

West Pelton Primary



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Headteacher: Ms V Hewison

Dear Families and Friends,

September 2019 Newsletter



We have certainly had a busy start to our term! A very warm welcome to all our new starters, throughout school. Everyone has settled well into their new classes and seem to be enjoying our redesigned curriculum. We already have a variety of opportunities to enhance the curriculum planned for the year including educational visits, visitors and our close links with both the School Sports Partnership and the Music Service all of which will enrich the learning opportunities.

School Sports Partnership

We have already been working with the school sports partnership – our children have participated in a tri-golf festival and have started their swimming sessions at Bullion Lane. Once again we were delighted to receive our Gold Active Mark and we look forward to many more festivals and competition throughout the year.



Mini police

Our Year 5/6 children have become 'Mini Police' with their weekly sessions focussing on a variety of topics ranging from Anti-Social Behaviour, to Internet Safety and Bullying, the Environment and Road Safety. We hope these sessions will help prepare our children for the next steps in their learning and help them stay safe outside school.

Music

This year our younger children will be participating in 'Little fingers' led by the Music Service and our Year 3/4 children will be learning to play the Ukulele. In addition to this our older children will also be learning to play a brass instrument in the summer term as part of our progression in Music skills and in preparation for transition to secondary school



MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to everyone that attended our MacMillan coffee afternoon. It is lovely that our children are able to witness the generosity of everyone involved with our school.

This year, as a continuation of our work on equality, we will be working to become a Rights Respecting School.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the basis of all Unicef's work and its principles lie at the heart of the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as our guide, we are working with more UK schools than almost any other organisation. Over 1.7 million children in the UK go to a Rights Respecting School and more than 5000 schools up and down the country are working towards the award.

Article 24 (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this

OPAL

The children have been enjoying our OPAL playtimes this month and we have been fortunate with some lovely warm, sunny days in September however the damp, dewy mornings (not helped by the recent rain) mean that we now need our children to wear their wellies on the grass – looking at the forecast it may also be wise send your child in with waterproofs over the next week as well.



Staffing news

We currently have Mr Mitchell teaching our Year 5/6 children and all our children have made him feel welcome at our lovely school. He will be available at the start of the day or at the end of the day as he brings the children onto the playground, if you need to speak to him or if you would like to introduce yourself so he can put names to faces.

Alongside Miss Martin in Year 3/4 we also have Miss Freibel; in Reception, Year 1/2 we have Mrs Baxter, Mrs Skipsey and Mrs Holliday. Ms Ainsworth supports all our classes throughout the school.

We also welcome Mrs Reay, our attendance officer, who is replacing Mrs Doherty. Mrs Reay is usually available every Thursday morning should you need to discuss any attendance issues with her.



Social media / school website

We try to keep our facebook and twitter feed updated with lots of the exciting things we've been doing in school. Make sure you follow us @WestPelton. We also have lots of upcoming events for the diary so please make sure your details are up to date with school as we usually text out additional information.

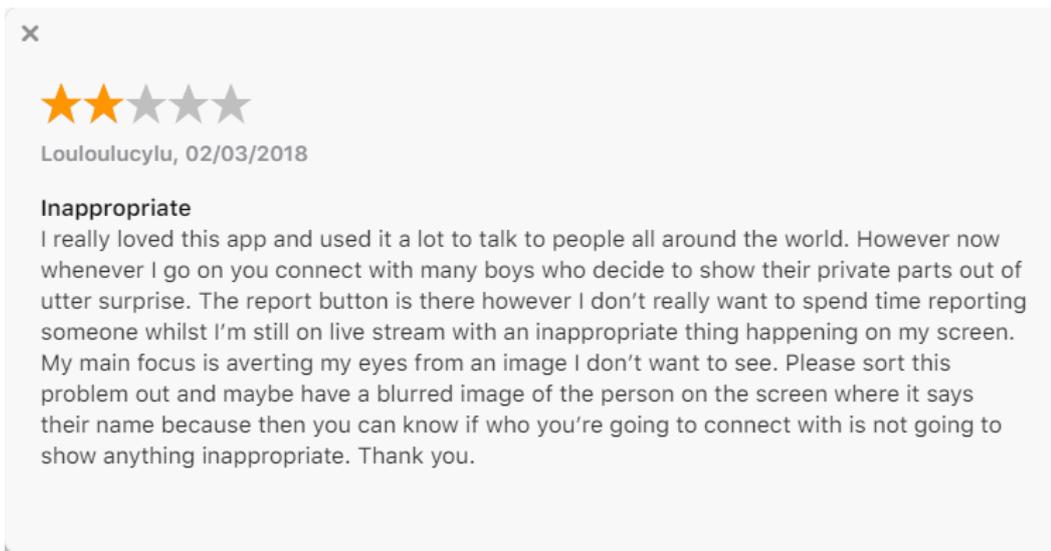
E-Safety

You may wish to check your child's devices for the app below which allows the users to 'make friends in 15 seconds' – this app will connect your child to strangers therefore you may wish to consider if it is suitable for your child or if they know how to stay safe.



Monkey 12+
Real Moments. Real People.
Monkey, Inc.
#13 in Social Networking
★★★★★ 4.2, 3.4K Ratings
Free - Offers In-App Purchases

At first glance the app looks enticing with the promise of chatting to 'celebs' and making friends quickly. The app's description boasts about 'having fun' where 'you can share who you are' however below is review you should be aware of:



If you have any questions or concerns around internet / online safety at home please ask at school and we will endeavour to help you



Diary Dates

Tuesday 1 st October	School photographs
Friday 4 th October	NSPCC Speak out Stay safe assembly
Friday 25 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 4 th November	First day back after half term
Monday 11 th November	Sportshall Athletics (Year 5/6)
Tuesday 19 th November	Gymnastics festival (Year 3/4)
Monday 25 th November	Anti bullying week
Monday 16 th December	Multisports at maiden Castle (Year 3/4)
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term / break up for Christmas

Term dates can be found here:-

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolholidays>

Details of INSET days can be found here:-

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/28338/Teacher-training-days-2019-20-updated-10-September-2019-/pdf/PDDays1920.pdf?m=637037151285770000>

GDPR

If your contact details change, please let us know.

Photo consent: If you wish to change this at any time please contact the school office.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask – the class teachers are often available at either the start or end to the school day.

Once again your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

V. Hewison

Ms V Hewison & Staff

