



# PARK HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Stanhope Road, Croydon, CR0 5NS Tel: 020 8686 8623

RESPECTFUL - KIND - RESILIENT - RIGOROUS - ASPIRATIONAL



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is nearly the end of the first term, and it has been a busy start of the school year! Thank you to you all.

What an exciting term it has been with all the super learning that is taking place, the workshops, school trips, sports matches, team events, celebrations i.e. Diwali, Black & Asian History Month, Christmas concerts etc.....it has been very busy but fun for the children. It was such a pleasure listening in to the conversations between the House & Sports Captains and the parents they were showing around the school on our Y2 open day. What struck me most was their knowledge of their curriculum and its aims; and how proud they are of their School Houses and their learning environment. We are so proud of all our pupils because they make us proud, and I am sure they do you too!

It is a joy, when leaders stand at the gates to see the children come into school, happy to learn. We as adults that work in the school listen to all they have to say to us because we are skilled in identifying and addressing any barriers to their learning. One of the things you will see different is a green netting along the field fence facing the Cotelands end of Park Hill, a beginning to us listening to our pupils. The children have spoken about what affects the way they feel about their safety and we have listened and acted. A small patch of the fence facing Chichester road is yet to be completed. In this climate of funding and budget cuts, we have to maximise the way we spend our funding whilst keeping our pupils safe.

We hope the community will work with us, as we listen and act.

Our surveys will be out next week, please take time out to complete them – working with you to make Park Hill Junior School a happy learning environment for your children is our utmost priority.

Have a restful holiday, when the time comes.

**Ann Pratt**  
Headteacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PHSA Christmas Fair
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Group A Christmas Concert 1.45pm
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Group B Christmas Concert 1.45pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas lunch
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Group A Christmas Concert 1.45pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Group B Christmas Concert 1.45pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Disco 5.45 – 7pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	First day of term

## NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Congratulations to 3P and 6E who achieved 98% attendance in November, despite the colds and chicken pox!

Also to 3I, 4DT, 6E and 6G pupils for maximising their learning time by being in school on time!

Thank you parents and carers for supporting your child to be in school, on time every day.

Class	%	No of late arrivals
3P	98.62	15
3I	97.31	1
3M	96.77	9
4K	96.47	5
4DT	97.62	2
4G	97.93	21
5A	97.54	7
5F	93.47	10
5H	92.14	14
6M	96.14	8
6E	98.11	1
6G	97.86	2

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS: ARE YOU MISSING OUT?** Every year we have a few children who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) miss out as an application has not been made. Hopefully you have completed a FSM form and are already in the process of finding out if you are eligible. You may not realise that this application needs to be made each academic year your child is in the school. This is particularly important for those children joining the school for the first time. If you qualify for FSM, then the school also qualifies to receive £1,320 additional funding to further enhance the learning experience of your child. For further information and the Croydon online application form visit: <https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/free-school-meals> Alternatively, you are welcome to visit the School Office and complete a form with assistance from the staff

## CONTACT DETAILS

From time to time we need to contact parents/carers in the case of an **emergency** at school.  
Please ensure our school office have **two** up-to-date emergency contact numbers for your child. Thank you.

## DISCO

Tickets are now on sale for the Park Hill Juniors Christmas Disco!

Just in case this is the first time you have children attending the school Disco, we thought we would let you know what it is all about, the format of the night and what your children will be up to.

The Christmas Disco is on Tuesday 17th December and will start at 5.45pm. The price is £3.50 per child via ParentPay or £4 on the night (please note 'tickets' are not used, instead your child's name will be listed on the door). All Children need to be collected from school at 7.00pm by a responsible adult.

As well as the Disco, where the children can boogie in their best dresses or party pants, there are refreshments for sale and glow sticks to buy.

The children have a wonderful time and grow in confidence with each school Disco. If you have any concerns please speak to your child's class teacher after school, or contact the school office.

Please note, only children that attend Park Hill Junior School are allowed in the Disco and mobile phones are not permitted.

## NEW TABLET/CONSOLE FOR CHISTMAS?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones tablets, games consoles or laptops – and even your home broadband.

You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online or limit the time your child spends online.

If you would like help setting up parental controls on your child's phone or tablet, please see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

Or call the NSPCC and O2 helpline to speak to a friendly expert: 0808 800 5002

## ADVERSE WEATHER

We aim to stay open whatever the weather. However, whenever it snows, there is a decision to make as to whether the school can open and, if so, whether we can operate a normal day. This decision is never taken lightly, and a number of factors are considered:

- Your child's safety
- condition of the roads
- condition of the site
- number of teachers who might be delayed or unable to reach the school due to their journeys.

Central to all of these considerations is the safety of our children and staff and if we felt that we could not operate safely, we would close.

If there is any change to our normal operation, we will text all parents and it will be posted on our website by 7.00am. (It will also be on Opencheck <https://opencheck.atomwide.com/>).

In these conditions, there is also the option sometimes to open the school later to ensure that staff and children can get into school safely. If this is the case, once again you will be alerted by text and via the school website by 7am.

Similarly, if conditions change and we need to close early, we will notify you as early as possible. Please continue to check the school's website for any updates: <http://www.phjs.co.uk/adverse-weather>

Please ensure our school office has your up to date phone number. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

## FREE CHILDREN'S E-BOOKS

We know how hard it is to make time for trips to the library with everything else that's going on at this time of year, so we wanted to share with you this great tip, from one of our lovely parent volunteers!

Signing up for a library card takes minutes at any of Croydon's libraries, including Central Library. Once your child has a card they can access a lot of free online resources, from home, including books via Borrow Box on an iPad or tablet. There is a good range of both audio and e-children's books and all you need is the number on their library card to access, and to download the Borrow Box app.

[https://fe.bolindadigital.com/wldcs\\_bol\\_fo/b2i/productOverview.html?b2bSite=4671&browseItemId=354119&fromPage=1](https://fe.bolindadigital.com/wldcs_bol_fo/b2i/productOverview.html?b2bSite=4671&browseItemId=354119&fromPage=1)

Another place that has good e-books online for 3-11 year olds is the OUP's Oxford Owl website. You just need to register for free, then you can read the e-books.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Thank you to our parent volunteer for sharing this information. We hope you and your child enjoy exploring these free books!



## HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME & PLAY DAYS

When the school is closed for holidays we operate a holiday play scheme (except Christmas week) between 8am and 6pm. The day is split into sessions of 'free play,' 'structured activities' such as arts and crafts and sports sessions. Children who attend are required to bring a packed lunch. However, children who remain all day are offered a light snack after 4pm. Places are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

On staff training days the school operates Play Days where children from the Junior School can come to school from 9-3.30pm to play with their friends and participate in fun activities. Breakfast and After Schools club operate as normal on these days. For further details, or to book a place, please contact Helen McCarthy on 07960610393

## PARK HILL SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PHSA team have been busy elves making lots of exciting plans for this year's Christmas Fair on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December! We're very grateful to these parents who give up their time to raise much needed funds for our schools.

The Christmas fair is an important annual fund raising event, and one that we hope you will support. There will be lots going on at the fair from games & crafts for children, tombolas, cakes & refreshments, plus lots of Christmas gifts and goodies to take home and music from our school choir. Someone very special is also flying in to meet us, so it's time to make sure everyone is on their best behaviour!

Not only is the Fair a really great opportunity for families to have fun and meet other parents and staff but we will be raising money for new resources for our children and their learning environments. Hope to see you there!

### PARENT/CARER/VISITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

This has been updated. Please find it here:

<https://www.phjs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/11/Parent-Carer-Code-of-Conduct-Nov-2019.pdf>

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The children of Park Hill Junior School were invited again, for the annual Christmas Decoration Festival at St Matthew's Church.

Eleven children from school walked to St Matthew's and decorated a tree. The theme this year was Christmas Songs.

The children decided to choose 'C is for Christmas' from the school production and hung their decorations beautifully!



### SHOE BOX APPEAL

This Christmas, the School Council has chosen to support our wider community by collecting gifts in a box to help bring a little joy and happiness to those in need during the festive season. The shoe boxes will be distributed by the charity Nightwatch to homeless people here in Croydon, and by Melqosh Mission International to child amputees in Sierra Leone.

We are asking children throughout the school, their parents, carers and staff to donate what they can. Please wrap your shoe box in Christmas paper and, once filled, secure with a thick elastic band. Not everything needs to be new. Recycled items are fine as long as they are in good condition (not toothbrushes).

#### ***Suggested items for homeless people include:***

Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Socks  
Chocolate/Biscuits/mince pies  
Toothbrushes (new)/toothpaste  
Flannels  
Soap  
Reading books

#### ***Suggested items for child amputees include:***

Pencils (new)	Toothbrushes
Colouring pencils	Flannels/soap
Pens	Sunhats
Rubbers	Bracelets
Sharpeners	Hair ribbons and clips
Rulers	Small toys/games
Reading books	Craft materials
Note pads	Sweets (must be wrapped)
Colouring books	



Please include a note stating whether the box is for a boy or a girl, and whether it is for a teenager or younger child (children's boxes)/or for a man or a woman (boxes for homeless people).

Christmas cards may also be included in both sets of boxes if you wish.

If you are unable to give a filled box, please donate what items you can or a decorated shoe box. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

**All donations should arrive in school by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 3:30pm.**

**Thank you for your support,  
Park Hill Juniors' School Council**