have a 'meet the staff' section and learn a little more about what makes them tick.

