Peel Park Primary School

Half termly Newsletter
September and October 2024

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting and enriching school year! We hope you've had a wonderful summer break filled with fun, relaxation, and cherished memories.

Our dedicated teachers and staff have been working tirelessly to create a vibrant learning environment that will challenge, inspire, and nurture each student's unique potential.

This year, we're continuing several initiatives to enhance your educational experience:

1. Our Thrive program will continue in school, helping us improve our children's mental health and wellbeing.
2. We will continue to use **PiXL** with our older children to support their academic achievement, identify gaps, and provide support in the key areas of their learning.
3. **Forest School:** Our experienced Forest School staff will continue to support our students in learning personal, social, and technical skills on our beautiful grounds. This now includes our new allotment (more information will follow later in the year).
4. We have continued to upgrade our classrooms with the latest **educational technology** to support 21st-century learning and equip our children with the skills they will need in their later lives.

We're also thrilled to welcome several new teaching and support staff who bring fresh perspectives and expertise to our school community. We hope that you enjoyed meeting some of them at our Meet the Teacher event last Thursday.

Remember, our doors are always open. We encourage open communication between students, parents, and staff to ensure a successful school year. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out.

To our returning students: welcome back! We've missed your energy and enthusiasm. We also give a warm welcome to all the new students joining our school family.

Let's make this year one of growth, achievement, and unforgettable experiences. Together, we'll create a supportive community where every student can thrive and reach their full potential.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

David Waites

Peel Park Primary School, Alice Street, Accrington, BB5 6ED - 01254 231583 office@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk

Reminders and updates

Pupil Management information and Contact Details

We continue to use Arbor for our MIS. This allows parents to view their child's personal details and manage contacts, consents etc. Through Arbor you can keep track of your child's attendance and, in future, progress and behaviour. We will use Arbor to communicate with you via email, in-app messages and texts; it is therefore vital that you ensure your contact details are up to date, you can check who we have registered for emergency contacts however, due to data protection restrictions, you are unable to check their personal (contact) details. It is imperative that we are able to contact parents on a day-to-day basis, regarding the welfare of their child, and in particular in the event of an emergency. It is a legal requirement for schools to have a minimum of two contacts for each child.

Snacks and water bottles

All infant children (EYFS to Year 2) are provided with a piece of fruit each day and junior pupils can either bring a snack from home or purchase a snack item from the school kitchen. Please can we remind parents that we are a healthy school and that sweets, chocolate bars and crisps are not appropriate snacks. All children should also bring a filled water bottle each day to drink in class. This may contain plain or flavoured water. It should not be filled with juice, cordial or fizzy drinks. Your child is able to re-fill their bottle at an appropriate time from the water cooler.

First Aid Incidents

We will continue to notify parents by phone of any first aid incidents during the day and a slip will also be sent home with your child. Phone calls are made for FACE AND HEAD injuries.

Medical Appointments

Whenever possible, please could we ask parents / guardians to arrange medical appointments outside school hours. We do understand that this is not always possible, especially in the case of hospital appointments, therefore please arrange for the school office to have an emailed copy of the appointment letter / card so that the absence can be recorded as authorised for medical reasons.

Nasal Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be done in school on the 8th November. Please consent on the link attached. The link will also be sent out on Arbor. https://nhsImms.azurewebsites.net/session/c3b5969d

Parents evening

Dates will soon be available for parents evening, you will be able to book your slot on the Arbor app when it goes live.

Current vacancies

We are looking for 2 cleaners, working 10 hours per week. These are permanent posts working Monday to Friday and the hours can be either 6am till 8am or 4pm till 6pm. The salary is Foundation Living wage which is currently £11.44 per hour. If you are interested in these positions, please email office@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk for an application form. Closing date: Friday 20th September.

School Trips

All school trip information, consent and payment details can be found on your child's Arbor Account.
We are always needing volunteers to help out so if you would like to volunteer on any trip, please register your interest at the office.

Year 3 - Accrington Stanley

Tuesday 24th September - Free trip

Year 2 - Eureka

Thursday 17th October - £17.22 per child. School will provide a packed lunch for your child

Year 6 - Aberdovey, Snowdonia

Monday 3rd February until Friday 7th February 2025

£75 Deposit due by 22nd September via Arbor, please contact the office for more information.

Year 5 - London

Monday 10th March until Wednesday 12th March 2025

£75 deposit due by 22nd September (Cash at the office) Limited spaces available

School meals, Dolce and School Grid

All school meals are now ordered and paid for via School Grid. The School Grid system is now fully up and running and in order that your child gets what they want to eat, all orders must be placed and paid for before 8:50am each day via the school grid system.

It's important to remember to top up your accounts and order your meals in advance as if payment isn't received, your child may not get what you've ordered for them.

If your child has **any allergies or dietary needs** you **must** ensure that you add this to the School Grid system when registering your account as the office have very limited access to this function.

Please note: ARBOR is still our method of school communication.

Thurs 19th September	Open Morning 10:30am till 11:30am
Mon 30th September	Coffee and cake event (details to follow)
Fri 4th October	Outdoor Cinema event (details to follow)
Thurs 10th October	Open Morning 10:30am till 11:30am
Fri 18th October	School closes for half term
Weds 23rd & Thurs 24th October	Autumn Forest School Holiday Club 9:00am until 3:00pm - £20 per day Please email j.peel@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk to book your place
Tues 29th October	School re-opens
Tues 29th October	Halloween event with PTFA (see info below)
Thurs 31st October	Halloween event with the PTFA (see info below)
Friday 8th November	Flu vaccinations to whole school
Thursday 28th November	John Hunt Photographers in school (Individual/siblings photo's)

PEEL PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024-2025

AUTUMN TERM 2024

INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils	Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024
RE-OPEN	**Wednesday 4th September 2024**
School closes for half term	Friday 18th October 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 21st October to Friday 25th October 2024
INSET DAY – school closed to pupils	Monday 28th October 2024
RE-OPEN	Tuesday 29th October 2024
Closure after school on	Friday 20th December 2024
HALF TERM (Christmas)	Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

SPRING TERM 2025

RE-OPEN	**Monday 6th January 2025**
School closes for half term	Friday 14th February 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025
RE-OPEN	Monday 24th February 2025
Closure after school on	Friday 4th April 2025
HALF TERM (Spring)	Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

RE-OPEN	**Tuesday 22nd April 2025**
MAY DAY – **school closed to pupils**	Monday 5th May 2025
School re-opens	**Tuesday 6th May 2025**
School closes for half term	Friday 23rd May 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025
RE-OPEN	**Monday 2nd June 2025**
Closure after school	Friday 18th July 2025
INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils	Monday 21st July and Tuesday 22nd July 2025
SUMMER HOLIDAYS	Friday 18th July 2025 to TBA

INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils

Monday 2nd September 2024
Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Monday 28th October 2024
Monday 21st July 2025
Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Find out more about the exciting things that happen in school by following us on Facebook!

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Primary | September 2024

In this issue:

- A child's first phone
- Better sleep routines
- App focus: Snapchat

A Child's First Phone

According to Ofcom, about a quarter of 5-7 year olds own a smartphone, while by age 11, 91% of children have one. If you're considering getting your child a phone or passing down an old device, here are four crucial questions to think about:

- **Is your child mature and responsible enough?**
  - Evaluate if your child can adhere to screen time guidelines and use the phone appropriately. Have they shown responsibility in other areas like taking care of their belongings?
  - Make sure your child understands the potential risks of smartphone use, such as exposure to inappropriate content and cyberbullying.
- **What are your child's communication needs?**
  - Think about whether your child truly needs a smartphone. If they're occasionally away from you and involved in activities where they need to stay in touch, a smartphone might be helpful, but not always necessary.
  - If it's for educational purposes, consider whether they should have their own phone or if it could be a family device.
- **What safety features does the device offer?**
  - Activate parental controls before handing it over to them to limit access to unsuitable content.
  - Explore apps on your phone to monitor their usage.
  - Research the device to understand the available safety features.
- **What boundaries should be set to ensure your child's safety when using a smartphone?**
  - Establish clear rules regarding phone usage, including when and how it can be used, permitted apps and guidelines for communication with others.
  - Discuss consequences for not following the boundaries and model healthy smartphone habits yourself to set a positive example for your child.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SETTING BOUNDARIES WHEN GIVING YOUR CHILD THEIR FIRST PHONE:

1. Parental access:
   - Passwords shared
   - Regular checking of social media and messaging services
   - Approval of apps before download
2. Phone-free time:
   - Daily limits
   - Phone-free activities
   - Designated time set aside for phone use, then returned to a central place when not in use
3. Phone-free areas:
   - Phones are not to be taken into bedrooms or bathrooms
   - Phones turned off and stored in a central place (for charging), 30 minutes before bed
4. Conduct:
   - Respect and kindness shown whilst using the phone
   - Open dialogue and no secrecy about what it is been used for

@The_Enlightened_Parent

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

10 WAYS TO IMPROVE SLEEP FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Consistent bedtime
Aim to put your child to bed at a similar time every night.

Sleep - friendly environment
Create a quiet, cool, dark room with as little distractions as possible.

Limit screen time
Avoid all types of screens for at least 30 minutes before bed. Swap for a calm activity.

Encourage physical activity
Encouraging physical activity can tire them out, aiding in better sleep.

Diet and nutrition
Avoid sugary, rich and heavy foods in the evening as these can disrupt sleep.

Address anxieties
If your child has fears about bedtime, spend time reassuring them.

Be mindful of naps
Avoid naps, especially in the afternoon and evening.

Teach self-soothing
Teach them to fall to sleep and get back to sleep by themselves.

Calm routine
Create a calm routine before bed which includes activties such as reading, colouring or gentle play.

Model good sleep habits
Let your children see you prioritising sleep and maintain a consistent routine.

The Significance of Sleep

For children, sleep plays a crucial role due to the significant changes happening in their bodies and minds. Here are some key reasons highlighting the importance of sleep:

- Physical growth and development: Sleep triggers the release of growth hormones necessary for physical growth.
- Brain development: Quality sleep is essential for brain development, especially in areas related to decision-making, impulse control and emotional regulation.
- Emotional well-being: Sleep aids in emotional regulation, stress reduction and is closely linked to mental health.

Ensuring that children get enough quality sleep is essential for their growth, learning and overall well-being. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that children aged 5-12 get 9-11 hours of sleep a night.

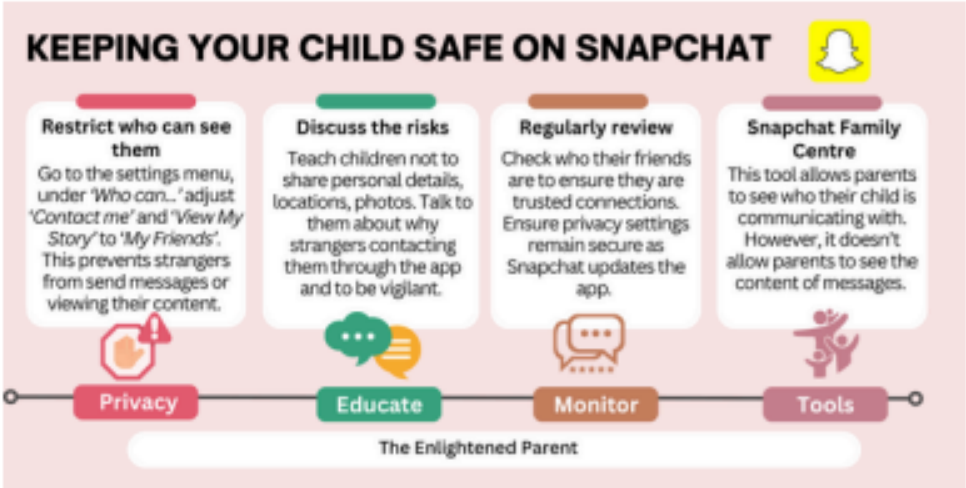
Barriers to good sleep

There are many reasons that children don't get good quality sleep. Some of these are:

- Irregular sleep schedules, especially on weekends., can disrupt a child's sleep routine.
- Use of electronic devices late into the night can be a significant barrier to a good night sleep.
- A noisy or brightly lit room can make it difficult for children to fall asleep and stay asleep.
- Consuming caffeinated or sugary foods and drinks, especially in the evening can impact on a child's ability to fall asleep.
- Children might underestimate the importance of sleep, leading to a reluctance to create good sleep habits.

Snapchat: A leading social media platform for kids

Despite the minimum age requirement of 13, many younger children sign up for Snapchat as there is no age verification process.
Here are some safety tips for parents and carers of children who use the app.



Focus on Attendance

Important Update - Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices

Information for Parents

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on 19th August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19th August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19th August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning

This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential

We continue to monitor attendance closely to ensure that all absences are accounted for. Can we remind parents that it's your responsibility to let us know by **9am** each day if your child is going to be absent or is running late. You can do this by phoning the office and selecting option 1.

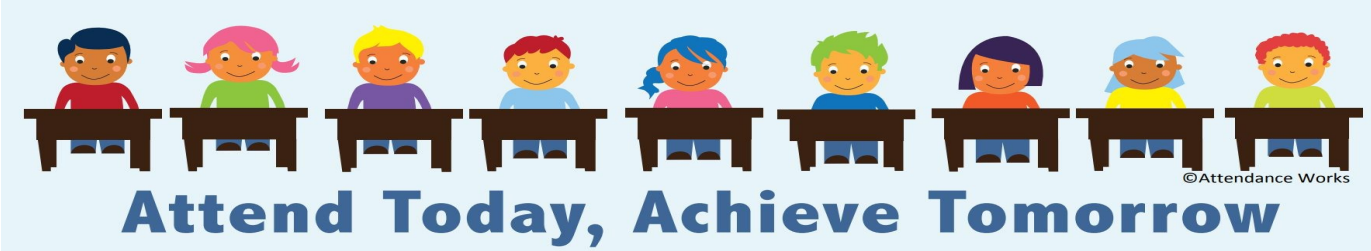
Arbor has a new feature - You can now report your child absent on the app.

Click attendance and report absence.

LCC can now issue a fine if your child is late for school 10 times or more in one term.

For more information see the website.

School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Starting Secondary School 2025

Important dates

Sunday 1st September 2024

Apply from this date—School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school.

Thursday 31st October 2024

National closing date for secondary applications (statutory). During this period all applications are processed, and all preferences are considered against the published admissions policy. Where there are more applications than places available, decisions are made as to which children should be offered the available places. We will liaise and exchange information with all other admission authorities including neighbouring authorities. The allocation and offer of a secondary school place is finalised.

Monday 3rd March 2024

Offers issued to parents (The national offer day is 1st March, if this date falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, offers are sent the next working day) If you are not happy with an initial offer the appeals period starts from your receipt of the offer. Appeal information will be issued later as this allows some time for waiting lists to operate.

Our PTFA have organised the following Halloween Disco's. More details will follow soon on Arbor.

Tuesday 29th October

EYFS children— Please come to school in Halloween fancy dress and they will be attending a party in the afternoon.

Year 1 pupils Halloween party after school from 3:30pm until 4:30pm

Year 2 pupils Halloween party after school from 4:45pm until 5:45pm

Year 3 pupils Halloween party after school - 6:00pm until 7:00pm

Thurs 31st October

Year 4 pupils Halloween party after school from 3:30pm until 4:30pm

Year 5 pupils Halloween party after school from 4:45pm until 5:45pm

Year 6 pupils Halloween party after school - 6:00pm until 7:00pm

Parents don't need to stay, simply drop your child off at school.

Cake and Coffee Morning

What better way to start your day than with some fresh coffee and delicious cake!

Join us by the front of school on

Monday, 30th September

at 9:00am

for a hot drink and a selection of cakes in support of Macmillan.

We look forward to seeing you.

Supporting WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

ACCRINGTON ROAD RUNNERS JUNIOR RACE SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2024

Registration at Walton Arms, Burnley Road, Altham from 8am

Race starts at Altham Industrial Estate

Junior Race

Age 4-14

Entry £5

Pay on the day (cash only)

Medals for all runners!

TIMINGS

08:00 Registration Opens

10:10 Race (2km)

11:00 Junior Prize Giving

Trophy for 1st boy & girl U8, U12, U15

U8 must be accompanied by an adult

accringtonroadrunners

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

EAST

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2025 and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 15 January 2025

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit **lancashire.gov.uk/schools**

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call **01254 220747**.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit **www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces** *and click* **'school admission policies'**.

lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council