

Friday 19th December 2025

ROBERT PEEL Primary School



Christmas Wishes to Everyone

I can't believe it's the last day of the Autumn term and Christmas is just around the corner. The last few weeks have been a busy time in school with Reception and Year 6 performances and Nursery sharing their lovely songs and poems with their parents. The choir also sang at several local events, we ate our delicious Christmas Lunch and year groups have enjoyed their parties this week. It is all a very special time for the children but I think we will all agree a bit of a break is needed for some rest and recharging of those batteries!

Our biggest fundraising event for the school this term has been the Christmas raffle. Your donations and generous purchasing of tickets raised an amazing £1,229! We didn't think we would beat last year's total but we have and we would all like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved, particularly the members of Friends of Robert Peel. All this money goes towards providing those extra special learning experiences for the children and contributes to the trips and visits for every child. The Secret Present Room has been a roaring success again with 449 presents wrapped and sold, the children always love coming to visit the shop and picking presents for their family members.

Last month we raised £569.31 for the Royal Legion Poppy Appeal and we know the funds raised are going to a great cause. The School Council hosted their Christmas Jumper sale last week and made £62. In the new year they will meet with Mrs Bremner and decide how they would like to spend the money raised.

We are excited to launch our new Eco-Council. 120 children completed applications to become a member of the committee and a representative from each class has been chosen. Our Eco Council will play an important role in helping children care for our school and the wider environment. Our Eco Council members will share ideas from their classes and help make our school a greener place by recycling, saving energy, and caring for plants and wildlife. Being part of the Eco-Council helps children build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills, while showing everyone that even small actions can make a big difference. Their first job after Christmas will be meeting with Mr Fay and completing an audit of the school, looking at what we already do, our use of electricity, gas and water and discussing ways we can make positive changes.

After such a busy few weeks it is time for a break to spend time with our families. On behalf of all the staff at Robert Peel, we wish you and your families a fantastic Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

*Christmas Wishes
Miss L Ganney*



Please checkout Robert Peel's Facebook account. We post lots of information about what the school has been up to.



A Big Thank You for the following Businesses who Donated Vouchers for the Raffles

Christmas Raffle:

Gordon Craig Theatre
The Shack
Rustle Up Café
Pera Kitchen
Brew & Renew
Surfin Café

Pamper Raffle:

JJ Nails
The Beauty Spot

Alcohol Raffle:

L'Olivo
Shuttleworth & Gardens

Children's raffle:

Gulliver's
Performing Arts
Drama Kids

Academic Calendar 2025-26

School Holidays

Bank Holidays

Training Days

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon	6	13	20	27		Mon	3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29			
Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue	7	14	21	28		Tue	4	11	18	25		Tue	2	9	16	23	30			
Wed	3	10	17	24			Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31			
Thu	4	11	18	25			Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27		Thu	4	11	18	25				
Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26				
Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	6	13	20	27				
Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30	Sun	7	14	21	28				

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		2	9	16	23		Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		1	8	15	22	29
Thu		1	8	15	22	29	Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		2	9	16	23	30
Fri		2	9	16	23	30	Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		3	10	17	24	
Sat		3	10	17	24	31	Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		4	11	18	25	
Sun		4	11	18	25		Sun		1	8	15	22		Sun		1	8	15	22	29	Sun		5	12	19	26	

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24	31	
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue		2	9	16	23	30	Tue		7	14	21	28	Tue		4	11	18	25		
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed		3	10	17	24		Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu		4	11	18	25		Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri		3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat		1	8	15	22	29
Sun		3	10	17	24	31	Sun		7	14	21	28		Sun		5	12	19	26		Sun		2	9	16	23	30

Autumn Term - 75 days

Spring Term - 55 days

Summer Term 65 days = 195 days

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 195 days to enable teacher training to take place in accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service.

Nursery Spaces

We have a few spaces available in our Nursery and are taking registrations for our January and April intakes. Children can start the term after they turn 3 years old.

The children are entitled to 15 hours free Nursery care and you can apply for a place by completing a quick and simple application form from the school office. We also offer 30 hour places to those families who receive this funding and lunch sessions and additional sessions can be provided for a fee.

If you have any questions about our provision or would like to visit please call the school office who will be able to arrange this.



Diary Dates

Monday 5th January—Training Day

Tuesday 6th January—Children return to school

Thursday 8th January—Reception Panto Trip to Stevenage

Friday 9th January—Year 4 History Day

Wednesday 21st January—Year 6 Faith Tour

Monday 26th January—Year 5 Happy Chicks arrive

Thursday 29th January—Reception Stay & Play

Wednesday 11th February—Parents Evening

Thursday 12th February—Parents Evening

Friday 13th February—Year 2 assembly to parents at 9.15

Break up for half term Friday 13th February

Children return Monday 23rd February

Thursday 26th February—Year 6 Viking Day

Wednesday 4th March—Book Fair to Tuesday 10th March

Friday 27th March—Year 4 Assembly to Parents at 9.15

Friday 27th March—Last day of term



Welcome to Sandy and
Biggleswade Children's
Centre.

Please scan this QR code
to register with us.



Sandy & Biggleswade District
Children's Centre.

0300 300 8114/0300 300 8134

Sandy Children's Centre

We appreciate that Christmas can be a difficult time for many families due to the increase in food costs as well as energy price rises and we have been really pleased that many families have turned to us and asked for help.

If over the Christmas holiday you find yourself in need of support then please do contact Sandy Children's Centre as they will be there to help or Mrs Savage our Family

Support Worker on:

familysupport@robertpeel.beds.sch.uk

Safeguarding this Christmas

As the Christmas season approaches, many families will be considering getting children their first internet connected device. Whether it's a smartphone, a tablet, or a gaming console, it's important to set boundaries from the start to ensure healthy tech habits and safety. Take a moment to think about how your child currently uses technology and how you envisage them using the new device.

Why implement boundaries from the start?

Allowing children unrestricted access to the internet can expose them to various risks that many parents may not initially be aware of. Here's why setting boundaries when your child first receives a device is important:

1. **Exposure to inappropriate content:** The internet contains content that may not be suitable for children, from graphic images to violent videos and adult websites.
2. **Cyberbullying:** Online platforms can sometimes become spaces for cyberbullying. Children with unrestricted access might be more vulnerable to encountering or participating in harmful behaviour.
3. **Privacy and online predators:** Children may not fully understand the importance of keeping personal information private, which can lead them to overshare details such as their name, location, or school. This information can be used by online predators, who often frequent online spaces where young people are active.
4. **Screen addiction and mental health:** Too much screen time, especially on social media or video platforms, can lead to issues like screen addiction, reduced attention span, and mental health struggles.
5. **Impact on sleep:** Unrestricted access often means children use devices late into the night, which can interfere with sleep and, in turn, affect their focus and performance in school. Creating limits on when and how long devices can be used helps ensure that tech use doesn't interfere with academics or health.

Getting a new device for Christmas is exciting - it can open a world of learning, creativity and connection. But it also introduces children to a digital world that isn't always designed with their safety in mind. Setting clear boundaries and protective measures early on helps children learn to use technology in healthy, balanced and age-appropriate ways. Without guidance, young users can stumble into areas of concern: social media platforms that encourage comparison and oversharing gaming chats that expose them to strangers or apps that collect more personal data than you might expect. These risks don't mean children shouldn't enjoy their new devices - they simply mean they need structure and support to navigate them confidently.

Here are some ways to make sure your child's first steps with a new device are positive ones:



1. Set it up before it gets wrapped.

Before gifting the device, take time to install updates, set parental controls and review privacy settings. This includes switching on filters, limiting app store access and setting up family accounts. Doing this ahead of time keeps Christmas morning focused on joy rather than set up stress - and gives you peace of mind from the start.



2. Agree on clear expectations.

Talk as a family about when and where the device can be used. For example, no phones at the dinner table or gaming at bedtime. These routines help children learn balance and prevent screen time from creeping into every moment of the day.



3. Talk about social media early.

Many social platforms have age limits (typically 13+), but children often feel pressure to join sooner. Keep the conversation open about why these limits exist, what 'friends' really means online and how to handle content that feels uncomfortable or unkind.



4. Guide them through gaming safely.

Games are fun and social, but online play can include chats with strangers or in-game purchases. Encourage your child to only play with people they know, keep personal details private and tell you if something doesn't feel right. Use built-in parental settings on consoles and gaming apps to manage time and communication.



5. Keep passwords and downloads shared.

Agree that you'll know passwords and approve new apps or purchases, at least while your child is learning to manage their own digital choices. This helps you stay involved without needing to hover.



6. Encourage balance.

Screens are just one part of a child's world. Make sure there's time for outdoor play, reading and family time too. Children learn from what they see, so model healthy habits by unplugging together.

Restaurant Deals this Christmas

Bella Italia

At Bella Italia restaurants, for every adult main meal purchased, kids aged 2–11 can eat free every Sunday to Thursday. This includes three courses of food, plus a drink for £1. Outside of these days, you can also buy smaller-sized portions for just £7.49, with bigger meals still under £10.

Café Rouge

For every adult main meal bought from Café Rouge between 12–4pm, a child can eat for free.

Dobbies Garden Centres

At Dobbies, for every adult main meal purchased, you can get a children's breakfast, hot meal or pick n mix lunch box for just £1, including a drink.

Premier Inn

At Premier Inn, for every adult that orders a breakfast, up to two children can eat breakfast for free.

TGI Fridays

When you buy an adult main meal at TGI Fridays, you get a free children's main (suitable for kids up to 12 years old), if you download the free rewards app. This includes breakfasts, and is available all day, every day.

IKEA

At IKEA restaurants, although there are no specific 'kids eat free' Christmas offers, if you sign up for free to join the IKEA Family (rewards programme) you can get access to several rewards and discounts. All breakfast options are already under £3.75, and all main lunchtime meals under £7.25. Kids' meals start from 95p, up to £2.95.

Morrisons

At Morrisons cafés, for every adult meal you buy for £5 or more, you get a free kids' meal including a drink.

Dunelm Pausa Café

For every £4 spent in Dunelm Pausa Café, kids eat free. Choose a kids' main, drink and two snacks.

Beefeater

During school holidays at Beefeater, for every adult breakfast you buy, two kids under 16 can eat for free.

Hungry Horse

You can get a kids' meal for just £1 when buying one adult meal at a Hungry Horse.

Brewers Fayre

For every adult breakfast you buy at Brewers Fayre, two kids under 16 eat for free.

Uniform & PE Kit

I just wanted to remind everyone of our expectations in terms of school uniform and equipment. Children need to be properly equipped for school so that they can access all their learning.

The school has a uniform which is kept as simple as possible and all children are expected to wear it. This contributes to a child's feeling of belonging and pride in their appearance.

Boys	Girls
Grey or black trousers or shorts. White shirt, or red or white polo shirt Red jumper, sweatshirt or fleece Sensible black shoes	Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore White shirt, or red or white polo shirt Red jumper, cardigan, sweatshirt or fleece Sensible black shoes

Year 5 & 6 have the option of wearing a school tie with a white shirt. These can be purchased from the School Office.

No jewellery is permitted except a watch and small stud or sleeper earrings. All jewellery should be removed and stored safely during swimming and PE.

Long hair must be tied up each day and no extreme haircuts such as tram lines, mohawks and hair dyeing.

All children need a PE kit in a drawstring bag of:

- White T-Shirt
- Black Shorts
- Trainers/Plimsolls
- Socks
- Jumper/tracksuit in the winter

Please ensure your child's clothes and possessions are clearly named.

Also all children need a book bag (school bag for Year 5 & 6) and water bottle. Year 5 & 6 can bring their own pencil cases.

Are you entitled to financial support for school lunches, daily snack, milk and school trips?

One quick phone call is all it takes, just a minute of your time to make a massive difference to you and your child.

We know that there are lots of things for your family to consider when the school starts but you could be missing out on some financial support for your child at school. Parents are able to register their child for Free School Meals which enables the school to gain additional funding to support with trips, milk and snacks. If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 and you pay for hot lunches at the moment, by registering for Free School Meals you could save yourself nearly £400 on lunches alone.

It is a quick and easy process and all children from Nursery up are entitled to this additional funding if you as a parent are receiving one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and you're annual gross income does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (during the initial roll-out of this benefit)

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call

0300 300 8306.

When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner

Dates of birth for your children

If you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2 and already get a free meal, do still apply as the school will receive funding to support your child in other ways.

It is so easy to apply, please call today!