

23RD JANUARY 2026



PEEL BROW'S WEEKLY

# NEWSLETTER



## Mrs Mort's Update

It has been wonderful to see children fully immersed in their learning and embracing the many opportunities on offer across the school. This week has included a range of enriching experiences, both in and beyond the classroom, that have helped to deepen children's understanding of the world and spark thoughtful conversations. We have been delighted to welcome a number of visitors to school who have brought new perspectives to learning, as the children build on their early-term experiences with momentum and enthusiasm. With plenty more exciting learning ahead, please continue to check diary dates so you can stay up to date with what's happening in school.

Remember that you can stay up-to-date with important messages by checking your emails and via our website. Find out what your child has been learning about this week on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/peelbrowprimaryschool/>

If you need to speak to a member of staff, please call the school office on 01706 823204 or drop in.

## Spotlight On: Scientific Enquiry

This half term, our young scientists have been developing their skills across the six key areas of scientific enquiry: comparative and fair testing, research, observation over time, pattern seeking, problem solving, and identifying, grouping and classifying. These approaches are woven into exciting topics throughout school. Our youngest pupils are exploring freezing, floating and sinking, using comparative tests and observation to see how different materials behave in water. Other classes are learning about life cycles, using research and careful observation over time to track how living things change and grow. In Years 3 and 4, children are problem solving and carrying out fair tests as they investigate electricity and build circuits. Higher up the school, pupils are exploring the circulatory system, using pattern seeking and research to understand how the heart and blood vessels work together. Across all year groups, children are discovering that science is not just about facts, but about thinking, questioning and exploring the world through different types of enquiry.



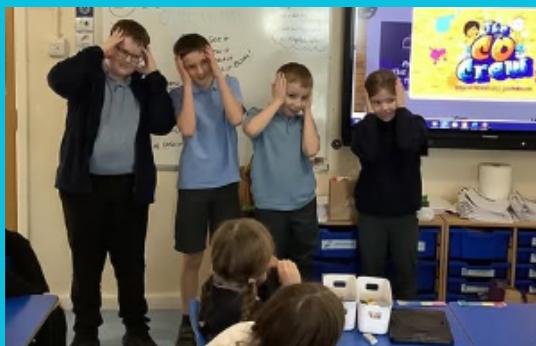
## What's been going on in school this week?

In The Hive, children have been introduced to a new traditional tale and threw themselves into imaginative play, designing and building structures sturdy enough to withstand the Wolf's huffing and puffing! The Ducklings have been developing their early number skills by counting to five and matching the Numberblocks characters to the correct numerals. In Robins, pupils explored different places of worship in RE, beginning to understand how people express their beliefs in a variety of ways. Our Kingfishers enjoyed a special visit from a local museum, taking part in a hands-on workshop all about the history of Ramsbottom. Falcons have been young scientists this week, using water-based investigations to explore how clogged arteries can impact the flow of blood, linking practical enquiry with real-life science. Meanwhile, Year 6 also began their first Forest School session of the year, embracing outdoor learning opportunities.



### CARBON MONOXIDE WORKSHOPS IN ROBINS AND FALCONS

This week, Robins and Falcons took part in engaging Carbon Monoxide Safety Workshops delivered by The CO Crew, a national programme designed to help children understand the dangers of carbon monoxide. Through interactive activities, pupils learned what carbon monoxide is, how it can be produced in the home, and the key symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, such as headaches, dizziness and nausea. They also explored practical ways to keep their homes safe, including checking appliances, ensuring good ventilation and knowing the importance of working CO alarms. The sessions were fun, memorable and age-appropriate, helping pupils to become "CO-aware" and confident in sharing what they've learned with their families. Parents can find further information and resources at [thecocrew.co.uk](http://thecocrew.co.uk).



# Ofsted Updates.

We want to keep you in the loop about how Ofsted now looks at schools. From 10th November 2025, Ofsted stopped giving a single overall label like Outstanding or Good. Instead, schools get a report card that shows how we're doing in several important areas, with short, explanations for each one.

What will you see on our Ofsted report card?

Separate grades for key areas (for example: Curriculum and teaching, Achievement, Attendance and behaviour, Personal development and wellbeing, Inclusion, and Leadership and governance).

Safeguarding is shown simply as "met" or "not met."

A short narrative explaining strengths and the next steps, plus some helpful context about the school.

What do the new grades mean?

Each area on the report card gets one of five grades:

- Exceptional: Among the very best practice nationally; something others could learn from.
- Strong standard: Consistently excellent work that has clear impact for children.
- Expected standard: Doing everything we should be doing, to a high standard, day in, day out. Ofsted has been explicit that this is "a high bar."
- Needs attention – Some things aren't yet where they should be and are affecting children's experience.
- Urgent improvement – Serious weaknesses that must be put right quickly.

It's also important to know there's no direct comparison between these new grades and the old single word judgements. For example, a previous an old 'good' grade does not relate to a new 'expected standard'; it's a fresh system designed to give parents a clearer, fairer picture.

What will inspectors look at?

Inspectors focus on the quality of education and the whole child's experience, including inclusion (how well we meet the needs of all pupils), behaviour and attendance, personal development and wellbeing, achievement, and leadership. They also take account of our context. For example, local challenges and pupil needs, so the picture is rounded, not 'onesizefitsall'.

## Why this change?

Parents told Ofsted they wanted more detail, less shorthand. The new report card aims to be clearer, more balanced, and genuinely useful when you're trying to understand how well your child's school is doing and where we're improving next.

## What this means for you and your child

If you see "Expected standard," please know this is not "just okay." It means we're meeting all the standards schools are supposed to meet and this standard is intentionally set high to make sure children get what they need and deserve.

You might see different grades for different areas. That's normal and helpful: it shows where we're strongest and where we're working to get even better.

If any area is "Needs attention" or "Urgent improvement," Ofsted will check back with us sooner to make sure actions are making a difference.

It is also worth remembering schools are complex organisations and an Ofsted inspection is a 2-day 'snapshot' during that time where Ofsted look for professional practice that is 'typical' of the school at work.

We hope this makes the new Ofsted framework clearer and gives you a good sense of what the new reporting system means for you. If you have any questions or queries, please do contact school.

Thank you for your continued support.



# Safeguarding Update

## Online Kindness

This week, we are reminding pupils about the importance of being kind and respectful when communicating online. Whether children are sending messages within safe, school-approved platforms or exploring online content at home, it is important that they understand how their words and actions can affect others. Encouraging your child to think before they type, to speak up if something makes them uncomfortable, and to talk to a trusted adult when needed helps build positive digital habits and keeps them safe.

## A Reminder About Age-Appropriate Online Use

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that many messaging apps, group-chat platforms and social media services have minimum age requirements well above primary age. While we know children may sometimes encounter these spaces at home or through older siblings, we encourage parents to supervise online activity closely and ensure children only use age-appropriate apps. Open conversations about who they can talk to online, what to do if they see something worrying, and why some apps aren't suitable yet can help keep children safe, confident and supported.

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# Attendance Matters at Peel Brow.

We are really pleased to see so many pupils arriving on time and ready to learn each morning. Good attendance makes a huge difference to children's progress, confidence and sense of routine.

A reminder that gates open at 8:30am. Arriving even a few minutes late means missing important learning and settling-in time.

If your child is struggling with mornings or if you need any support, please speak to us — we're here to help every family achieve strong attendance.

## School Matters!



**Music genre of the half term:  
Disco**



Musician of the week -  
Diana Ross



# 25-26 Calendar Spring Term



## Dates for your diary

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January** - School opens

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> January** - Robinwood Trip

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January** - Carbon Monoxide Workshop Falcons & Robins

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February** - SEND Coffee & Catch Up 8.30am

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 2 Maths parent workshop 8.30am

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** - Year 1 Maths parent workshop 8.30am

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - Reception Maths parent workshop 8.30am

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - School Disco 4pm-5.15pm £2 entry

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** - Last day before school closes for half term

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - School Re-Opens

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** - Falcons Bikeability

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Class Photographs

**Monday 9th March** - Science Week

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** - Falcons Crucial Crew Visit

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** KS2 Parent and Carer's Evening - a letter will be sent out to book a slot to meet with your child's teacher

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** Non-uniform day - bring in an Easter Egg or chocolate treat in exchange for wearing your own clothes

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** - Easter Bingo. Keep your eyes peeled for ticket sales.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** - Living Our Values Above and Beyond assembly - parents of this term's value winners to be invited.

**Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Last day - School Closes for Easter Holidays