



Park Hall Academy

Weekly News

13th March 2026



SENECA SUCCESS: Consistently millionaires!



Park Hall Academy
Birmingham, Solihull

1,018,582

Once again, our students have proven how well their habits are instilled and they are paying off. We are proud that students are taking conduct of their own home learning. Since the start of March our students have completed an **additional 538 hours of study time** with **year 8 spending the most amount of time completing SENECA assignments** – well done and keep it up! The continued effort and enthusiasm for learning has placed us again at number one – a fantastic achievement for the whole school community

ALL students are expected to achieve our **minimum standard of 80%** on each assignment.

Special mention to our SENECA STARS for last week. The students with the highest usage are:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Ethan Hart	Sophie Bridgen	Evelyn Newman-	David Wilkes	Neve Hartill
Emily Skelcher	Mia Cockayne	Winters	Fern Tanser	Madison Wall
Martins	Melissa Eccleston	Finn Rooney	Marvelous	Isabella James-
Okungbeni	Timothy Adeosun	Oumie Ceesay	Andoh	Blake
Kherys Bench	Aiden Tong	Paige Gauntlett	Dexter Wilkes	Shayleigh
Zakiya Nazir	Heidi-Louise	Frankie Davis	Libby Rodway	Degville
Airin Khan	Southam-Beebee	Jessica Whelan	Ava Butler	Ryan Bevan
Evan Nightingale	Mason Boyle	Sophie Gilson	Leyla Jones	Hayden Murrain
Sienna Gordon	Olivia Jones	Lohan Cusack	Olivia Williams	Jacob Ramsdall
Paige Dragoonis	Emily Baldock	Emma-Louise	Isaac Allcock	Rafe Parry
Tincuta Ciobanu	Faye Ashby	Moore	Sum Kiu Chan	Samuel Dudley
		Amara Slimper-		Charlie
		Nisar		Whitehouse

Special mention to those achieving 100% on all assignments

Year 7 - Jesse Ataria, Indi Bishop and T'Varni Harris-Williams.

Year 8 – Liam Carrick, Coryn Horne-Macdonald, Noah Coleman, Logan McCormack, Danny Naven and Myles Henry.

Year 9 – Isaac Hartill, Jessica Harding, Summer Gauntlett, Fin Thomasson and Blossom Dixon.

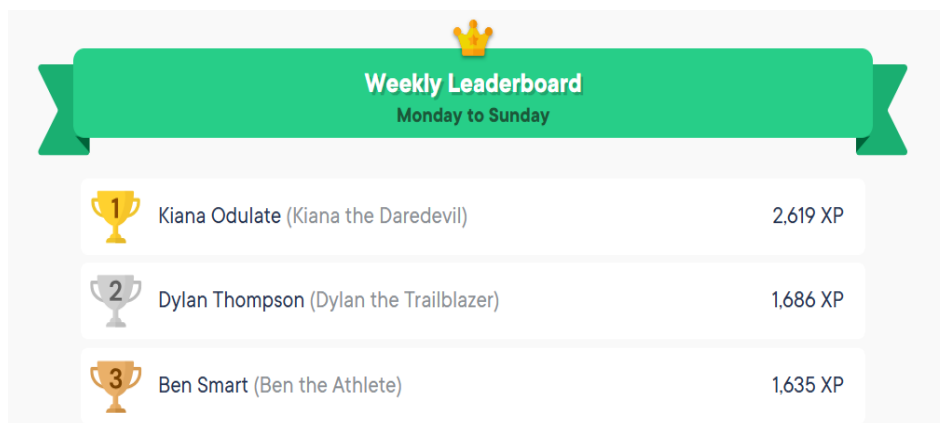
Year 10 – Roxi Steward, Isaac Allcock, Jacob Hewlett, Jing To So, Holly Dickinson and Ariella Savage.

Year 11 – Paige Flint, Rubie Carroll, Lewis Carpenter, Adam Khan, Teagan Reeves, Kyle Pearson, Hayden Murrain, Kian Naven and Joshua Frost.

SPARX Maths Leaderboard



Well done to all our students who are engaging with SPARX maths and making real progress in their maths lessons. A huge well done to Kiana, Dylan and Ben for making the top 3 for XP across the whole school this week. Keep it up!



Our highest XP students from last week are...

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Kiana Odulate 2,619 XP	Niamh Watkins 1,180 XP	Bernard Monks- Brown 1,191 XP	Dylan Thompson 1,686 XP	Dylan Wayt 825 XP
Ava-Mai Cross 1,305 XP	Alicia Rogers 1,140 XP	Lana Gibb 1,110 XP	Ben Smart 1,635 XP	Arash Nessar 805 XP
Emily Skelcher 1,135 XP	Riley Willmott 1,099 XP	Max Thomas 1,100 XP	Libby Rodway 1,190 XP	Leah Williamson 730 XP
Lily Crew 1,134 XP	Jeremy Liu 1,090 XP	Cordi Savage 1,090 XP	Ruben Sansoni 1,090 XP	Dominic Barker 629 XP
Ethan Hart 1,095 XP	Myles Henry 1,090 XP	Eva Hopton 1,010 XP	Alexia Cuffe 1,080 XP	Shayleigh Degville 595 XP

Highest completion:
10A3/Ma (55.6%)

Biggest completion
improvement vs previous
week:
10B2/Ma 31.0%
(+27.6%)

Reached a new XP Level:
229 students
[view](#)

Highest average XP per
student:
7B4/Ma (756 XP)

Intermediary Maths Challenge

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students who earned Bronze and Silver awards in this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. Their impressive results place our Silver award winners among roughly the top 25% of all students nationwide, with our Bronze achievers ranking within the top 50% across the entire UK cohort who sat the challenge. This is a fantastic reflection of their hard work, problem-solving skill, and mathematical confidence.

The following students achieved Bronze:

Nickolas Billingsley, Humzah Shahbaz, Jacob Sherry, Dylan Sarlerat, Jing To So, Reilly Lilley, David Wilkes, Kaden Sheldrick, Charlie Piercy, San Fearn, Maddison Ward and Libby Rodway

The students who achieved Silver are:

Aiden Sin, Mathew Curry, Tommy Wellings, Harry Watson, Amelia Palmer, Miles Harrison, Noah Waugh, Isabella Sutton, Sian Caldidott, Riley Woakes and Jacob Hewlett

Well done to all who took part!



Books are a uniquely portable magic



PARK HALL Reads!

Park Hall celebrated World Book Day with gusto this year! There was a range of activities designed to inspire a love of reading across the whole community. Students were fortunate to hear from a special guest speaker, BAFTA-winning author Ciaran Murtagh, who spoke about his journey into writing and the power of stories to spark imagination and creativity. The talk was a real highlight of the day and gave students valuable insight into the world of storytelling.

Staff also fully embraced the spirit of the event by arriving in an array of brilliant book-themed costumes, ranging from Maleficent to Goldilocks. Students enjoyed taking part in a scavenger hunt around the school, searching for staff members in costume and identifying the characters, books and authors they represented. It was a wonderful day celebrating reading, creativity and the joy that books can bring.

Part of the National Year of Reading 2026

GO ALL IN.



Just wanted to message to say I was really impressed with everything my daughter was telling me about the efforts made by the staff for World Book Day. I don't know why but I just thought now she was at Seniors not much would happen but she seems to have done more than in some of her Primary school years. Was really nice to hear all about it and promoting reading for pleasure 😊

Year 7 parent



"Reading gives your imagination wings"





PARK HALL Reads!



Students in KS3 enjoyed an inspiring visit from award-winning screenwriter and author, Ciaran Murtagh. During a lively and engaging talk, Ciaran shared stories from his career in television and writing, including his experiences writing alongside Rowan Atkinson and contributing to the hugely popular animated series The Amazing World of Gumball.

Students were visibly fascinated to hear about his journey into writing and how ideas can develop from small sparks of imagination into full stories.

Following the talk, a group of Year 9 students took part in a special writing workshop. In this interactive session, they learned how to create memorable characters, exploring how personality, backstory and unusual traits can bring a character to life. Students enthusiastically shared their ideas and left the workshop with plenty of inspiration for their own creative writing!

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to hear directly from a successful writer and gain insight into the creativity, perseverance and imagination that go into storytelling.



Part of the National Year of Reading 2026
GO ALL IN!



To finish the week, we held a huge book swap where students were able to exchange books and discover new stories to enjoy. The event was rounded off with free hot chocolate, creating a relaxed and welcoming space for students to talk about books and share their latest reading finds.



SENIOR NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONSHIPS!



On Friday 20th March Park Hall takes part in its first National Reading Championships quiz. Students from year 8 have been swotting up on all things Literary in preparation for the regional heats. Wish us luck to get to the National final!

Look out for the next Book swap and years' 7 and 8 parents' evening



Finding ways to easily fit reading into daily life

- 10 minutes after school or dedicated reading in form time
- Listen to an audiobook on the bus to and from school
- Use reading as well being a tool to wind down before bed

Reading little and often is enough for teenagers to enjoy all of the benefits

Freedom to choose what and how to read

31% of boys and **44% of girls** say choice would make them more likely to read.



All reading counts

Books, comics, magazines, audiobooks, ebooks, poetry and short stories all build reading confidence. It all counts.

Teenagers thrive when they follow what they love in the format that works best for them.



Connect reading with the things they already care about



If they're a sports fan, try books or magazines about the sport they love.

Suggest reading about favourite films or TV shows.



PARK HALL

Reads!

CLASS WORDS READ FEBRUARY 2026 - WELL DONE YEAR 7!



7A1	10,386,995	7B1	10,153,457	8A1	6,643,270	8B1	5,266,381	9A1	3,991,980	9B1	3,284,200
7A2	802,127	7B2	675,815	8A2	7,840,832	8B2	1,830,994	9A2	949,017	9B2	136,801
7A3	2,279,144	7B3	1,555,590	8A3	3,191,023	8B3	1,642,356	9A3	455,727	9B3	1,183,266
7A4	243,840	7B4	448,901	8A4	181,846	8B4	1,155,028	9A4	44,626	9B4	5,456



Student	Total Word Count
Stanton, Keira	2,418,010
Mahmood, Harris	2,153,777
Kinloch-Williams, Poppy	1,550,016
Morris-Steele, Billy	1,447,823
Hinett, Quinn	1,351,981
Naven, Danny	1,254,183
Ashby, Faye	1,151,226
Mullins, Sophie	1,105,310
Lloyd, Phoebe	1,087,215
Milward, Darcy	1,075,147
Liu, Yat Long	1,074,416
Clarke, Leo	1,026,078
Jones, Zak	1,010,221
Shaw, Finlay	821,478
Koroma, Anayah	781,126

OUR TOP 15 READERS



JOIN THE MILLIONAIRE CLUB!
 We take reading seriously at Park Hall - use Accelerated Reader to test your understanding each time you finish a book - if you pass the comprehension questions, the words from the book will be added to your account. Can you reach a million?
REMEMBER! → to use the Park Hall website or Edulink to login to Accelerated Reader
 We also compete as classes: the first class to reach 10 million words will have a pizza party to celebrate

WHAT'S ON *in the* LIBRARY

Our Library has had a huge glow up under new librarian, Miss Bakewell. After previous transformations already into a Reading cafe and the Polar Express, for World Book Day it became Hogwarts! There were wizards, broomsticks and even butter beer for all book checkouts!



80+ books were checked out on World Book Day and 51830 PRIDE points were awarded for students having their reading books on their desks!

WOW!



More book donations than ever before

This year, a record number of books have been directly distributed to those children in areas of most need: 408,000 books in total, including 200,000 donated by the National Year of Reading!

Part of the total 408,000 donations came from the National Literacy Trust's partnership with the Premier League Foundation, which resulted in 104 football club charities to gift 120,000 free books to children in their local areas.

Across the UK, we saw massive enthusiasm for the 2026 World Book Day £1/free books. In the run-up to World Book Day, all ten of the top-ten UK bestselling books were World Book Day titles, driven by a record print run of 2.5 million books across the range and record-level 'sales'.



PARK HALL

Reads!



Why Tweens Stop Reading and How to Help Them Reconnect

If your once-constant reader isn't picking up books anymore, **you're not alone.**

The middle school years are a well-documented turning point. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, only **14%** of 13-year-olds report reading for fun almost every day, **a record low.**

This shift between ages 9-13 is **common.**



And yet, reading matters more than ever at this stage.

- Books help tweens:
- Build empathy and emotional intelligence
 - Process new experiences
 - Feel understood and less alone
 - Develop perspective during a time of change

Stories can be powerful anchors!



What's behind this change?

- Tweens are navigating:
- Emotional growth and identity formation
 - Increasing social awareness
 - Rising academic expectations
 - Busier schedules
 - More screen-based entertainment

Reading often starts to feel like schoolwork, not escape.



So how do we help tweens reconnect with reading?

The key is helping their reading life grow alongside them.

Here's what **makes a difference** →

Meet them where they are.

- They're drawn to stories that reflect:
- Friendship changes
 - Middle school dynamics
 - First crushes
 - Identity questions

When stories reflect their world, reading feels relevant again!



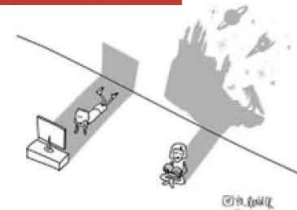
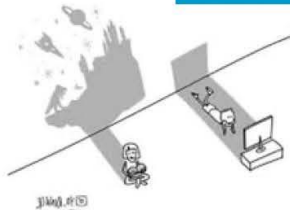
Make reading social, familiar, and low-pressure.



- Try:
- Books connected to favorite shows or movies
 - Graphic novels and trending series
 - Family reading time or coffee shop reading dates
 - Casual tween book clubs

Familiarity and social connection lower resistance!

BOOKS FOR TWEENS



World Book Day 2026 - that's a wrap!

WHAT'S ON *in the* LIBRARY

Mar 13 2026

It has been a quieter week this week, still enjoying and recovering from the World Book Day Festivities!

Here are a few reminders to make sure the library runs smoothly:

Please return
your books
after 2 weeks

Mar 20: World Storytelling Day
Mar 21: World Poetry Day
Mar 25: Tolkien Reading Day

Schedule:
KS4 – Mon/Wed/Fri
KS3 – Tues/Thurs

Free Bookmarks
are always
available in the
Library


The Scholastic
Book Fair is
coming up in a
few weeks!

926
Books
Checked out



Art Trip to Rome!

There is one remaining space available for the upcoming Art Trip to Rome!

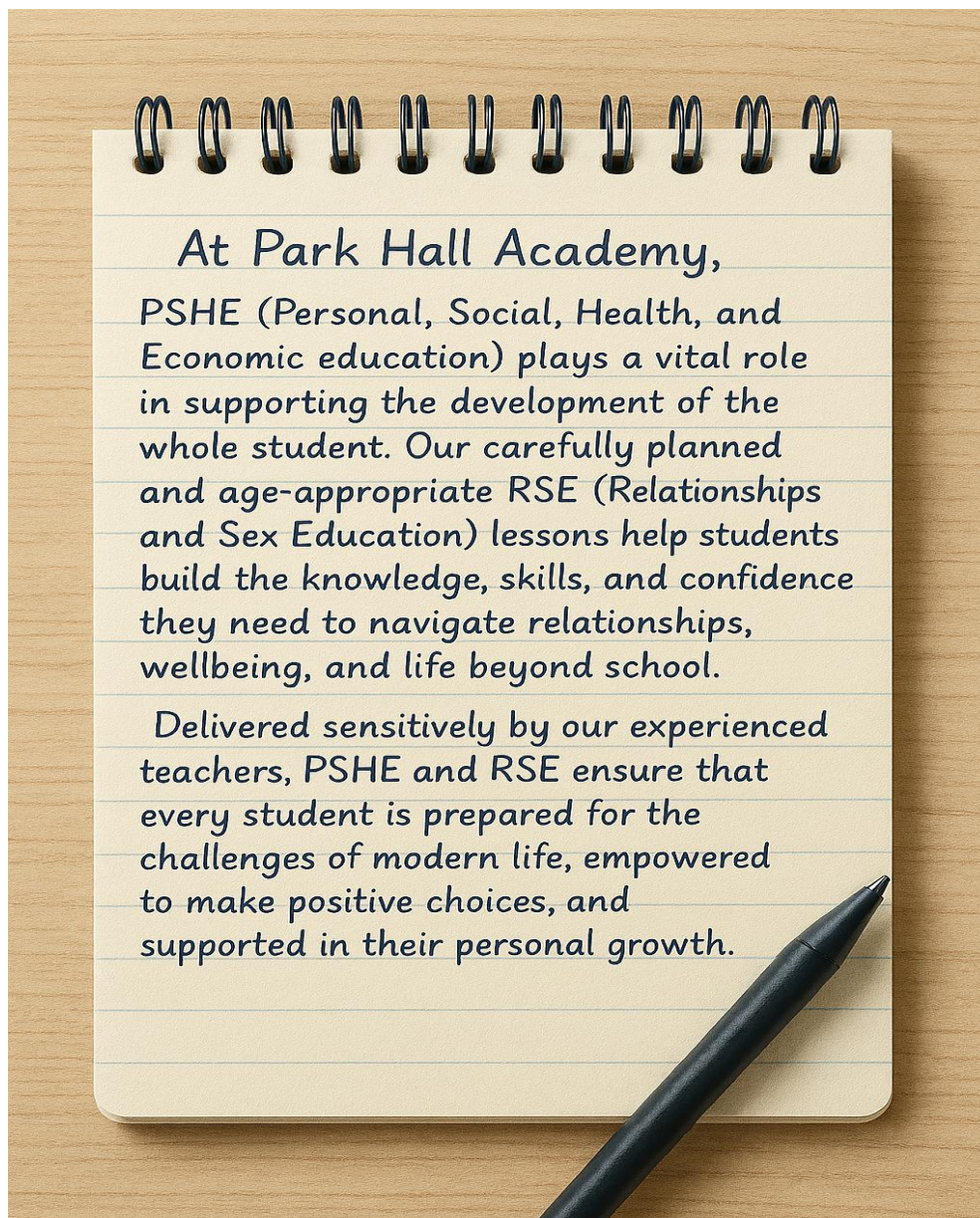
 Dates: Friday 23rd October – Monday 26th October 2026

 Total Cost: £980

 Deposit Required Now: £300

If you are interested in securing this final place, please see Miss Kennedy as soon as possible or email rkennedy@parkhall.org

7	8	9	10	11	12
Girls puberty - periods	Contraception part 1	Pornography and our brains	Coercive, controlling and abusive relationships Part 2	Sextortion and spotting AI	Job interviews



Learning Energy Stationery Shop – Now open every lunchtime!

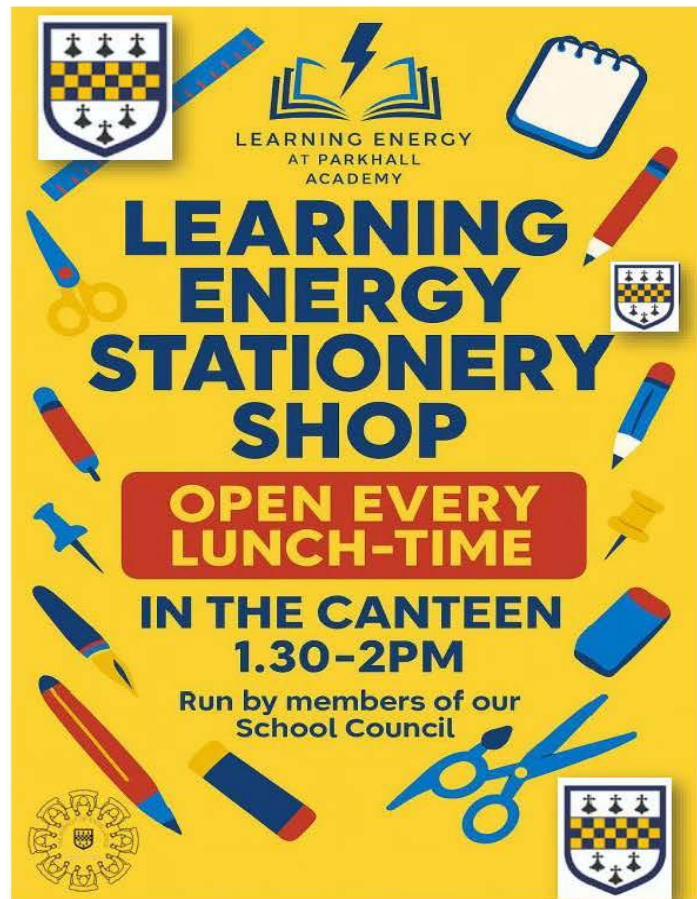
We are delighted to share that our **Learning Energy Stationery Shop** is now open **every lunch-time in the canteen from 1.30–2.00pm**. The shop is run by dedicated members of our **Park Hall Academy School Council**, who are working hard to support all students in being fully equipped and ready to learn.

Each day, a range of essential items will be available to purchase at affordable prices, including:

- Pens and pencils
- Rulers
- Rubbers
- Revision cards
- Planners
- Other key stationery to support organisation and learning

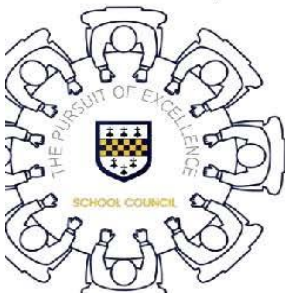
The aim of the shop is to make it easier for every student to have the equipment they need to participate confidently in lessons. Having the correct tools supports focus, independence, and pride in learning. It also helps to remove small barriers that can otherwise impact progress.

Being *ready to learn* is a key expectation at Park Hall Academy, and it plays an important role in helping students develop valuable character traits such as **responsibility**, **resilience**, and **self-management**. When students come prepared, they build positive habits that help them succeed both in school and in life.



This initiative also links closely to the **British Values** of **Responsibility**, **Mutual Respect**, and **Democracy**. By running the shop, our School Council members are taking an active role in shaping and supporting the school community—making practical decisions, working as a team, and demonstrating leadership.

We are incredibly proud of the students involved, and we hope the Learning Energy Stationery Shop will be a helpful resource for all.



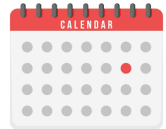


P.R.I.D.E Points

Our students have the opportunity to earn PRIDE points in a variety of ways here at Park Hall. Well done to these students for receiving the most PRIDE points in their year group this week.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Marlei Bignot	Codi Clark	Blossom Dixon	Kyle Murray	Lily Neish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Thursday 26th March – Yr 11 Parents Evening 2 – 3.30-6.30pm
- Friday 27th March – Last day of term for students

EASTER HOLIDAYS – Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

- Monday 13th April – Students return to school

Kooth - Year 11 Exam Stress

Please find below information from Kooth regarding exam stress.

I'm delighted to let you know we are offering two webinar dates for parents, carers and family members who are supporting children through exams this year. Please find more details below and do please share with families in your networks.

How you can support your child to manage exam stress

Join Kooth for a free 45-minute webinar and you'll hear from one of our community engagement team, alongside a clinician from Kooth.

They will offer expert tips on:

- When to take action
- Share practical ideas to help children manage their anxiety
- Discuss how Kooth can provide extra support.

The content has been written predominantly for families with secondary and higher aged children sitting GCSEs, A- Levels or Nationals and Highers in Scotland.

Book 16th March, 7:00pm

**Elmwood
Smith's Wood**



Timetable

March 2026





	Afternoon			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Health in the hearts of our community – 13:00-15:00 Help and advice around weight management, smoking, physical activity and much more. Speak to a member of staff at Elmwood to make an appointment.</p> <p>Boys Autism group – 16:00-18:00 <i>Term time only</i> Run by Ordinary Magic for boys with Autism. To book or find out more, email michelle@ordinarymagic.co.uk.</p>	<p>EPAS attendance support drop-in – 11:30-13:30 The Education Participation Advisory Service (EPAS) offer advice, support and guidance about school attendance. No appointment required, please pop in to see the team.</p> <p>LifeSkills by Family Action – 12:30-14:30 FREE four-week course on topics such as budgeting, problem solving, and communication skills. Suitable for adults and students. To book, email gillian.kelsall@family-action.org.uk or call 0121 779 1700.</p> <p>Family support drop-in – 13:00-16:00 Confidential advice and support to help you make positive changes. Includes a range of advice and guidance about difficult relationships at home, parenting, behaviour management, routines, boundaries, child development, bed wetting, sleep problems, school issues, and more.</p>	<p>Alzheimer's Society – 13:00-16:00 Information and peer support for carers of people with dementia as part of the 6-week Solihull Carers Information Programme (SCIP). For more information, please email Jody.Dawson@alzheimers.org.uk.</p> <p>Little Brum Youth Theatre group – 17:30-18:30 Big Brum Theatre in Education is launching a youth theatre for all year 6 children in Solihull. They recently visited local schools to tell the story of 'The Little Red Cap', sparking their imaginations and passion for performative theatre. To sign up or to find out more, email katie@bjabrum.org.uk.</p>	<p>Solihull Music Service – 14:00-18:00 <i>Term time only</i> After school guitar sessions at Elmwood Family Hub! Register your interest here: www.solihullmusic.org/our-family-offer.</p>	<p>Solihull College sensory play – 12:30-14:30 <i>Term time only</i> New ideas for activities to engage your children with an understanding of how to support your child's learning through sensory activities and play. FREE for Solihull residents. To book, email jess.orton@solihull.ac.uk or speak to Hub staff.</p>

[37 Burtons Way, Smith's Wood, Solihull, B36 0UG](#)

Wellbeing and advice

Here2Help
Family Hubs can help with food, toiletries, fuel, money, staying well, and keeping safe. To find out more, visit www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help.

Health visiting
To speak to a health visitor, Text Chat Health on 0750 733 2563 between 09:00-16:00, Monday-Friday.

Women's Aid
If you or someone you know needs support, call Women's Aid at 0808 800 0028. Available seven days a week, 09:15-17:15.

Mental health support
The Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust provide guidance and reassurance to people of all ages. Call 0800 915 9292 or 0121 262 3555.

Midwives
Please call your midwife using the phone number in your red book.

What else can the Family Hubs offer?

Help and support
Speak to our friendly staff

Stay and play area
Toys, books, and soft play

Sensory room
To book, call 0121 779 6943

Computers and private work pods
Internet and phone access

Community wardrobe
Free clothing

Family Hubs | solihull.gov.uk
 Solihull Family Hubs
 elmwoodfh@solihull.gov.uk
 0121 779 1700

Attendance

How absence from school affects children long term

Attendance	Average earnings (aged 28)
99-100%	£32,200
90-98.9%	£29,800
50-89.9%	£19,500
Below 50%	£10,100

A recent study by the **Department for Education study**, investigated the long-term impact of absence on future earnings. It highlights how students who attend school more regularly tend to earn higher salaries by the age of 28.

- **Students with nearly perfect attendance (99-100%)** earn an average of **£32,200** per year.
- **Those with attendance at 90-98.9%** earn slightly less, at **£29,800** per year.
- **Students with lower attendance (50-89.9%)** see a significant drop in earnings, averaging **£19,500** per year.
- **Students who attend less than 50% of the time** earn the least, at only **£10,100** per year.

This **Department for Education study** emphasizes the importance of regular school attendance in shaping a child's future success. Encouraging consistent attendance can have a **long-term impact** on job opportunities and financial stability later in life.

Attendance Matters

As we all know, attendance plays a huge part in our children achieving their full potential. Research has shown that pupils who performed better at the end of secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. **Reporting a Student Absence:** On the occasions when children are too unwell to attend school, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to contact school as soon as possible, by **8.30am** at the latest, on **each morning of absence**.

DID YOU KNOW...?

*There are **190** teaching days in a school year. **10** days of absence = **95%** attendance; **15** days of absence = **92%** attendance. Children with **OVER 90%** attendance are more likely to achieve 5 or more Grade 4+ qualifications Children with **LESS than 85%** attendance are **unlikely** to gain 5 or more 9-5 GCSE's or equivalent qualifications.*

Student Medication

This is a gentle reminder that if your child requires an inhaler, especially now that the colder weather is here, please ensure it is in their bag or blazer so they can use it as and when required. If your child needs medication that must be kept in school, please complete a consent form – please contact school if you need one

Contact Details

Have you changed your contact details? If you have changed your home address, telephone number, email address or name, please ensure that you contact the main office to update your details so that you do not miss out on information from school. You can update your details via email: post@parkhall.org or by calling 0121 748 0400.



For Parents - How to Report Online Harm

There are so many apps with different reporting functions, organisations, helplines and more it can be really frustrating for parents to get help. Internet Matters have a useful page which details some of these organisations and what they can do, how to report specific issues, how to report on many of the social platforms and games and where to go for more help. You can see all the details [HERE](#).

