

# Welcome back

The Newsletter is MUCH BETTER viewed online by clicking below:

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/3iyGdukZbUuDELIf?ref=Link>

## Autumn term

Welcome back to the new academic year at Parklands. It has been a very calm start, and we are so pleased that the children (and new staff!) have settled so well into their new routines. The children in our Early Years classes have a very short induction period this year, but so far they are really enjoying their learning and meeting new friends.

The Newsletter will be published at least fortnightly, but when we have a lot of news or information it may be sent out more frequently. We are going to try to send fewer emails to you this year, as we know that you can sometimes receive several emails over the course of the week and this can be confusing to keep track of what is what. The link to the Newsletter will also be available on the website, so please do share this if you are part of a blended family or have parents living in different locations.

We aim to provide a place where children thrive, grow, and make lasting memories, and we are excited for the opportunities this year will bring. We will keep you updated through our newsletters on all the exciting activities, events, and achievements to come. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

---

***Have your contact details changed? Please update them on the Arbor App or let the office know.***

---

## Staffing

We welcome a number of new staff to the school this term, due to our growing numbers and also teachers such as Tracey leaving us in the summer. Roxy, Vicki and Neil join the KS2 teaching team upstairs, and Suzanne has returned to us following her maternity leave in KS1. Ann-Marie has also changed roles, and is now the teacher in Pre-school. Lucy has joined us as a full time Learning Mentor to complement the work of the pastoral team, Stacey has joined Pre-school as we have increased our numbers to try and meet demand for spaces, Anna has joined Reception and Sam has joined the kitchen team.

As reported last year, Hannah is now the SENCo alongside her Assistant Head role, as Emily has returned to class teaching.

## Permissions

You may have had notifications on the Arbor App for different permissions- if you have recently joined the school, these will be for photo consent. Please let us know your preferences, noting that some events such as Sports Day or performances (Nativity etc.) we do allow photos to be taken, but ask that these are not shared on social media or with the wider community.

The second permission request some families may have received relates to whether your child can walk home alone from school. This applies to children in Years 5 & 6 only as children have greater independence. Children in these year groups are not allowed to collect siblings and take them from school without an adult present (or older sibling above 14 years old).

---

*Looking for our menu? All the information can be found on the website [HERE](#)*

---

## Attendance

The regulations regarding attendance changed over the summer, including higher penalties and looking at trends over a 3 year period. Our attendance registers are also now shared weekly with the Department for Education.

The new fixed penalty regulations can be found here: <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/school-attendance/help-attending-school>

### [Fixed Penalty Guidance](#)

Holidays have not been authorised in term time for a number of years, however the new guidance takes more account of patterns including lateness and also taking unauthorised holidays in consecutive years, which now can go to automatic court attendance and not just penalties. Children are also expected to be in school with minor ailments such as runny noses or colds.

Our term dates until July 2026 are on the website, so please arrange holidays around these dates to prevent penalties being issued.

## Parking

The majority of schools have problems with parking, and although we are a new school with very little around us, we still suffer from a very busy road and lack of space. Please make sure you park in designated spaces on the main road (i.e. not on the grass verges, road junctions or blocking driveways). The adjacent car park is for school staff only, with plans for a barrier to be installed later this year. In the meantime, we are considering locking the car park gates between 8.30 and 9.15 each day following some damage to cars and our own staff not being able to park and get to school on time.

## Year 6 only- Secondary Transfer 2025

Message to all Year 6 families from North Somerset Admissions Team:

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Transfer to Secondary School in September 2025**

Applications open **by 12 September 2024** and close on the National Deadline **at 11:59pm on 31 October 2024**. Please ensure we receive your completed application before the National Deadline.

Any applications that are received before the National Deadline have a higher chance of being offered a place at their preference schools than those received after the National Deadline. This is due to the fact that schools are usually full after the first round of allocations.

Before you complete your application form, please read the Parents' Guide to Transferring to Secondary School, which will be available by 12 September at: <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/apply-school-place>.

The guide details the oversubscription criteria for each North Somerset school, dates of further allocation rounds and information you will find necessary in order to complete your application.

You can submit your application on our online application service which is available at: <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/apply-school-place>. The online application service is secure, and you will receive an e-mail receipt once your application has been submitted. If you have previously registered on the online service, you can login using your existing e-mail address and password. Make sure that all details listed under 'My Account' are up to date, if you have moved address since you last made an application, update the address for you and your child(ren).

Alternatively, you can submit a paper application form, which will be available on the same website as above.

You can name up to three preferences on your application form, the schools can be inside or outside North Somerset. Using all three preferences will not reduce the chance of being offered a place at your first preference school. For more information, please read the Parent Guide referenced above.

Although most secondary schools in North Somerset operate with Catchment Areas, living in a Catchment Area will not guarantee you a place at a particular school. It will, however, give you a priority over children who do not live in the Catchment Area. To find out which Catchment Area your home address is in, please go to: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/secondaryschoolfga](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/secondaryschoolfga).

Outcomes for on time applications will be available on 3 March 2025.

## PSA- Parent Staff Association

Our parent group are always thinking of new ideas for activities for children and ways of fundraising to purchase new resources. They have a WhatsApp group where they send out information and communicate with families in school. if you would like to access this group, please follow the link below:

### [PSA Whatsapp](#)

Please add yourself to the group if you can, as you can then stay informed and in touch with what is going on. Any time you are able to give is also always appreciated, and with a growing number of children in the school we hopefully will have a growing number of parents and carers able to support us.

## Dates

Many of the dates are available on the calendar section of the website, however a summary of key dates can be found below. For some events, such as parent events and school trips, more information will be sent out separately:

September

10th Yr 5 children start swimming

16th Reception children in full time

19th Reception tour for 2025

20th Yr 3 Sports event in school

20th Reception Picnic

w/b 23rd 'Meet the teacher' evenings- opportunity to hear about the year ahead

October

2nd Reception tour for 2025

3rd School census day- special menu tbc.

17th Yr 4 Stone Age day

21st Parent's Evening

23rd Yr 6 Lifeskills trip

23rd Parent's Evening

## How to contact us

There are a number of different ways to contact staff in school. The best way is to email the main office on [info@parklandset.org.uk](mailto:info@parklandset.org.uk) - this includes any messages for teachers, as the office will then pass it on to the right person. We aim to reply to emails within 3 days, however in the vast majority of cases it is done on the same day, it can just be little more complex if the enquiry requires multiple staff or investigation. Teachers will reply to you as soon as they can, but please bear in mind they are teaching all day, often with meetings after school.

The school phone number is 01934 404555, where you can talk to a member of the admin team or leave a message for absences etc. Any enquiries regarding admissions or pupil places are dealt with by our Admissions Officer who works on a Thursday and Friday.

School staff are available on the gate at the beginning of the day for more urgent matters, and can usually help instantly. Wherever possible we have members of the leadership team and pastoral team on the gate.

Whilst we have a Facebook page, messaging on social media is not reliable as this can get a lot of spam and is not a recognised method of formal contact with the school.