

PARKGATE

UPDATE

shakespeare's
office

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From the Study

What a wonderful Summer Term it has been! As always, the children have succeeded in balancing their academic work with plenty of fun, and their enthusiasm, creativity and sense of team spirit has really come across in the many events taking place this term. From the Coronation celebrations to Earth Day, Diversity Week, Art Week, Sports Day, Grand Assembly and the Prep Concerts, Parkgate children have risen to the occasion and embraced their opportunities fully.

Of course, this is also the time for fond farewells, and we know that Prep 6 pupils are leaving Parkgate with many happy memories and ready for their time at senior school. We wish Prep 6 and all our leavers all the very best for the future, and we look forward to hearing from you in the years ahead.



I wish you all a lovely summer break, and look forward to seeing you back at Parkgate for a new school year starting on Tuesday 5th September.

Catherine Shanley

Principal



Prep 3 & 4 Concert

The Parkgate House Prep 3 and 4 production of "Mission Implausible" was an astounding success! The play showcased the incredible talents and hard work of the young performers, resulting in a memorable and entertaining experience for everyone involved.

From the opening scene to the final act, the students displayed remarkable confidence and enthusiasm. The students' acting abilities were truly impressive. They effortlessly brought their characters to life, demonstrating an understanding of timing, expression and stage presence beyond their years.

It was lovely to see such teamwork and camaraderie among the students on the stage. Each actor had a chance to shine, and they seamlessly worked together to create a cohesive performance. The audience could feel the energy and synergy among the cast, enhancing the overall impact of the play.

This school production showcased the creativity and abilities of all the children, leaving a lasting impression on all who 'espied' it. It not only provided an enjoyable experience but also instilled a sense of accomplishment and pride in the young performers. Very well done to all involved!





Prep 5 & 6 Concert

The Prep 5 and 6 show titled "Shakespeare's Office" was a remarkable production that showcased the incredible talents of the students and their mastery of Shakespearean language. The young performers demonstrated exceptional acting skills, impressively bringing the Bard's works to life in a modern-day setting. The show was written and directed by Mr Seaman, Head of Drama, and the music was written by Mr Davies, Acting Head of Music, so this was a truly special production, tailored to the individuals involved.

The students' command over the intricate and poetic language of Shakespeare was truly outstanding. They seamlessly blended the traditional language with modern elements, making it accessible and entertaining for all. Their ability to deliver the complex dialogues with clarity and expression showcased a deep understanding of the language and the nuances of Shakespeare's works.

Not only were the students exceptional in their delivery of the language, but their acting abilities were also truly impressive. They embodied their characters with conviction, bringing depth and emotion to each performance. The students' portrayals of the iconic Shakespearean characters were nuanced and captivating, displaying a maturity beyond their years.

What made "Shakespeare's Office" even more impressive was the level of student involvement in the production. The Year 5 and 6 students took charge of various aspects, including elements of songwriting, scriptwriting, and choreography. Their creativity and collaborative efforts shone through in every aspect of the show.

The dedication and teamwork displayed by the Year 5 and 6 students were evident on stage. Their commitment to rehearsals and their passion for the production translated into a seamless and polished performance. The audience was captivated by the cohesion and synergy among the cast, making "Shakespeare's Office" a truly memorable experience.

"Shakespeare's Office" will be remembered as a shining example of how young students can excel in embracing the complex literary works. The show highlighted the power of collaboration, creativity, and dedication, leaving a lasting impact on both the performers and the audience. Congratulations to all involved!





GRAND ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday 5th July we once again held our Grand Assembly at Cadogan Hall, an appropriately grand setting for this very special occasion to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Parkgate pupils. It was an opportunity to award prizes and scholarships and to hear fantastic musical performances. Esme delivered a stunning rendition of "Naughty" from the musical "Matilda", captivating the audience with her talent. Prep 6 students presented an emotional rendition of "Memories" by Maroon 5, incorporating personalised lyrics to express their feelings towards Parkgate House as part of their farewell. The audience was also treated to the Choir's spellbinding performance of Karl Jenkins' "Adiemus," accompanied by our fantastic piano teacher Mr Alessio Enea and our brilliant violin teacher Ms Christina Campbell. We also enjoyed a very special performance by former Parkgate pupil Ugo who, having held the Hanora Music Scholarship at Parkgate, was awarded a Music Exhibition at Alleyn's. Ugo is now in Year 10 and his achievements are many; for example, ABRSM Grade 8 in Piano, Violin and Alto Saxophone, ABRSM Piano Performance Diploma and Trinity Grade 8 Jazz in Alto Saxophone. His piano performance of Jean Sibelius' Romance, Op.24, No.9 was a joy to hear, and we are very grateful to Ugo for joining us for this special performance.

A real highlight of the morning was the speeches given by our Prep 6 leavers. They shared their heartfelt words with such confidence and professionalism, including treasured memories, advice for Prep 5 and humour to achieve a perfectly balanced reflection on their time at Parkgate. At the end of our Grand Assembly, we were able to watch as our Head Boy, Tommy, passed on the baton to our next Head Girl, Edie - congratulations! Huge congratulations also to Tommy who has impressively fulfilled his duties to the very end, and all his hard work and commitment has been very much appreciated.

Our Grand Assembly really is a highlight of the year, and it was so special to be able to share it with all the parents and family members who were able to attend and to see the children celebrating each other's achievements with such genuine warmth. We were delighted to receive these comments from one of our Parkgate grandparents: "What a special occasion - a beautiful hall, wonderful children and congratulations to all".



HORNIMAN MUSEUM TRIP



"My favourite thing was the baby Nemo fish!"

- Leo, Cygnets

The Cygnets and Ducklings thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Horniman Museum. They explored the Butterfly House and the Aquarium, and also had the opportunity to investigate other exhibits in the main building. They found it very exciting travelling in the big coach and having a packed lunch in the education centre! Lots of fun was had by all.



"I liked going on the picnic."

- Harlow, Cygnets

NURSERY NEWS



Our Nursery children enjoyed a fantastic Teddy Bears' Picnic this term, and they enjoyed meeting new friends joining Parkgate House in the Nursery and Reception classes next term. One parent commented: "It was such a lovely morning and my daughter was quite literally jumping for joy! It was a lovely celebration and the little ones just had the best time."



NURSERY AND RECEPTION NEWS



On Monday 3rd July, we enjoyed a wonderful Nursery and Reception Sports Day. Full of excitement and anticipation, pupils made the short journey over to the track on Clapham Common. The wind was trying its best to cause havoc, but no amount of bad weather could dampen Parkgate's spirits! With parents and family members gathered on the side of the track, it was time for the first race. Up first were the class sprint races where our Reception and Cygnets children competed in a 75m sprint, and our Ducklings children ran slightly shorter distance of 50m.

With the sprint races over in a flash, there was just enough time for one or two of Mr Seaman's (questionable) jokes, before moving onto the second event of the day, the egg and spoon races. Reception used the traditional wooden spoon, although a rubber egg made the event rather less messy! Nevertheless, these were entertaining races, with some children spending more time chasing their eggs than carrying them! The Nursery races followed with children using a more practical approach – a tennis racket and bean bag!

Further sprint races and photo finishes followed, before the eagerly anticipated obstacle course. Children competed against one another through a number of obstacles including dodging and weaving through agility poles, jumping and hopping through hoops, finding their 'fast feet' through ladders, before crawling through a tunnel.

We were so impressed with all the enthusiasm and team spirit on display – a huge well done to all the children for their efforts on the day. A special thank you also to all parents and family members who were able to join us – this created such a positive atmosphere for all the children involved.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION NEWS



NURSERY AND RECEPTION NEWS



"I enjoyed making a potion with sand, mud and leaves!"
– Zander, Cygnets

This term, Reception and Nursery children went on a school trip to the Mud Club on Clapham Common. At Mud Club the children had a chance to explore nature in a safe and fun environment. They could choose a range of activities including mud cooking, digging, sensory play, problem solving, imaginary play, team building and water activities. It was so lovely to see the children playing independently, with a friend or in a team. The weather was lovely and everyone had a lot of fun!



"I could have stayed there all day. It was so much fun!"
– Maya, Reception

RECEPTION NEWS



Open Ballet with Reception was a wonderful opportunity for the children to show their parents and friends what they do in lessons. The children demonstrated many of the dance steps and sequences they have learnt, showing how secure they are in the knowledge of these foundation steps, as this is where it all begins. The athleticism in movement and joy of dance shown was so uplifting to see. Very well done to our Reception dancers!



RECEPTION NEWS



Our Reception children really enjoyed their recent trip to Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses. We visited the herb garden to smell and pick some leaves. Some of the leaves smelled like lemons, mint, mango, and curry! We visited the gardens where they were growing plums, apples, strawberries, figs and gooseberries. We then planted our own bean seeds and have been watching them grow whilst back at school! We talked about all the different pollinators that we could spot on our walk around the gardens and played a really fun pollinator game. It was a lovely sunny day and a very enjoyable trip.





Coronation Celebrations

We very much enjoyed our Coronation celebrations at Parkgate House! It was wonderful to see our Choir performing with Belleville School at The Bandstand on Clapham Common, and our children marked this historic occasion with celebratory tea parties and a procession to show off their creative crowns!





Head Boy's Charity Day and Diversity Week

In May, we enjoyed celebrating Diversity Week. Children enjoyed a range of cultural and sensory activities from taste testing to learning sign language to playing catching games and cricket whilst blindfolded.

The children loved meeting our visiting guide dog - Vesper. We are very grateful to Vesper's owner Alan and to Jayne from Guide Dogs UK for running such brilliant workshops with each class.

We also enjoyed celebrating our Head Boy's Charity Day, raising over £1500 for Tommy's chosen charity, Guide Dogs UK - a charity he feels very passionate about. Well done, Tommy, and a big thank you to all who donated. The Guide Dogs UK story started in 1931 with two amazing British pioneers. Today Guide Dogs is the world's largest breeder and trainer of working dogs. Thanks to their dedicated staff and volunteers - and vital donations - 36,000 lives have been transformed through a guide dog partnership since 1931. Each guide dog costs the charity around £56000 and 99% of funding is from community donations.





Earth Day



Parkgate House celebrated Earth Day by becoming immersed in nature and celebrating the natural environment around us in all its full glory. Each year group visited Clapham Common to take part in an active session with the Friends of Clapham Common charity, who work to increase biodiversity in our local area. The children were taught how to mulch the new trees that have been planted and they saw the young tadpoles in the pond. During the day, the Eco Reps delivered seeds and pots for each class to grow their own class plant! They also helped their classmates to litter-pick on the Common, as well as installing a new bird feeder in the playground.



We were also delighted to welcome Matilda from the Dirt Is Good programme – the children enjoyed eco workshops and Matilda interviewed the Eco Reps to explore their views about sustainability. Parkgate pupils have been following the 'Dirt Is Good Way' to become more sustainable and work towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are happy to feature as a Champion School Case Study.



At the end of the day, a fabulous nature-themed bake sale was held to support the valuable work of the Friends of Clapham Common charity. We are thrilled to announce that nearly £400 was raised, and we are very grateful to all families involved. We were very impressed with the standard of baking on display! Earth Day was an enriching and enjoyable day for all.



'Love Languages' Competition



On 9th June, Prep 6 took part in the 'Love Languages' competition organised by London Freeman's School in Surrey, and we are delighted to announce that they won the Judge's Highly Commended award! They competed against many schools and the quality of their French as well as their acting and stage presence was highly commended. Their performance was outstanding, and every pupil really gave their very best. We are very proud of them and were delighted to watch their highly competent and incredibly entertaining performance. We hope that this success will keep on instilling a love of learning languages in them. Congratulations, Prep 6!

In addition to the performance, the children enjoyed taking part in a Pétanque tournament, a beloved game from Provence, competing in pairs against other schools during a sunny afternoon. Very well done to Charlie and Jack in Prep 6 who won the tournament!



Maths Update

We have enjoyed another busy term of maths! Children in Prep 3 and Prep 4 took part in the First Maths Challenge. This is a national competition which helps to show the importance of problem solving and allows pupils to try a variety of methods. The children enjoyed the challenge this year and we had some excellent results! A particular “well done” to the following children who received a certificate: Hugo (P4), Charlie (P3), Louisa (P3), Olivia (P4), Zoe (P4) and Zac (P4). Hugo commented: “It was pretty challenging, but if you really put your all into it, you could get it done. I love maths so I enjoyed the challenge!”. Bea said: “It expanded my knowledge in a helpful way; for example, thinking on the spot under pressure, and applying the mathematical strategies we have been taught in class”. The challenge is great preparation for the Primary Maths Challenge, which the children will sit in Prep 5 and Prep 6.

Four children in Prep 5 enjoyed an exciting day competing in a Maths Challenge hosted by Emanuel School. The children enjoyed a host of tricky problems, team games and timed puzzles! Amelia, Fergus, Margot and Edie represented Parkgate wonderfully and they thoroughly enjoyed the challenge! Fergus said: “I found it difficult but really fun”. Margot commented: “I enjoyed meeting children from other schools. The challenges were hard, but I felt good doing them!”. Very well done!



Engineering Competition Success



Parkgate children achieved great success in the Leaders Award engineering competition. Across the school and nursery, 19 children were 'Distinction Shortlisted', with 4 being Highly Commended. Congratulations to Leo in the Cygnets for winning the competition in his age category!



Parents and pupils were invited to the Public Exhibition at Kingston University, and it was lovely to hear that Stella, Maddie, Louis, Willa and Zander enjoyed going to see their entries on display. Stella commented that she felt very proud to see her designs as part of such a prestigious exhibition, particularly as there were over 48000 competition entries! Very well done!



ART WEEK



Children across the school enjoyed Art Week this term, culminating in an impressive exhibition and auction showcasing the many wonderful pieces created during the week. The children were delighted to share their artwork with their families. They were inspired by artist Cecilia Vicuña and her recent Brain Forest Quipu installation at Tate Modern. The children based their artwork on key deforestation messages and created large collages using recycled materials collected throughout the term. They also participated in a workshop to create the 'Brain Forest' and came up with inventive ways to join and hang the fabric. In collaboration with the Music Department, the children created a rainforest soundscape to complement the artwork on display. It was lovely to receive these comments from one of our parents: "It was honestly mind-blowing... The musical background also worked really well and gave the whole room the impression of a professional art gallery. Big thumbs up and the children absolutely loved it!". To support our local community, the auction proceeds were donated to local charity 'Friends of Clapham Common' which runs conservation projects to improve the biodiversity of the Common and to restore its buildings and facilities. The event proved to be a huge success, and we thank you for your support.



MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

As we look back on another remarkable term, we take great pride in sharing the impressive accomplishments of our Music Department, now overseen by Acting Head of Music, Mr Davies. The past few months have been filled with music, creativity and memorable performances that have showcased the immense talent and dedication of our pupils. We started the term with two Music Open Mornings. These events provided a platform for our talented students to demonstrate their progress in instrumental and vocal lessons. Parents and peers were treated to delightful performances, showcasing the skills the children have been developing in their individual lessons.

Following our Chamber Choir's 'Jigsaw: The Voice' competition win, they were invited to perform on the stage of the Lyceum Theatre as part of Jigsaw's 10th birthday celebrations. Our Chamber Choir has been working diligently with Ryan Hanlon from Jigsaw to prepare for this special performance, dedicating their time and effort to perfect their repertoire, resulting in a captivating and memorable experience. The children had a fun filled day topped off with a very special and memorable experience on a wonderful West End stage. Ryan Hanlon commented: "The children from Parkgate House were amazing!".

Art Week provided an opportunity for another exciting project this term, as children from Reception all the way through to Prep 5 collaborated to create a rainforest soundscape by choosing a percussion instrument and recreating specific rainforest sounds. These recordings were then compiled and played during the impressive art exhibition, which truly brought the rainforest to life.





Furthermore, we are delighted to share the success of our students in the ABRSM exams held this term. Each student performed exceptionally well, and over 80% of our students achieved Merit and Distinctions; a remarkable achievement that highlights their dedication and musical prowess.

It has been a truly successful term for our Music Department, and we couldn't be prouder of our talented students. Their dedication, passion and remarkable performances have showcased their immense musical growth and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all Parkgate parents for their continued support in nurturing the musical talents of our children. We are also very grateful to our peripatetic teachers who give everything to bring out the best in each child. We look forward to many more musical performances next term!



Ballet Success

Esme in Prep 5 continues to excel in ballet and she very much enjoyed her performances of 'Cinderella' at the Royal Opera House. She even had the honour of performing for the Princess of Wales and Princess Charlotte!

Esme has recently completed a London Children's Ballet touring performance of 'Anne of Green Gables'. She enjoyed learning new choreography, and learning to dance in and adapt to different spaces. She really enjoyed being able to share her ballet with the enraptured audiences in the schools and care homes that they visited.

We were delighted to receive these comments from the London Children's Ballet:

"Esme worked extremely hard both during rehearsals and on the performance days and I believe the tour was a very positive experience for her. She developed so much, not just in technical dance ability but performance skills too and delivered very professional performances... As well as dancing beautifully on the tour, Esme behaved impeccably and was charming and thoughtful when talking to the audience members after each performance (Esme is a credit to you and your school). Esme interacted particularly well with the pupils at the special needs schools we visited where pupils often had multiple and profound learning difficulties. She also interacted well with the elderly residents at the care homes we visited, showing maturity and compassion."

Esme has also been offered a place on the National Youth Ballet summer course - another brilliant achievement.

Congratulations, Esme!





Parents' Assembly

In May, we enjoyed a wonderful Parents' Assembly, featuring a Choir performance, a sustainability update, a ballet performance, a LAMDA performance by Amelia, a guitar performance by Elliott, an Art update, a Sport update and a curriculum focus update from Head Boy Tommy. The whole school curriculum focus has been 'Oceans and Seas', and Prep 3 took us on an exciting aquatic adventure, full of fun facts and 'under the sea' puns! Very well done to all involved, and thank you to all parents who were able to join us.

Thank you also to Matilda from the Dirt Is Good programme for joining us - we are delighted to feature as a Champion Eco School Case Study. Sustainability has been a whole school focus this year, and Parkgate pupils have been following the 'Dirt Is Good Way' to take action and unite to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our Eco Committee 'change makers' have worked hard to develop a vision statement and sustainable development plan. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Dirt Is Good.





KEW GARDENS TRIP

Pre-Prep 1 and 2



Pre-Prep children enjoyed a trip to Kew Gardens this term. Linking to their science learning, the children explored different habitats and plants by visiting many of the main attractions, including the Princess of Wales Conservatory and The Hive. Pre-Prep 1 and 2 enjoyed sketching and taking photos of the plants and asked some expert questions about pollination!

It was a very sunny day (and the glasshouses were very warm!) so we found a shady spot under the trees to enjoy our picnic lunch. Afterwards, Pre-Prep enjoyed some well-deserved playtime in the Children's Garden. The children learnt a lot and had a wonderful day.



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SORELLA RESTAURANT TRIP

Prep 3

This term, Prep 3 were incredibly lucky to enjoy a trip to Sorella, a local restaurant in Clapham owned by one of our Parkgate families. The children learnt how to make their own arancini balls and heard about the origins of this Sicilian treat. They worked together to follow each step in the process, and there was even a competition to see which pairs had produced arancini balls of the most consistent size and shape! They were then treated to a spectacular three-course lunch, tasting some kitchen-made arancini balls, fresh pasta, ice cream and fruit, before leaving with their own creations to cook at home for their families. A huge thank you to Ziggy's parents, and the whole team at Sorella, for hosting us!





HORNIMAN MUSEUM TRIP

Prep 3, 4, 5 & 6



Our School Journalists, Violet, Georgie and Amelia, wrote about their recent trip to the Horniman Museum:

We were very lucky to go on a school trip to the Horniman Museum this term. This linked to our Prep 6 Science topic of evolution and inheritance, which made it a valuable learning experience for all of us. We visited the animal section first, taking notes and drawing detailed sketches of different animal skulls. We looked at the adaptations of the human bones and their structure, and we also enjoyed playing 'Guess that skull!'. We all loved visiting the aquarium which brought this year's Curriculum Focus - 'Oceans and Seas' - to life. It was so relaxing and therapeutic looking at all the colourful sea creatures. We really enjoyed this trip - thank you!

We are very grateful to the Prep 6 journalists for all their hard work during the year - well done!

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Sports Captain's Charity Day

We very much enjoyed our Sports Captain's Charity Day on 15th June – Coco chose to fundraise for the Youth Sport Trust, a charity she feels very passionate about. Youth Sport Trust is the UK's leading charity improving every young person's education and development through sport and play. Youth Sport Trust equips educators and empowers young people with the vision of creating a future where every child enjoys the life-changing benefits of play and sport.

On the day, children from Pre-Prep 1 to Prep 6 came to school dressed in sporty clothing and enjoyed a range of sporting activities, from dodgeball games to a netball shot competition and a 'beat the goalie' competition.

Lots of fun was had by all! Well done, Coco, and a big thank you to all who donated. We raised over £1400 for the Youth Sport Trust!



PRE-PREP & PREP SPORTS DAY

On Monday 26th June we held our annual Pre-Prep and Prep Sports Day at the Millenium Arena in Battersea Park. After the rain halted proceedings during our 2022 event, there was a collective sigh of relief upon arriving at school on Monday morning with the sun shining! The afternoon kicked off with the House Parade, which saw the Romans lead the school down the 100m track and into their house gazebos. Mr Peacock added a touch of Scotland by asking Mr Cliff if he would pipe the children in, but he remains adamant that it was 'nothing to do with him'! The live serenade was appreciated by all!

Prep 3 - 6 began proceedings on the track with their 100m events, whilst Pre-Prep started with the long jump; one of their two field events.

Pre-Prep were next up on the track, running the slightly shorter distance of 75m, whilst the Prep year groups headed over to the sandpit for their long jump heats.

After some hugely competitive heats, and hardly a moment to sit still, Prep headed back to the track for their third event of the day. Prep 3 and 4 competed across a number of 400m heats, whilst some of Prep 5 and 6 stared down the slightly unnerving 800m distance.

After a number of photo finishes, Pre-Prep then enjoyed taking part in their throwing event, before the Prep year groups headed over to their throw, whilst the Pre-Prep got stuck into their 200m event – it was an afternoon full of action!

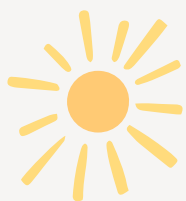
Before the day was concluded by this year's House Relay events, there was just enough time for Prep 5 and 6 to compete in their final field event of the day; the eagerly anticipated high jump event. With a few crowd pleasers in the house, the event was the loudest of the day with some impressive technique on show from both the boys and the girls. A huge thank you to Daniel Webb, James Pike and Simon Beck from Whitgift School for their high jump masterclass at this year's trials event - your ongoing help and support is hugely appreciated and all the coaching certainly paid off!

Then it was on to the House relay events, which this year were split into a Pre-Prep and Prep event. This year's winners in the Pre-Prep were the Greeks, and in the Prep event, the winners were the Romans. A huge “well done” to all of the Houses for their efforts and for making Sports Day such a success. The afternoon concluded with the much-anticipated medal ceremony and a chance to recognise the efforts of all the children during what was a fantastic event. Congratulations to the Romans, who lifted the House trophy this year! A big thank you to all parents and family members who were able to join us – it was great to see so much support and it really did create a wonderful atmosphere for all involved.

Very well done to everyone for what has been a fantastic year of sport – we have loved every minute and we can't wait to do it all again next year!







Summer Celebrations!



End of term celebrations were enjoyed by all, at both the Disney-themed Prep Party and during our Party Day on the final day of term!

We wish our leavers all the very best at their new schools - keep in touch!

Happy holidays!



ACTIVITY WEEK

The children enjoyed a fun-filled Summer Activity Week with a wide range of action packed sessions including summer crafts, music and art, a cooking session, a swimming trip, a cinema trip, a climbing wall session and a ball pool session, along with a traditional favourite: 'Parkgate's Got Talent'!



PARKGATE HOUSE SCHOOL

A leading independent co-educational preparatory school with its own nursery, for children aged 2 1/2 - 11 in Clapham, London

Rated "Outstanding" in every category by Ofsted, 2022



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