



Peel Park Primary School



Peel Park Governing Board

Do you want to make a positive difference for the children in our school and the community we serve?

The governing board at our school plays an important role in setting the strategic vision and direction, approving the budget and holding the strategic leadership team to account.

You can find information on how to apply to join the board on Arbor or by emailing d.waites@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk



Autumn term 2023

As we come to the end of the first half-term of this school year, I would like to share some of the successes with you all.

The Harvest festival was a huge success, and everyone was extremely generous with their donations. The food was collected by Accrington Christians Together and has been distributed to local people through their food bank. On top of this, we prepared some hampers, which were taken to five local elderly people by some of our children. These were very well received, and these photos will appear on our social media channels soon.

On top of this, we have had a number of visitors to our school, and many of our classes have been on trips. This has included our Y5 children going to the Helmshore Textile Museum and our Y4 children going to Ribchester as part of their Roman unit. We have exciting trips planned for all year groups, and our usual residentials for our older children are coming soon!

Today is the final day of the half-term, and we **return to school on Tuesday 31st October**. I would like to wish all of our children and parents a restful holiday, and I look forward to seeing everyone after this short break.

Mr Waites

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility in school, and we take this very seriously. Keeping your child safe is our primary concern. Our designated safeguarding officer is **David Waites**, and the deputy officers are **Kirsty Goldsmith** and **Michael Kerr**. If you need any more information about this, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Parents Forum

We had a good turn out for the most recent Parents Forum and I would like to thank each of those who attended. There was a number of useful discussions and suggestions to help make Peel Park a better place to be. Amongst the topics discussed was parking, reading books and rewards in school.

A summary of the discussions are below:

Reading books- It was reported that a number of children were not having their books changed regularly and, in some cases, the books seemed too easy. Since the meeting there has been a staff meeting focused on reading, the staff have been asked to change books more frequently and a member of the senior leadership team is currently reviewing the systems in place. Mr Waites also reminded parents of the importance of enjoying any reading material, including magazines, non-fiction books or comics from home. As long as it promotes children's enjoyment of reading then class teachers will be happy. If you feel that your child's reading book is too easy for them, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Parking- A lengthy discussion occurred regarding the parking issues around school. This has been reported to the local council a number of times and more signage has been ordered for the front of school. Mr Waites explained he tries to ensure an increased presence around the front and side of school but it is a difficult situation to manage. **Please can we ask that all parents try to show consideration when parking and, if you are able, please park as far away from school as possible as this will ease congestion around the school. This will help ensure our main priority which is the safety of the children in our school.**

Rewards- A discussion was had around the rewards that our children receive within school. Mr Waites mentioned that our staff team, including teachers and teaching assistants had given consideration to the bronze, silver and gold reading badges that we awarded to the children last year. This system was also discussed with parents. A unanimous decision was that the badges will discontinue with immediate effect. **Instead of the badges, there will be a weekly certificate given to a child in each class who has shown a strength in their reading in that particular week.** This could be for most improved, or reading a different genre, or simply having the courage to read aloud in the class for the first time. Mr Waites reassured the parents group that this change does not mean that we don't value the children's reading at home, the decision was made with the belief we are further highlighting the enjoyment of reading as more children in our school will have the opportunity to be rewarded for their improvement. These certificates will start after half-term and will be awarded on a Friday alongside the values certificates.

Peel Park School values

Be READY, be RESPECTFUL, be SAFE

Remembrance Week 2023

For the week of Remembrance this year (6th-10th November), all children will be coming off their usual timetable and dedicating the week to Remembrance themed-activities. The week will have a focus on poetry and art, with all classes being introduced to WW1 poets and artists. Many of our children will also be going on local visits to understand how the

wars impacted on the local area, paying remembrance to the unique place that Accrington had in these events.

**Remembrance Day**
— Lest We Forget —



On the 22nd November, we will be having a special parents event after school with our Remembrance Art Gallery. We invite all parents and carers to join us in school to look at the artwork that the children have created and have the opportunity to purchase

your child's framed picture to take home. Alongside this, we will have light refreshments for the adults and children and we are hoping to have a local musician to entertain everyone too!

This is an event which was discussed at a previous Parents Forum and we are pleased that

Autumn term dates for your diary

Event	Date	Time
Children return to school after the holidays	31st October	8.40am
Parents evening day 1	8th November	3.30pm-6pm
Parents evening day 2	9th November	3.30pm-6pm
Parents Forum, everyone invited	14th November	9am
Children in Need Day	17th November	All day
Road safety week	20th November	All week
Remembrance Art Gallery for parents	22nd Nov 2023	4pm-5.30pm
Xmas dinner and xmas jumper day	7th December	All day
Christmas performances week	W/b 11th December	All week
End of term	21st December	3.20pm
School reopens	8th January 2024	8.40am

Further information on these all events will be shared on Arbor nearer the time