

Parkside Primary Science Newsletter



31st January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Science is a very popular subject at Parkside and the children love learning about the world around them and how things work. They have excellent attitudes towards their science learning, always have interesting questions to ask and love investigating in class to find out the answers to those questions! This newsletter is to showcase all the wonderful learning that has been taking place across the school.

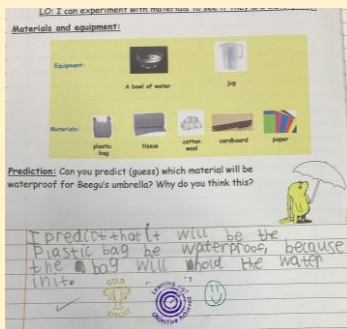
Many thanks,
Mrs Millan

EYFS

As part of their understanding world topic, Reception have been learning about the seasons. They have been creating pictures of winter scenes and thinking about what birds and other animals eat in the winter. They then visited Ridgeway Park to look for signs of winter.

Year 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed learning about materials this half term. They really enjoyed predicting which material would be best to make a waterproof umbrella for an alien Beegu who has come to visit from outer space! Year 1 will investigate this to find out whether or not their predictions are correct.

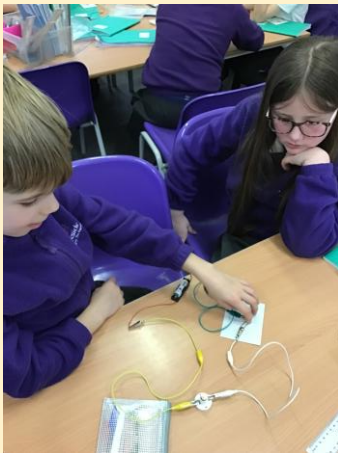


Year 2

In the Autumn Term, Year 2 learnt all about Living Things and their Habitats. They collected data about what mini beasts they found living in our school courtyard using tally charts and represented their findings in pictograms. Mr Neave was very impressed with their Maths skills!

Year 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed learning about light this half term. They have learnt that you need light in order to see. They used their prediction skills to predict how easy or difficult it is to see objects inside a box. They then changed the amount of light entering the box and recorded their findings!



Year 5

So far this year, Year 5 have learnt all about Earth and Space, Animals including Humans and Forces! They loved learning all about the planets in our solar system and learnt lots of facts about them too!



Year 4

Year 4 have been learning all about electricity. They have started their new topic by investigating to set up a simple circuit and turn a light bulb and motor on/off with a switch! They are excited to continue with their learning on electricity!



Year 6

Year 6 began the year by classifying animals and plants using classification keys. They then studied the human circulatory system, learning about the human heart and how it works in detail. They loved telling me all about this in detail! They are currently learning about evolution and inheritance. Have a look at some of their amazing work.

Sustainability at Parkside



Here's the latest updates from In the Know!

We're one term into North London Waste Authority's (NLWA) In the Know project! This year, we're working with NLWA to take a look into what we're wasting most of in the school and what we can do to improve. In October, members of NLWA's Education team joined us for a day of activities to introduce the programme and get an idea of where our efforts should be focussed.

Here's what we've done so far:

- First, we had a whole school assembly where students learnt about NLWA, waste prevention and the circular economy. Classes also made a pledge to make a special personal effort this year to tackle different waste areas around the school, from finishing their lunch to putting lids back on their glue sticks.
- Next, students in the Eco Council got a chance to get their hands dirty when they conducted a waste audit, going through the school's bins by hand, analysing the contents and recording what they found.
- Finally, our site manager Mr Peckham sat down with the NLWA team and an officer from Waltham Forest Council to talk about what sort of infrastructure changes could be made.



What did we find? Here's a quick run-down of what our waste audit showed us:

- We're producing **250kg** of waste a day on average.
- **45%** of the content of the general waste bin was food waste that belongs in the food waste recycling
- We're currently throwing away the equivalent of **413 portions of spaghetti** a

NLWA will be using this information and the conversations with our staff to build us a waste prevention plan that addresses our school's needs specifically. A particular focus for our school will be improving our recycling. We've got new recycling bags for our classrooms and will be making sure we're recycling everything we can, not just paper and card!

What can you do to help?

We're asking everyone in our school community to make an effort to help us cut down our waste. By approaching this from all angles we hope to have the maximum impact! For that reason, here's some ideas of small actions you can take at home to help out:

- Consider how you can make use of second-hand uniform. As you know, our Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is open daily for you to take second-hand uniform from instead of buying new. You could also help by donating old items your children don't need anymore. It'll save you money and helps cut back on textile waste!
- Where possible, think about low-waste packed lunches for your child. That might mean using reusable bags or containers instead of cling film to wrap items or trying to buy things that use minimal packaging.
- If you can, ensure your child has a refillable water bottle instead of using single-use plastic ones.

Finally, we are now able to recycle old batteries in school. We have an allocated box for unwanted batteries which is kept securely at the main school office. The batteries that we are able to accept are: 6v, C, D, A, AA, AAA, 9v and button batteries. If you have any of these at home that need to be recycled, please bring them in to the main school office yourself (**do not send them in with children**). This will prevent them ending up in landfill sites which can have a huge negative impact on the environment.

