

Perton Middle School

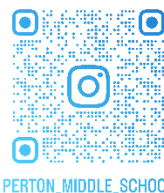
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NEWSLETTER 08.02.24

It is always a pleasure to share an update on school events and although this half-term has been comparatively short, there has been a lot going on. We have participated in a number of sporting and reading activities, run our first Mock SATs week of the year, rehearsed for our Young Voices performance in Birmingham after half-term, commenced rehearsals for our summer show of Aladdin, taken Y8 students to a careers fair and Y5 to the theatre and supported a number of charity events.

Next half-term promises to be just as action packed as we are already thinking ahead to transition days and options for Y8 as they select their subjects for GCSE. We hope that KS3 students will embrace the Shakespeare days on offer and we will also be reinvigorating our house system, so will be looking for House Captains to lead some of the competitions and fun events we have planned for the summer term.

Matters relating to the PTFA continue to move forward and we hope to host another disco in March. The Christmas disco was very popular and we had some lovely feedback from students.

Finally, I would like to inform you that Mr Green has decided to step back from his Phase Leader role and, for the time being, Mrs Shelley will oversee Y7 and Mrs Cadwallader Y8. If you have any concerns or questions about your child, please contact the form tutor or subject teacher in the first instance who will seek to resolve any issues you may raise. Information about forthcoming events is displayed on our website, so please check this regularly for updates and letters. We continue to use the SIMS app for news at the moment and we can be contacted via reception or by email should you need to get in touch.

I wish you a pleasant and hopefully dry half-term and look forward to working with you next half-term.

Best wishes,

Michelle Burrington

Acting Headteacher

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri 9th Feb – INSET day
- Fri 10th Feb – Half Term
- Thurs 22nd Feb - Young Voices Resorts World Birmingham

PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES & SNACKS

School lunches remain popular with both students and staff, but I would like to take this opportunity to request that meals are pre-ordered on Parent Pay to avoid disappointment regarding the choice of food available and also to mention that if overdue payments for snacks exceed £10, students will not be able to order any more until the balance is paid.



It would be appreciated if this could be discussed at home to avoid disappointment for students at break time. You can find the full menu and pricelist for snacks [on the school website](#).

SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS



This term, a group of year 8 readers are taking part in the Young Teen Fiction Award. Run by Staffordshire libraries, it is one of the only awards nominated by and voted for by the students.

In January, we visited Perton Library for a speed-reading event to launch this year's exciting longlist and soon we will

know which titles have made the shortlist.

Did you know?... The school library has an amazing 5563 books! Each month we suggest a *Book of the Month* – one for KS2 and one for KS3.

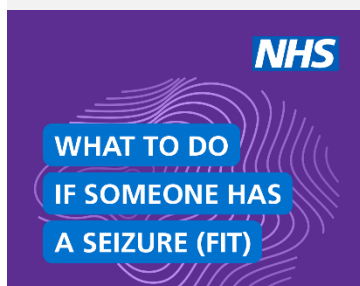
There are story books to make you laugh and story books to have you hiding under the table. One of our favourite collections are the small but beautifully formed graphic novels, suitable for everyone. We have fact books to amaze you and loads of information texts just waiting to help with that tricky bit of homework. The library is open at break and lunch-times so students can come and see what is on offer.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week, we have been promoting Children's Mental Health Week by supporting our students in discussing the pressures they may be under, strategies they can use and who they can talk to.



EPILEPSY AWARENESS



Epilepsy is a condition which affects the brain and causes seizures. Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions in the world and it affects around 630,000 people in the UK. This means that around 1 in 100 people in the UK have epilepsy.

The school held an awareness and fundraising day today. In form time, the students learnt what epilepsy is and how it can be managed. Money raised will be split between the PTFA and a national epilepsy charity.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

ONLINE ABUSE WARNING

According to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#), children (and particularly girls) aged 11-13 continue to appear most frequently in 'self-generated' inappropriate imagery being shared online, although they also observed a steep increase in the proportion of this type of imagery including children aged 7-10 in 2022, up 129% from 2021. Children can be groomed, coerced or encouraged into creating and sharing such images.



This is an extremely worrying trend, so we would like to encourage parents/carers to [read the advice](#) they offer.

As part of their campaign, parents are encouraged to **T.A.L.K** to their children about the dangers.

- **Talk to your child** about online abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.
- **Agree ground rules** about the way you use technology as a family.
- **Learn about the platforms** and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- **Know how to use tools**, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.