



Park Lane Primary and Nursery School

# Headteacher Update

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

It really was a pleasure to see the children and staff return to school last week. I am often asked if I enjoy being a headteacher and the honest answer is 'yes'. This is my 17<sup>th</sup> year as a headteacher and my tenth year at Park Lane (time has flown). It is true to say the week before school reopens, I still get excited and feel incredibly fortunate to do what I do.

This year I am committing to writing a weekly newsletter, instead of the occasional letter. It will be shared with you on a Monday and my aim is to share with you all that is good about our school and its children. I think it will help **all of us** to feel proud of our school, especially the children.

Many of you will know I am the headteacher of two schools in Whittlesey. Both Park Lane and New Road are incredibly important to me, and I am very proud that both schools are now rated as 'Good' schools by Ofsted, this was not the case three years ago and we have been on a journey. Park Lane's recent inspection is the first time the school has been rated as a **Good school** two times in a row.

I am sometimes asked, how do you do it? I nearly always reply, '**I don't, the team does.**'

The New Road and Park Lane team consists of nearly 150 staff. We are one of the largest employers in Whittlesey. I line manage the senior leaders and senior office staff. I am incredibly fortunate to do this with Rachel Bains. We have worked together as a headteacher and deputy headteacher team for many years now and it works.

Its very easy for leaders in all walks of life to forget that they are only as good as the team they lead. Despite the hard work and commitment of the team, I always feel responsible when something goes wrong and frustrated when I cannot help or make a problem go away. I know Mrs Bains often feels the same.

Please remember, if you have a concern, please approach your child's class teacher in the first instance. Appointments can be made by emailing or calling the school office [office@parklaneprimary.com](mailto:office@parklaneprimary.com) We expect all staff to be friendly and to do their best to support you.

If your concerns or frustrations continue, you can request a meeting with the relevant senior leader:

- Louise Tansley for concerns regarding Nursery and Reception
- Ben Chisholm for concerns regarding Years 1 to 3
- Pete Ingham for concerns regarding Years 4 to 6
- Frances Light- Rudland for concerns regarding the support from a SENDCo

You always welcome to approach a senior leader in the playground or at the school gate too.

Now for some good news! **Park Lane has been awarded the School Games Gold Award for the third time!** One of the highest possible awards for a school's commitment to sport and ensuring its pupils have many sporting opportunities!

A huge thank you to Mrs Bowden and her team for the many sports opportunities and events they organise. We are very fortunate to have sports leadership at this level.

As we begin a new school year, I want to assure you that our commitment to providing a safe, supportive, and inspiring school remains steadfast. We believe that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together, and we value the important contribution that parents/carers make to their children's achievements.

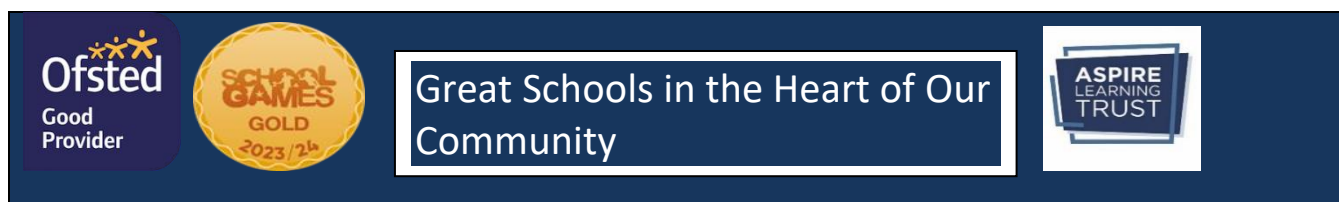
I have attached the term dates below, to help you plan and book any well-deserved breaks for you and your children during the school holidays.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to keeping you up to date with our successes as a school community throughout the year.

Kindest regards,

**Mr Rob Litten**

Headteacher, Park Lane Primary & Nursery School



## Term Dates 2024/2025

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Term 2024</b>                      Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  <b>Holiday</b>                      Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November</p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term 2024</b>                      Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of December  <b>Holiday</b>                      Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of December - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of January</p>
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Term 2025</b>                      Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of February  <b>Holiday</b>                      Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of February</p>	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Term 2025</b>                      Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of April  <b>Holiday</b>                      Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of April - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of April</p>
<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Term 2025</b>                      Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  <b>Holiday</b>                      Mayday – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025                      Monday 26<sup>th</sup> of May - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of May</p>	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Term 2025</b>                      Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of July</p>

**Staff Training Days when your child will not have to attend school are allocated as follows:**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025**