

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

27.09.24



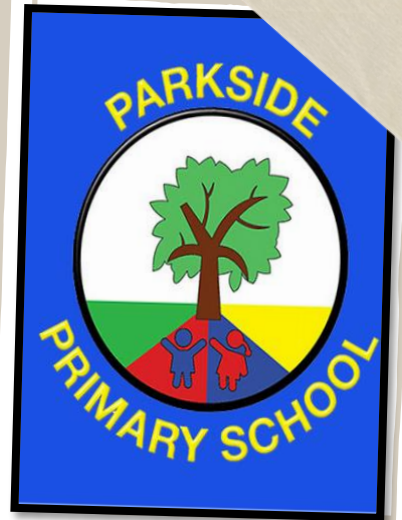
Dear Parents,

I cannot believe we are half way through the first half term of this academic year already. The children are working so hard and displaying our values brilliantly. Well done, Parkside!

This week, the children have impressed us with their history knowledge after completing their two week block of learning. KS1 have impressed us with their knowledge of Queen Victoria. LKS2 have demonstrated fantastic knowledge of the Stone Age, Bronze Age & Iron Age and UKS2 have enjoyed learning about the Benin Kingdom. Next week, the children will begin their Geography block of learning. Keep your eyes peeled for information regarding our upcoming parents' evening at the end of this half term.

Have a lovely weekend & we look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mrs Salter



## Attendance

A huge well done to Mrs Dawson and Mrs Dolman's 'Marvellous Mix' who achieved 100% attendance this week.

Keep up the great work!

Proud to be  
Parkside



# Weekly Spotlight Proud to be Parkside After school clubs.

This half term, our wonderful teachers have offered a variety of clubs after school.

We are excited to share some wonderful highlights from our after-school clubs this term. These clubs provide the children with opportunities to explore their interests and develop new skills.

Animation Club: Our budding animators have been hard at work creating fantastic stories!



Football and Hockey Clubs (Mondays): The football and hockey clubs have demonstrated incredible participation. Our young athletes are not only developing their skills on the field but also learning valuable teamwork and sportsmanship.

Thursdays are a creative feast! Our Quilling Club has sparked an interest in this delicate art form, while the Photography Club has encouraged children to capture the world around them. The Choir is filling our halls with beautiful music, and the Motor Skills Club is helping our youngest learners develop essential coordination through engaging activities.



DANCE

On Tuesdays, our Dance Club has been a whirlwind of movement and joy. Children of all ages are expressing themselves through dance, gaining confidence and making new friends in the process.

Wednesdays are packed with action! The Multi-Sports Club has allowed children to try their hand at various sports, while the Tag Rugby Club has introduced them to the basics of rugby in a fun, friendly environment. Meanwhile, the D&T Club is fostering creativity and practical skills, as children design and create amazing projects.

# Parkside Pantry and Uniform Bank

Our food pantry is still very much open to anyone that needs a little extra help.



Either drop in when is convenient or you can email/ring us in confidence to make up a bag.



## Community News

### Beep beep!



We are excited to announce we now have our very own minibus. A huge well done to the staff who have already taken their minibus driving tests & passed with flying colours. The minibus will allow us to transport children to events, engage with our local community & much, much more!





# Parkside Primary School

## Starting school in 2025?

Visit us for one of our open events

Wednesday 16th October - 5.30pm-7pm

Thursday 24th October - 9.30am-11.30am

Sunday 17th November 2024 - 10am-11.30am

Nursery tours are also available

Please call the school office  
to book a place - 01785 450145

Proud to be Parkside



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

## ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

## UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

## GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

## INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

## PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

## EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

### HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



# INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

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and we will donate **££s** to schools.

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FOR  
SCHOOLS**



## HERE'S HOW:

- 1** Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools.
- 2** Choose your primary school
- 3** Shop in-store across Asda & George, and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4** Shopping online? Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5** We'll do the rest! We donate ££s to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.

With  
**Parentkind**



# TOGETHER WE THRIVE 2024

## FOR ATTENDEES

*A free one-stop shop for parents & carers, education providers and young people with SEND.*

*Join us for a marketplace of SEND services, inspiring speakers, experienced trainers and professionals sharing practical ideas and expertise for SEND families.*

## DATE & LOCATION

**Staffordshire County Showground**

**Ingestre Suite**

**Wednesday 2nd October 2024**

**9.30am – 4.30pm**

**Drop in anytime during the day**



## ON THE DAY

- **Keynote speakers:**
  - Dean Beadle- Autistic Speaker
  - Halit Hulusi- Head of SEND, SCC
  - Staffordshire's Hearing & Sight Inclusion Team
  - SENDIASS
  - Relational & Restorative Practice Team
- **Awareness Workshops:**
  - Whose Shoes - MPFT
  - Oliver McGowan Training
- **Marketplace:**
  - NHS & Local Authority Teams
  - Family Hub
  - Further Education Providers
  - Charities and Community Groups

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT STAFFORDSHIRE  
PARENT CARER FORUM:**

[info@staffspcf.co.uk](mailto:info@staffspcf.co.uk)

**BOOK AS AN ATTENDEE**

**Funded By:**



**Staffordshire and  
Stoke-on-Trent**  
Integrated Care System





DANCE & ACROBATICS

# DANCE & ACROBATICS

We are enrolling brand new dancers to join Staffordshire's newest dance school!

**FIRST CLASS FREE!**

Spaces available from ages 3+

**FREESTYLE | ACROBATICS | TUMBLING | COMPETITIVE TRAINING | STREET DANCE |  
SLOW DANCE | COMMERCIAL | TINY TOTS | PRIVATE TUITION**

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Qualified**



**studio12staffs@hotmail.com**



# FREE Parent/Carer Training

Delivered by the Specialist Teaching Support Service  
Autism Inclusion Team

**PLEASE NOTE – THIS TRAINING IS FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE A DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM (inc. those not yet referred to our Service) & FOR THOSE ON THE PATHWAY**

DATE	TIME	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION
10.10.24	09.30-10.30	Understanding Autism	Faraday Road
	11.00-12.00	Raising Self-Esteem	
	13.30-15.00	Emotion Regulation	
^ PLEASE CHOOSE A MAXIMUM OF TWO SESSIONS ^			

DATE	TIME	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION
17.10.24	09.30-12.00	Autism in Early Years	Faraday Road

DATE	TIME	COURSE TITLE	LOCATION
10.12.24	09.30-10.30	Understanding Autism	Microsoft Teams
	11.00-12.00	Raising Self-Esteem	
^ PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OR TWO SESSIONS ^			

**Faraday Road** = Families First at Faraday Road, Stafford, ST16 3NQ (Stafford Children’s Centre)