



THE PARKGATE ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

*Challenging educational orthodoxies so that every child makes good progress in core subjects;
all teachers are committed to personal improvement and fulfil their responsibilities;
all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum;
all academies strive to be outstanding.*

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Improvement Update-September 2020

In the Summer Term we continued to improve as a school. **We achieved the following:**

- Under extremely challenging circumstances, The Parkgate Academy continued to deliver quality teaching and learning opportunities for the children in F1, F2, Year 1 and Years 5 and 6. This was in addition to the children of Key Workers who attended school throughout the COVID lockdown period. For the children who did not attend school during this time, regular home learning activities were provided. The school remained in contact with children and parents throughout the March to July period to offer help and support. **50% of pupils at The Parkgate Academy chose to attend school to receive quality teaching and to experience some familiarity during an unusual time. Home learning was tailored to need to ensure academic progress was still achievable for all children.**
- Due to the increase in numbers of children attending The Parkgate Academy and to continue to keep small class sizes, we have recruited 8 new teaching staff in preparation for September. The largest year groups have 3 teachers to deliver the curriculum and there is no more than 50 children in every year group. The smallest teaching group consists of 16 children – nearly half of the amount of children in a typical class size in other schools. **Low class sizes ensure teachers quickly identify each child's stage of learning and can provide work that is tailored to need. It also supports the child's wellbeing as the teacher can build effective relationships, allowing the teacher to identify any support needed, in quick time.**
- To ensure class sizes remain small, renovations inside the building have taken place. Four rooms have been converted into new classrooms which adds to our current effective learning spaces and allows small groups of children to maximise their learning opportunities through quality displays, engaging reading areas and interactive touch screen boards that enhance teaching and learning. **Children receive personalised learning opportunities and develop their knowledge and skills through the effective use of resources. Class sizes remain small.**
- Alongside the four new classrooms, we have designed and are currently in the final stages of setting up a designated room for our Parkgate Pre-School that is attended by 2 year old children. Parkgate Pre-School is open from September 2020. However, we have plans for the room to be completed by October so we can welcome even more children from our community. Our Pre-School has been created following the success of The Sir Donald Bailey Academy's Pre-School. **We hope that children have a fantastic start in their education and the aim of the Pre-School is that children will progress at a rapid rate and are ready to become successful learners (in line with other children nationally) when transitioning to our Foundation 1 unit.**

PRINCIPAL: MRS KERRY CHADBURN

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- Some positive changes to improve our school's outdoor facilities began in July. The Parkgate Academy are proud to own a state of the art sports facility for multi-sports. The Sir Donald Bailey Academy have recently had a MUGA (multi-use games area) installed. Parkgate's is an exact copy and our children will look forward to performing on it. It will provide a space for the all-important physical activity that children need. [Children have access to the best facilities in the area and our school can host sporting events. This will support the need for an increase in children's physical activity; thus, contributing to improving health and mental wellbeing.](#)
- Miss Brock-Taylor, Miss Grozier and Miss Hoskins were appointed to coordinate and lead PE and after school provision. The Parkgate Academy highly values sport and extra-curricular opportunities, and we feel that more leaders will ensure our excellent sporting provision remains at a high standard and continues to develop even further. [An increase in leaders ensures a continuation in high standards and an increase in opportunities for all children to succeed in physical education and sport.](#)
- As a communication and support tool, Class Dojo was introduced to share news and extra learning opportunities. Parents can contact the class teacher to share successes from home and ask any questions regarding their child's education and school life. This also allows school to share regular updates without the need to print and distribute over 300 letters. [School has been able to communicate with parents during the COVID lockdown period and throughout the summer so they are reassured and informed about the provisions in place to ensure the safest possible return to school.](#)
- For parents that need childcare before and after school, the AM to PM provision continued to provide an excellent service for parents and children. Since July, Miss Hoskins has been researching the best providers to deliver clubs that enhance children's experiences. School will continue to provide a range of after school clubs, free of charge, when restrictions are lifted. [The Parkgate Academy is continuing to provide excellent out of school care and opportunities for all children, thus allowing parents flexibility when working, particularly in these difficult times.](#)
- Staff have attended many online training sessions during the Summer Term. The delivery of Letter and Sounds training is based around high-quality teaching of phonics for all children, and additional practice sessions will be provided for children that need extra support so that they make rapid progress. During the Summer Term, staff received training on how best to deliver the sessions. This developed their knowledge and skills in the teaching of early reading and phonics. Staff also received training about autism and how best to meet the needs of children with additional needs. This was alongside training on how to best support children in receipt of pupil premium funding and how to support children to catch up in English and Maths. [The staff team start the year full of confidence and look forward to welcoming the children back and providing the best teaching and support possible for all children.](#)

We look forward to working with you to make 2020-2021 a success for our school community.

Kerry Chadburn
(Principal)

Reece Davy
(Vice Principal)

