



PARK HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

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

RESPECTFUL - KIND - RESILIENT - RIGOROUS - ASPIRATIONAL



4th December 2018

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It is nearly the end of my first term at Park Hill Juniors, I would like to say a big thank you to all for making me feel very welcome here at PHJS!

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.

I have met most parents at the gates and the different events and got to know the children better.

Making improvements in a school should be at the heart of everything, therefore you will be asked to take a survey exploring your thoughts on what we are doing at PHJS and also an opportunity for you to have your say. Please take time out to answer the questions on the online questionnaire so we can have your views. We want to continue to make our children's learning a challenging but exciting one.

The surveys will be online from the week beginning 10th December for two weeks. The children and staff will also be completing surveys around this time in school.

Again, thank you for making me feel welcome at Park Hill Junior School. Have a restful holiday, when the time comes.

Ann Pratt
Headteacher

E-SAFETY - FORTNITE VIDEO GAME

You may be familiar with the popular video game Fortnite, the online shooter game. While it's not automatically dangerous, it does carry some risks. Please look out for your children playing this game and do what you can to keep them safe.

You will find a factsheet at the end of this newsletter to help you do just that. It will help you to feel more informed, decide whether you're happy for your child to play the game, and learn how to set up parental controls.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

At Park Hill Juniors we value your input on ensuring your children are in school on time and every day.

5 minutes late each day means **3 days** lost per academic year

10 minutes late each day means **6.5 days** lost per academic year

Please give your child a good start to the day and the best opportunities for learning!

15 minutes late each day means **10 days** lost per academic year

20 minutes late per day means **13 days** lost per academic year

30 minutes lost each day means **19 days** lost per academic year

Attendance for November 2018:

Class	%	No of late arrivals
3G	97.22	9
3I	97.86	10
3P	97.08	9
4K	94.01	17
4L	97.08	12
4M	97.48	17
5A	97.08	3
5F	97.77	9
5G	99.08	4
6E	96.21	3
6H	97.94	2
6M	95.35	11

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.

Holiday club will be running on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th January 2019, but closed from Monday 24th December till Tuesday 1st January 2018.

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. The next Play Day is on Friday 21st December.

For further details, or to book a place, please contact Helen McCarthy on 07960610393

CONTACT DETAILS

From time to time we need to contact parents / carers in the case of an emergency.

Please ensure our school office have **two** up-to-date emergency contact numbers for your child.

Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December:

6th Dec – Dress Rehearsals – costumes needed
6th Dec – Headteacher drop-in 3.45pm
7th Dec – PHSA Christmas Fair
10th Dec - Group A Christmas Concert 1.30pm
11th Dec - Group B Christmas Concert 1.30pm
13th Dec - Group A Christmas Concert 1.30pm
14th Dec - Group B Christmas Concert 1.30pm
18th Dec – Christmas lunch and hat making
19th Dec – Christmas Disco 5.45 – 7pm **(NB. ALL children must be collected by an adult)**
20th Dec – Last day of term
21st Dec - Trust Training Day – School closed to pupils. Play Day places available.

January:

7th Jan – First day back for children
16th Jan – Parent Consultations
17th Jan – Parent Consultations
25th Jan – Trust training Day - School closed to pupils. Play Day places available.
31st Jan – Bedtime Stories Event after school

ADVERSE WEATHER

We have added a new section to our school website which outlines our procedures in the event of adverse weather. With snow forecast for January, please take a minute to look at this page just in case:

www.phjs.co.uk/adverse-weather/

Thank you

PHSA CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PHSA are busy planning for our Christmas Fair on Friday 7th December. Thank you to everyone who has donated Jolly Jingle Jars or items for our Tombolas. Please bring any cake donations for the cake stall in on Friday morning (7th December). Please come along to the Fair after school on Friday between 3.45 and 5pm. Listen to our choir singing Christmas Carols, buy a homemade cake and visit the many stalls! There's still time to buy raffle tickets - £1 each. Winners will be announced at 4:30pm at the Christmas Fair in the Junior School Hall.

DROP-INS

The next Headteacher drop-in session will be on Thursday 6th December at 3.45pm in the school hall.

All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for all your donations to our Children In Need Appeal. We raised a total of £270.59 for the charity!

HOME – SCHOOL LINK WORKER

We would like to welcome and introduce you to Paula Evans, the newest member of the Park Hill Junior School Team. Paula is an experienced Family Support Worker who has a wealth of experience in supporting families all over Croydon.

If you would like to meet Paula to talk about positive parenting, problems with housing or just to say hello, you will find her in the playground most mornings before and after school. Alternatively leave a message with the school office and she'll call you back.



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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://](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/free-school-meals)

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

PHJS TEAM NEWS

Netball Team

The netball season started off well for the year 5 and 6 team. So far we have played 3 matches, 2 of which have been wins. In our first match against St Peter's we won 10-1 which helped to boost team spirits, so that when we played Christchurch, we were able to win 15-0. We were very impressed with the girls' teamwork and developing netball skills. Our latest match against Howard was our trickiest yet. Their defence was impressive and so our girls had to work extra hard to maintain possession of the ball and get into a shooting position. Unfortunately we were unable to beat Howard but with a score of 5-4 to them it was definitely a close and even matched game. We hope our winning streak will make a come-back during our next match against The Minster.

Chess team

On Saturday 17th November, Park Hill's Chess Team competed in the Surrey East and Sussex Champion's League qualifications at Chipstead Valley Primary School. They played against 15 other primary schools and played 20 matches in total. Overall, Park Hill came 5th in the tournament, scoring 12 wins and one draw, qualifying for the State School's final. The next leg of the cup is in January and they will be practising hard between now and then!

Football Team

The football season started off well for the year 5 and 6 team. So far we have played 5 matches, 3 of which have been wins. Our season began with a cup match against St.Johns which we won 1-0. We are looking forward to the second round match against Woodcote on Tuesday 4th December. Our first league game saw us lose narrowly 2-1 at Ridgeway. However the team responded to the brilliantly with 2 consecutive away league victories. The first a 3-2 win at Gresham and the second an impressive 7-4 win at Elmhurst. Unfortunately we lost our first home game of the season to Elmhurst 1-0. We hope to get back to winning ways in our next match against Woodcote. Thank you for your support so far this season.

OUR CHOIR PERFORMING AT THE WHITGIFT CENTRE ON MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER



SCHOOL FUND

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have been able to contribute to our School Fund already. We understand some of you have had difficulties with ParentPay – this has now been rectified.

The School Fund is a vital supplement to our school's budget. It will provide additional funds needed to maintain the high level of quality resources available to our children.

Thank you also to the parents and carers who offer support in other ways, including listening to children read, making costumes and supporting our PHSA.

HEAD LICE / NITS

Please check your child's hair on a regular basis. We have recently been notified of cases in the school. For further information on how to prevent and treat head lice please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/

FORTNITE FACTSHEET FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Fortnite is an online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. The most popular version is Fortnite: Battle Royale, which sees up to 100 players pitted against each other to stay alive on an island. Players can build and demolish structures, and collect weapons, supplies and armour to help them along the way.

Players shoot each other using a range of lethal weapons, but the brightly-coloured, cartoon-style graphics and lack of bloodshed mean it doesn't feel too gory or graphic.

To play, the age recommendation is **12 and above** due to 'mild violence', although you don't have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still log on easily.

Fortnite: Battle Royale is **free to download** on PC/Mac, Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch and iOS devices (Apple phones and tablets). It's coming to Android soon. It has about 45 million monthly users worldwide.

What are the concerns?

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about the:

- **Communication between players:** a chat function allows players to talk to each other either over a headset and microphone, or using messaging. Children could use it to speak to strangers, or it could put them at risk of cyberbullying
- **In-app purchases:** players can build up large bills on their parents' accounts by buying cosmetic items like outfits for your character and better-looking weapons (otherwise known as 'skins')
- **Addictive nature of the game:** anecdotal stories tell of children staying up all night to play, or falling asleep in lessons after playing for too long. Some commentators attribute this to the communal feel of the game – you can play with your friends – and the game is different every time you play, keeping it fresh

What safety options are available to parents?

Use the parental controls on the gaming device

Most devices allow you to **set time limits** on game play, **set age limits** for content, and **restrict in-app purchases**.

Visit the website 'ask about games' for links to detailed instructions on the device your child uses – the site covers Playstation 3, Playstation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Apple and Android phones, and Nintendo Switch.

[Ask About Games](http://www.askaboutgames.com)

www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls

The battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes. When trying to limit your child's screen time, make the most of this natural stopping point. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20 minute increments.

Turn off the voice chat feature

Speak to your child to make sure they know this feature exists, and encourage them to use the options below if they encounter someone who is offensive or inappropriate.

You can disable the voice chat function in the game if you:

- Open the settings menu (the 3 lines on the right-hand-side of the screen), then choose the 'cog' icon
- Select the 'audio' tab
- You should be able to turn off 'voice chat' by tapping the arrows next to it

You can also 'mute' individual players in the game by:

- Pausing the game
- Hovering over the player you wish to mute
- Selecting the mute button (a loudspeaker icon)

Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

You or your child can report players who make them uncomfortable using the in-game feedback tool (located in the main menu)

You can also use the 'support' section of the Epic Games site (the makers of Fortnite). You're asked to select the platform you play the game on, the game mode you're playing, and then you can select 'report player'. You can provide more detail such as the player's name, and attach a screenshot.

[Support, Epic Games](#)

https://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/customer/portal/emails/new?b_id=9729&q=email+us

What else can I do?

Further tips

- Download and play the game to help you understand it
- Talk to your child about what they're doing online, and make sure they know they can talk to you about anything that has upset them
- Check your bank statements and gaming system account balance regularly to look for in-app purchases you're not happy with, and to make sure your child isn't getting around any passwords you've set up

More sources of support

- Non-profit organisation Internet Matters has put together [5 top tips to manage children's screen time](#).
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/5-top-tips-to-manage-childrens-screentime/>
- The [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#) has a range of resources for parents on internet safety. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- The NSPCC has also teamed up with O2 to offer advice to parents. You can call their free helpline on 0808 800 5002, or [make an appointment](#) with an O2 Guru in an O2 store.
<https://guru.secure.force.com/O2DeskStoreLocator>

Sources for this factsheet

[Fortnite, Epic Games](#)

<https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/home>

['Fortnite chat raises stranger danger fears from NSPCC', BBC News, 3 May 2018](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-43988210>

[Fortnite: all you need to know, Net aware, from the NSPCC and O2](#)

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/fortnite-all-you-need-know/>