



# PARK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr P Griffin

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What an incredibly busy Autumn Term we have had at Park Hill Primary School. Finally, we have arrived at Christmas.

We launched the new school year back in September with a brand new preschool. For those of you who are not aware, the preschool is a completely new venture for us at Park Hill. For a number of years, there has been a Nursery within school and Playgroup on site but the amalgamation of both, including an extended entitlement to support a Government initiative of 30 hours funding for some parents, is a new project for us all.

From a personal point of view, I have enjoyed meeting so many new children – our youngest children at Park Hill. It has been fun putting names to faces. Already, it is wonderful to see young personalities developing as they become more familiar with our setting. I aim to take the time to visit preschool each day but one thing you can guarantee each time is a warm and friendly welcome by the children.

We welcomed more children into the school as we continue to allow more children to join our school – the expansion of pupil numbers will continue until 2020 when hopefully the school will be full. I am pleased that even more children will learn how special our school is. As well as new children, it was great to welcome so many new members of staff to the team this year.

Some of the best memories this term for me have been from seeing the children return from the schools trips that their teachers' have planned for them. I know that these memories will be with your children for a long time. The Year 6 visit to Dol y Moch ran smoothly and judging by the blogs uploaded onto the school website, a fun and memorable time was shared by all.

## House Teams

The Autumn Term has been very successful for 2 of the 4 house teams. At the end of the first half term, Team Spencer led by Mr Lawrence had the largest House Point Total and were treated to a 'Movie and Popcorn' experience as their reward. More recently, at the end of the second half term, Team Coombe had triumphed. I understand that their reward is planned for very early in the new term. Well done Teams Spencer and Coombe.

## PTA

The PTA led by Emma Timms have been busy once again. I haven't come across a harder working PTA across the school where I have worked. They generate a significant amount of money for the school and are focused on ensuring that the children enjoy the full benefit of fund raising. The new playground markings, have cost the PTA a significant sum of money but I hope that you agree are well worth it.

I am very grateful for the support to the school from the PTA - I know just how much the children enjoyed the activities that were planned for them towards the end of the term especially the School Discos.

## Ending a Park Hill Journey

Over the Autumn Term, a number of staff have decided to leave Park Hill. Within preschool, Mrs. Maxine Delo and Mrs. Jackie Lampett have left. At the end of the term, Mrs. Joanne Kerr (Admin) and Mrs. Sarah Clayton (Reception Teaching Assistant) will leave their posts also. Beginning her maternity leave is Mrs. Abi Phillips (Reception and Early Years Lead). I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and commitment to the school over their time with us and naturally wish them the best for any future plans that they may have.

### **Beginning a Park Hill Journey**

It has been a particularly busy term for making new appointments. Primarily, these have been made to support the new preschool but as we are a school that is expanding, we need more staff to support the children.

During the term, we welcomed Mrs. Helena Petros (Year 2 Teacher) who shares class responsibility with Miss Norcliffe. In January, there will be many new faces to Park Hill. In preschool, Mrs. Melanie Hiskett (Teacher) and assistants: Ms. Sharon Corrigan, Ms. Carly Bartlett and Ms. Debbie Meyrick will join the team. Within Reception, Miss. Zoya Hussain (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs. Karen Dodd (Year 5 Class Teacher) will also be new to school. I am looking forward to welcoming them all to school in January – at the start of the Spring Term.

### **Christmas Performances**

It is always a very special time of the year to work in school. I have felt very proud watching the children perform to parents, families and friends. Our Reception children haven't been in school for very long but their performances of The Nativity were lovely and an early Christmas present for those of you who were fortunate to watch it.

Our Key Stage One children entertained us once again to a Christmas Carol Concert and did so in style. I thoroughly enjoyed the mix between modern and traditional versions of Christmas Carols and was thrilled to see them all looking so smart in their Party Clothes!

On behalf of the Park Hill School Governors, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope that you all have a lovely holiday and some memorable times with your family and friends. The children will be welcomed back into school on **Tuesday 9 January 2018 from 8:45am**. Until then, Merry Christmas!

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Griffin  
Head Teacher