



# Peel Park Primary School

Half termly Newsletter  
Spring term 2025



Dear Parent/Carer



As always at Peel Park, we really value the impact that parents and carers can have on the children within our school. It is for that reason that we will be having another 'Thrive Week' that celebrates the work that our whole school community is doing to support the 'whole child.' We will share more details closer to the event.

On another note, staff from school are beginning the final preparations to take large groups of our children on our annual residential trips. Our year six children are going to Outward Bound in Wales next week to participate in many outdoor and adventurous activities, including hiking, canoeing, and powerboating. In early March I will be part of a staff team of six who will be accompanying nearly 60 year-five children on their annual trip to London. While there, we will visit many of the sites, take in a west-end show, and have our boat trip on the River Thames.

The staff team's dedication and commitment to these and all school events makes them possible, so thank you for continuing to give your all for Peel Park's children!

Following the publication of the recent OFSTED report, we have put in place a robust action plan of how to continue to enhance the many positives that were identified within the report and address the areas that need improving. We will share this plan with the governing body and the staff. As a school, you can see in the report that we have been on a very rapid period of improvement from a low starting point when I arrived. I look forward to a period of time now where the changes can be embedded, and we can continue to see the positive impact of these changes—particularly in our new curriculum.

Thankyou for all your continued support

**David Waites**  
**Headteacher**



A warm Peel Park welcome to the Teachers that have joined us in January.

Mr Dwyer, Miss Smith Miss Sayle.

Mrs Burton has also joined us as the new SENDCO/ Assistant Head.

We have also had some new pupils join us this half term, If you see an unfamiliar face around

# Trips and Clubs



## Year 6 - Aberdovey, Snowdonia

Monday 3rd February until Friday 7th February 2025

Payments due—£115 due by 30th November, £115 by 31st January

(Total trip cost £305)

## Year 5 - London

Monday 10th March until Wednesday 12th March 2025

Payments due—£150 by 30th November, £100 by 31st January (Total trip cost £325)

## Year 4 Blackburn Museum

This trip is being rescheduled due to the snow last week. More information to follow on Arbor.

## Years 4,5 and 6 - Ewood Express

31st January 2025 Spaces Limited. Please book via Arbor

Clubs running until W/C 10th February next terms clubs will be confirmed at the beginning of March.

Animal Olympics Year 1 & 2

Cheerleading Year 3 & 4

After the Bell Boxing Year 6



# What's on in School

EYFS 31st January - Chinese New year workshop **Parents welcome from 14:30**

Year 6 - 13th February WWII Day

EYFS—26th February Mini Beast Hunt **Parents welcome from 14:30**

EYFS—28th March Mothers Day Crafts **Parents welcome from 14:30**

3rd April—Rocksteady concert **Parents welcome from 14:30**

Whole School 6th March—World Book Day

All events and information are sent out on Arbor via in-app or Email. Please check regularly for updates.



Many congratulations to **Matthew Stewart** who was the successful parent from our recent Parent Governor ballot and also to **Mariya Collector** who has also been nominated as our new Co-Opted Governor.

# Reminders and updates

## 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.

## Winter clothing

As it gets colder, please ensure you send your child to school with a warm coat, a hat, scarves and gloves so they can continue to access outdoor play. Please ensure all items sent to school are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.



## Free school meals

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at Peel Park Primary School...BUT YOU MUST APPLY!

Look at the benefits:

- A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
- Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.
- Extra money for the school through Pupil Premium, worth at least £900 a year.
- School will also support your child by contributing £80 per year towards uniform and trips.

Remember. Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that Peel Park receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No one will know you have registered, and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. If you want further information, then please talk to Mrs Gerrard or email [office@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@peelpark.lancs.sch.uk); everything you say will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Do you qualify? Your child will be eligible for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits.

- **Income Support.**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190**
- **Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit**
- **Universal Credit**



If you think you could be entitled to free school meals, please follow the link to check your eligibility.

[https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_pupil\\_premium](https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_school_meals_and_pupil_premium)

# Peel Park Values out in the Community



One of our amazing year 4 pupils ran The 2k Fun Run for East Lancs Hospice. Mrs Holt was also there Volunteering for the charity.



**To feature in the Newsletter please send in your achievements to the office email.**

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him .

I thought about that smile  
then I realized its worth,  
A single smile,  
just like mine  
could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!

- Russell H. Conwell



The School PTFA are a group of people who organise various events to help bring our school community together and raise funds for 'extras' for the children in school.

They are welcoming new members so if you are interested, please contact the office if you would like a membership form.



Congratulations to Mrs Hill who has given birth to a healthy baby girl.

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 | January 2025



## What is sextortion?

Sextortion is a form of online exploitation where a perpetrator coerces or blackmails a victim into providing explicit videos or images.

## In this issue:

- Sextortion
- Roblox

**HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM SEXTORTION**

- Educate about online safety**  
Teach your child not to share personal information, photos, or videos online.
- Supervise digital activities**  
Monitor your child's use of social media, games, and messaging apps. Use parental controls to restrict access to inappropriate content or contact.
- Encourage open communication**  
Create a safe environment where your child feels comfortable sharing any online experiences that make them uneasy.
- Stay informed and proactive**  
Stay aware of the apps your child uses and their risks. Watch for warning signs such as behavioural changes, secrecy, or unusual online activity.

## What parents need to know about sextortion

Sextortion is a serious online threat that can target anyone, but children are particularly vulnerable. There has been a recent rise in primary school aged children being targeted because they may not fully understand the risks and are easier to manipulate.

### How Sextortion Works

**Initial contact:** predators often contact children through social media, gaming platforms, or messaging apps. They may pose as someone the child's age, a mutual friend, or even someone the child knows.

**Building trust:** predators use friendly conversations, compliments, and subtle manipulation to gain a child's trust. They may pretend to share common interests or act like a peer.

**Obtaining explicit material:** through their grooming tactics, predators may persuade children to share private photos or videos. They may even send fake images of themselves to make the child feel more comfortable.

**Blackmail:** once the predator has compromising material, they use it to blackmail the child. They might threaten to share the material with friends, family, or online unless the child sends more explicit content or even money.

**Artificial intelligence:** the use of AI has significantly increased the risks of sextortion for children by making it easier for perpetrators to create realistic fake identities, manipulate content and exploit vulnerabilities. AI can generate deepfake images or videos that appear to show the victim, even if they've never shared explicit material of this kind.

**Warning signs of sextortion:** parents should be alert to changes in their child's behaviour that may indicate they are being targeted for sextortion. Key warning signs include increased anxiety, depression, or withdrawal from family and friends; reluctance to use devices or secrecy surrounding online activity; and sudden requests for money or attempts to conceal financial transactions. Recognising these behaviours early can help parents intervene and provide the necessary support to protect their child.

## What to do if your child is a victim of sextortion

If your child faces sextortion, stay calm and supportive. Let them know it's not their fault and that you're there to help. Avoid meeting the predator's demands. Instead, document the messages and evidence, and report the incident to the police, who are trained to assist in such cases.

Speak to a designated Safeguarding Lead at school so they can provide support. You can also contact Childline to have any public images removed: [Childline Report and Remove](#).

# SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

## Roblox- new parental controls and safety features

Roblox is particularly popular among younger audiences, offering a safe and creative space for gaming and learning. The platform has grown significantly, with millions of active users daily, and has become a cultural phenomenon in gaming.

Roblox, while offering creative and educational opportunities, can pose risks to children if not properly monitored. Here are some key concerns and how they can impact young users:

- Inappropriate content
- online predators
- in-game purchases and scams
- cyberbullying
- addiction and overuse.

In 2024, Roblox introduced new parental controls and safety features for users under 13 years old and announced that they wanted to 'keep users of all ages safe' on their platform.

Updated parental controls and safety features:

**1) Direct messaging restrictions:** to enhance safety, children under 13 can no longer send direct messages outside of games. For in-game messaging, parental consent is required. These measures are designed to help protect your child from potentially inappropriate interactions and ensure a safer online environment.

**2) Parental accounts:** parents and caregivers can now set up accounts linked to their child's Roblox account. This feature allows you to remotely manage important settings, such as screen time limits, spending controls, and monitoring your child's friend list. It's an easy way to stay actively involved in your child's online activities and ensure they have a safe and enjoyable experience.

**3) Content labels:** Roblox experiences are now categorised with clear content labels—"Minimal," "Mild," "Moderate," and "Restricted"—to help parents understand their suitability for children. By default, kids under 9 can only access "Minimal" or "Mild" content, while those under 13 are blocked from "Restricted" content unless you give explicit permission. This feature helps you ensure your child is engaging with age-appropriate content.

**4) Screen time management:** parents now have the ability to set daily screen time limits for their child's Roblox usage. Once the set time is reached, access is automatically restricted until the next day. This feature helps encourage a healthy balance between online activities and other important aspects of your child's day.

**5) Experience restrictions:** to enhance safety, users under 13 are now restricted from accessing certain types of experiences on Roblox, including social hangouts and those involving free-form writing or drawing. These restrictions are designed to protect your child from potential exposure to inappropriate content and ensure a safer gaming environment.

While Roblox's new safety features offer added protection, it's still important for parents to actively monitor their child's activity. Setting boundaries, reviewing interactions, and maintaining open communication about online safety will help ensure a secure experience. Staying involved and using the available tools will keep your child safe while they enjoy Roblox.

## THREE IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD REGARDING ONLINE GAMING:



ALWAYS REMEMBER TO ONLY CHAT WITH FRIENDS YOU KNOW IN REAL LIFE, AND NEVER SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION LIKE ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER.



IF YOU EVER SEE SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU UNCOMFORTABLE OR FEEL UNSAFE, LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY, AND WE'LL REPORT IT TOGETHER.



STICK TO PLAYING GAMES THAT ARE MARKED AS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR AGE, AND DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.

## TOP TIP

The updated parental controls and safety features on Roblox will be effective only if the child's true age is used to set up their Roblox account.

@THE\_ENLIGHTENED\_PARENT

# TERM DATES 2025-2026

## SPRING TERM 2025

School closes for half term	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>February half term</b>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025
RE-OPEN	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Closure after school on	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Spring half term</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2025

## SUMMER TERM 2025

RE-OPEN	<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025</b>
MAY DAY – school closed to pupils	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
School re-opens	<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>
School closes for half term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
<b>Summer half term</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
RE-OPEN	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025</b>
Closure after school	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
<b>INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils</b>	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July and Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025

## AUTUMN TERM 2025

<b>INSET DAYS – school closed for pupils</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025</b>
School reopens	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
Closure after school	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
<b>Autumn half term</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025
School reopens	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
Closure after school	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2025 till Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026

## SPRING TERM 2026

<b>INSET DAYS – school closed for pupils</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
School reopens	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Closure after school	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Spring half term</b>	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
School reopens	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Closure after school	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Easter Holiday</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

## SUMMER TERM 2026

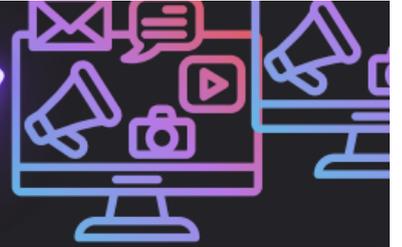
School reopens	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>May Bank Holiday – school closed</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
School reopens	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Closure after school	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
<b>Summer half term</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
School reopens	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
Closure after school	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
<b>INSET DAY – school closed for pupils</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>
<b>Summer holiday</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 to TBA

### INSET DAYS – school closed to pupils

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025  
 Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025  
 Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
 Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
 Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026



# ONLINE SAFETY



There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs.

Being online can be great but it is important that we set boundaries for our children to keep them safe whilst they explore being online, develop their digital resilience and understanding of what to do if anything negative happens when online.

Don't like to read?

Click the links below to watch the Online Safety Videos.

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/free-online-safety-group-workshops/>



## TV, FILMS & SERIES

Not too sure where you can find out information for the shows, films and series your children watch - click the link below.

[HTTPS://WWW.COMMONSEMEDIA.ORG/TV-REVIEWS](https://www.commonsemmedia.org/tv-reviews)

# AGE RATINGS



There are no exact rules about the right age to give your child access to technology. Every child's different and will mature in their own time. But there are age restrictions on the things children can access.

**Films:** The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. <https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>.



**Video games:** PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration user generated content within games (such as on Roblox) and chat facilities within games.

<https://www.unicef.org/parenting/child-care/video-games-explainer>

<https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews>

**Social Media:** All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.



**Apps:** Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and play them yourself to check their suitability.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Children and young people use many different social media apps and sites. The most popular are Facebook and Instagram, with many others such as Snapchat, TikTok and Twitter.



### Facebook

**Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:**

newsfeed to share text, photos & videos, instant messaging, marketplace, friends, likes and comments.



### Instagram

**Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:**

photo & video sharing, livestreaming, stories, DMs, hashtags.



### Snapchat

**Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:**

photo & video messaging, snaps, location sharing.



### Twitter/X

**Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:**

tweets (text with restricted character count), photo and video sharing, hashtags.



### TikTok

**Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:**

making & sharing short videos, lip-syncing.

These are some of the features of different social media platforms and what they mean:

- **Reel:** a short video that users can create, edit and upload to share with their followers.
- **Story:** a way of posting photo and video content that typically vanishes after 24 hours. Stories can also be saved to a profile and viewed again.
- **Snap:** a picture or video which is deleted automatically once it has been viewed. It can be viewed for only a few seconds before deleting.
- **DM:** a direct message, which is a private message sent on social media.

What are the risks of social media for children?

- Oversharing
- Sharing their location
- Talking to people they don't know
- Sending or receiving inappropriate contents
- Unrealistic sense of body image or reality
- Obsessive focus on like and comments

# ADVICE FROM NSPCC

## ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF UNDER 5S

- Supervise use - We recommend this age group only have supervised access to technology. This means that they should only be using technology when fully supported by a parent or carer.
- Use family devices, accounts and services – Use child friendly devices and services like children’s tablets and child versions of popular video sites.
- Check content first – Check the content on apps and games each time before use and turn off features like ‘autoplay’ so you can be in control of what is shown next.
- Set up your parental controls – make use of safety settings across your home Wi-Fi, devices and accounts. You can find out more by [visiting our parental controls page](#).
- Start safety conversations - it’s important to start talking about safety online as soon as your child is using technology. [Visit our Techosaurus page](#) for age-appropriate resources.
- Establish healthy habits - Make technology use purposeful from a young age by making sure it’s [playing a positive role](#) in your family. You can do this by watching and enjoying age-appropriate online videos together.

## ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD

- Enable access to devices with limited features - Device usage at this age is best kept to devices with limited capability. This could include tablets without data and non-smart phones that only allow calls and texts.
- Keep tech use visible in the home - Try to keep tech use in shared family spaces or used with bedroom doors open. This will allow you to support your child and be more aware of what they are doing online.
- Follow age ratings – Apps, sites and games come with age ratings which are important to follow. You can find out the age rating on the website for the platform or by visiting [Common Sense Media’s reviews](#).
- Use safety settings – Explore the in-app and device safety settings with your child and check them regularly to make sure they are still in place.
- Revisit parental controls – as children grow up and need the internet more for schoolwork you may want to adjust your [parental controls](#). Keep checking these regularly to make sure they are in place.
- Have regular safety conversations – at this age online safety conversations should be happening regularly. Visit our [advice on talking to your child about online safety](#).
- Build healthy habits - acknowledge the positives it brings as part of your safety conversations and agree rules and boundaries together as a family.

# WHAT TO DO IF THINGS GO WRONG

Signs that something may have gone wrong include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in behaviour
- Changes in time spent online
- Reluctancy to go to school or spend time with friends
- Hiding their devices
- Being less willing to talk.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers/what-do-i-do-if-something-goes-wrong>



## GET FURTHER HELP OR SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILD

It's important to make your child aware of the different ways they can receive support if they experience something upsetting online. In addition to family and school support, children and young people can contact the following helplines for advice:

• Childline – [Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk) is a confidential service offering support to children under the age of 19 with any issue they are concerned about either online or by phoning 0800 1111.

• The Mix – [The Mix](https://www.themix.org.uk) offer advice and support for anyone under the age of 25 either online or by phoning 0808 808 4994.

• Papyrus – [Papyrus](https://www.papyrus.org.uk) is a charity which seeks to support young people who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts 0800 068 4141.

## START A CONVERSATION

An open and honest conversation is often the first step in keeping your child safe online, it also plays an important role in supporting them if something has gone wrong.

Talk to your child about what has happened, how they feel about it, and what the next steps are for you to take as a family. Keeping your child in the loop about what you are going to do to resolve the situation can help them to feel in control of it, and can help them to feel like they can come to you with any future problems.

## BE CURIOUS, NOT FURIOUS

Remaining calm and asking questions like 'how did you get to that?' or 'what did you click on?' will help you to understand how the content has appeared in the first place. Children will often remember the immediate response from an adult – remaining calm and open will show them that you are someone they can turn to for help.

## TRY NOT TO PLACE BLAME

It may be that your child has clicked on something by mistake or even gone looking for the content on purpose, either way, it is still important to remain calm and be supportive. Children are curious and may hear about things from others that they later search for without realising what they will be exposed to.

## KNOW WHERE TO GO TO FOR HELP

Reporting content on the site where it is hosted is often the best step to take, however, sometimes as a parent or carer you may need to take additional measures.

These may include:

• Escalating the report – if you feel like action has not been taken by the service or app you have made a report on, you may wish to escalate the report to [www.reportharmfulcontent.com](https://www.reportharmfulcontent.com). You can also get advice about reporting the most common types of online harm through this website.

• Talking to your child's school – The designated safeguarding lead may be a good person to talk to about issues your child is facing, even if the situation does not include other children or young people from your child's school. This will allow your child to gain extra support when not at home.

• Talking to your local police force – If what has happened online has lead to harm, or if it includes illegal activity or actions from an adult towards your child, it is important to talk to your local police force for help and support.