

Friday 28th November 2025

ROBERT PEEL Primary School



Christmas is Creeping Nearer!

Time is flying by so quickly and we are only a few weeks away from completing our first full term. Reception and Nursery are busy practising for their Christmas performance and Year 3 performed a great ukulele concert to parents this week which was wonderful to hear. As the weather turns colder the children do need a suitable coat to go out in and a hat, scarf and gloves. Please can we ask that these are all named as the lost property is already overflowing!

Thank you all for your donations for Children in Need, as a school we raised an amazing £400.

This year, we again created our Garden of Remembrance at the front of the school. As a school we wanted to again make sure that we paid our respects and remember the fallen and serving members of the armed forces of past and present conflicts. All the children and staff created their own poppies and planted these. At the heart of the garden is a replica of the War Memorial which stands in Sandy and each class created a wreath to lay. This act has a profound effect on the children as it is important for each of us to stop and pay our respects. Also, thank you to everyone who made donations and bought items for the Poppy Appeal.

The next few weeks are very busy and we will be sharing lots of information through Parentmail. We try and send out details regularly to keep you updated and remind you of events coming up so children don't miss out. We ask that you take the time to check these messages to make sure you don't miss anything so you can book tickets or pay for events. Please double check the dates I have included on the next page.

Best wishes

Miss L Gannev



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

Dates for the Diary

Monday 1st December—Year 6 Heights & Weights Measures

Tuesday 2nd December—Nursery visit to the Sandy Library

Friday 5th December—Christmas Decoration Day

Friday 5th December—Mufti day for donations for the Christmas Raffles

Tuesday 9th December—Reception Christmas Performance at 9.10

Wednesday 10th December—Reception Christmas Performance at 9.10

Thursday 11th December —Nursery Christmas Performance at 9.10

Monday 15th December—Cheeky Dog performance to Early Years

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18th December –Year 6 Assembly to parents at 9.15

Friday 19th December—Christingle

Friday 19th December—Last day of term

Christmas Jumpers can be worn instead of school jumpers on Wednesday 17th December and Friday 19th December



Festive Events

Christmas Post Box

Children can send cards to their friends in school by posting in the post-box in the hall with their friend's name and class.

Christmas Jumper Wearing

17th & 19th December

Secret Present Room is Back!

Keep an eye out for the Parentmail to purchase presents.

Sandy Christmas Tree Festival

Reception have created the decorations for our school tree for the Christmas Tree Festival. Everyone can go and see our tree during the festival on the 30th November and the following few days.

School Matters!



As we progress through the school year, I wanted to update you on our attendance figures. At Robert Peel we set ourselves high expectations in all areas and attendance is no exception and our target is set at 97%. Our current attendance level is 95.4%.

Attending school is extremely important for children's social, emotional and educational development and children who miss a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school. Last week we had a visit from our Local Authority Attendance Officer, who checked every child's attendance record. They discuss children who have low attendance and ask that letters are sent to keep parents up to date and to help us work together to ensure children are in school.

Our main concern at the moment is the level of lateness and the disruption this is causing your own child when they are late and the impact on their class. Gates open in the morning at 8.30 and close at 8.40 and children need to be in school by this time as lessons start at 8.45. We really want this to improve as the impact to children is significant over time.

Did you know? That by being just 5 minutes late each day means that you lose 3 ½ days a year of learning.

5 minutes = 3 ½ days lost learning

10 minutes – 7 days lost learning

15 minutes = 10 ½ days lost learning

20 minutes = 14 days lost learning

30 minutes – 21 days lost learning

The attendance ladder shows the stages when the school takes action

No days off	100%	Perfection
2 days off in a school year	99%	Excellent
5 days off in a school year	97%	Good
10 days off in a school year	95%	Slight concern
20 days off in a school year. 4 weeks	90%	Very concerned Persistent Absentee
30 days off in a school year. 6 weeks	85%	LA involvement

Attendance Myth Buster!

Holidays and Absence during term time

Holiday absence will not be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances. It is very important that all parents and carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences are at risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.



Friends of Robert Peel Fundraising Events

The funds that The Friends of Robert Peel raise make a massive difference to our work in school. Each year a donation of £400 is made to each year group to support an experience in school such as: the Great Fire of London Workshop, Cheeky Dog Entertainer, Safari Stu and the Viking Day. In addition, each child receives £10 towards a school trip, off site, so we can run trips at a greatly reduced cost for everyone.

So a massive thank you from everyone at Robert Peel to all our families who help with fundraising events.

Our next big event is our Christmas Raffle! There will be four raffles this year: Children's Toys & Games, Pamper, Christmas and Booze Raffles. Last year we raised over £1,200 and your donations meant there were an incredible number of prizes in each raffle. On the 5th December we will have a mufti day and we kindly ask for any donations for the raffles. We understand this is a difficult time for some families and donations are on a voluntary basis.

We are asking for donations of the following:

- Booze of any type
- New toys, games, puzzles arts and crafts
- Any Christmas items such as: puddings, mince pies, crackers
- Chocolates, sweets and biscuits
- New sets of smellies, candles and any pamper items

Any items donated will be very gratefully received!



Raffle Tickets will go on sale in the coming week for £1 each.

Great prizes to be won and as the saying goes 'you have to be in it to win it!'



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 like 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!