

Safeguarding and Attendance Newsletter

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting time, bringing fresh opportunities for learning, growth and success. It is also a chance to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every child at Peartree Spring Primary School is safe, happy and attending school regularly. I would like to welcome all of our families back to school and extend a special welcome to those who have recently joined our community.

As the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Attendance Lead, I have the privilege of working closely with many of our families throughout the year. Building positive relationships with our children and families is at the heart of what we do, and I am always happy to offer support, advice, or simply a listening ear when needed.

You will often see me on Pavilion Gate at the end of the school day, so please do not hesitate to stop for a chat if you have any questions or concerns. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact me through the school office.

This newsletter aims to keep families informed about safeguarding and attendance matters, share helpful information, and celebrate the ways we can work together to help every child feel safe, supported and ready to succeed.

Mrs Jackson



8th October 2026

ISSUE #3

**DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING
LEAD AND ATTENDANCE LEAD-
MRS JACKSON**

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Welcome

Attendance
information

Information
regarding
misogony

Halloween
safety

Dates for your
diary

Online safety
information



Attendance and Punctuality

Why Attendance Matters

Every school day counts. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential, both academically and socially. When children attend school every day and arrive on time, they are able to build positive relationships with their peers, develop confidence, and take full advantage of the learning opportunities available to them.

Even occasional absences can have an impact on a child's education. Lessons build upon previous learning, and missing just a few days can make it harder for children to keep up with new concepts and skills. Good attendance also helps children establish positive routines, develop resilience, and understand the importance of commitment and responsibility.

At Peartree Spring Primary School, we want every child to feel happy, safe and excited about coming to school each day. We understand that there may be occasions when children are unwell and unable to attend, but wherever possible, we encourage families to prioritise attendance and avoid taking holidays during term time.

By working together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed, make lasting friendships, and enjoy all aspects of school life. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make attendance a priority.

If your child is going to be absent, please inform the school by 8.30am where possible. This can be done via Studybugs, email to attendance@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk or by calling 01438 233900, option 1.

Our policy is to contact any parent who hasn't reported their child's absence that day for safeguarding purposes. Therefore, always remember to inform the school about any absences.

Please note, holidays during term time are not authorised, and you might receive a Fixed Penalty Notice if you take your child out of school for a holiday. Requests for leave of absence should be sent to Mrs. Skeggs via email at attendance@peartreespring.herts.sch.uk, at least four weeks before the intended leave.



Attendance Matters





PEARTREE SPRING
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Good Attendance Builds Brighter Futures!

Be here,
Be ready,
Be your best!



More
Learning



More
Confidence



Better
Friendships



Brighter
Futures

Every day counts!

Who are we?



Mrs Jackson

Mrs Jackson is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Attendance Lead.



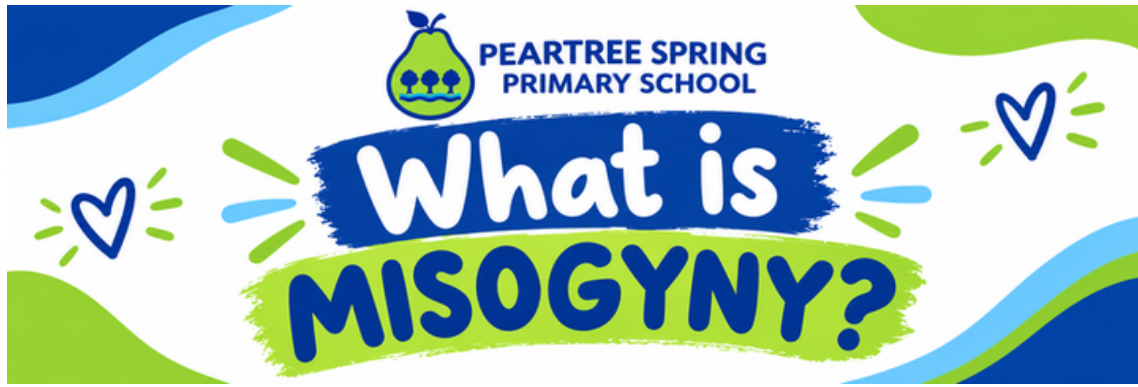
Mrs Hansen

Mrs Hansen is our Family Support Worker and Pastoral Lead.

How can we help?

- If you have concerns about your child's wellbeing or your personal circumstances, please reach out to one of us for a meeting to see what support we can offer
- We hold a coffee morning for parents every half term
- Parent workshops
- SEN family afternoons
- Pastoral support in school
- Referrals and signposting to external agencies for parents in need of support
- Transition support
- A listening ear





Understanding Misogyny: Helping Children Build Respectful Relationships

At Peartree Spring Primary School, we are committed to helping children develop into kind, respectful and responsible members of society. You may have heard the term **misogyny** in the news or on social media. Misogyny refers to prejudice, dislike or unfair treatment towards girls and women.

Children can sometimes be exposed to harmful messages online, in videos, through gaming platforms or on social media. These messages may suggest that girls and boys should be treated differently, or that it is acceptable to make disrespectful comments about women and girls. While children may not always understand the impact of these messages, they can influence attitudes and behaviour if left unchallenged.

As parents and carers, you can support your child by encouraging respectful conversations at home, challenging stereotypes, and talking openly about kindness, equality and healthy friendships. Asking questions about what your child is watching online, who they follow, and the content they enjoy can help you understand the influences they encounter.

In school, we teach children about respect, equality, positive relationships and treating others with kindness through our curriculum and everyday interactions. By working together, we can help ensure that all children grow up understanding the importance of valuing and respecting everyone, regardless of their gender.

Top Tips for Families

- Encourage respectful language at home.
- Talk openly about online content and social media influences.
- Challenge stereotypes and unfair comments when they arise.
- Model positive and respectful relationships.
- Remind children that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.

Together, we can help our children become confident, caring individuals who contribute positively to our school community and the wider world.



Halloween Safety

With Halloween just around the corner, many children will be looking forward to dressing up, trick-or-treating, and celebrating with friends and family. While Halloween can be a fun and exciting time, it is important to keep safety in mind.

If your child is going trick-or-treating, ensure they are accompanied by a trusted adult or stay with a group of friends they know well. Plan a safe route, stick to well-lit areas, and remind children never to enter a stranger's home. Costumes should fit properly to avoid trips and falls, and adding reflective strips or carrying a torch can help children to be seen by drivers after dark.

Before eating any treats collected, check that they are sealed and suitable for your child, particularly if they have allergies. It is also a good opportunity to remind children about stranger safety and to talk to a trusted adult if anything makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.

As children often spend more time online during school breaks and holidays, this can also be a useful time to discuss online safety. Encourage children to talk to you about the games they play, the videos they watch, and who they communicate with online.

Most importantly, remind children that Halloween should be fun, kind and respectful. Being considerate of neighbours, respecting those who choose not to take part, and looking out for one another helps ensure everyone can enjoy the celebrations safely.

Top Tips for Families

- 🎃 Carry a torch or wear reflective clothing when out after dark.
- 🎃 Stay with trusted adults or friends and use well-lit routes.
- 🎃 Check all treats before eating them.
- 🎃 Respect people's homes and property.
- 🎃 Talk about stranger safety and online safety.
- 🎃 Have fun and be kind to others!

Remember: If a house does not have Halloween decorations or a pumpkin displayed, it may mean the household is not taking part in trick-or-treating. Encourage children to respect this and move on to the next house. Happy Halloween! 🎃 🧛



PEARTREE SPRING
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Twilight Sessions on Gambling Harm Awareness (Schools)

Rod Smith from the current Women's Pathway Programme at GamCare (but previously the Young People's Programme at GamCare), will be delivering a gambling awareness session with a focus on women and gambling harms but also referencing gambling-related harms young people might be facing either with their own gambling or being affected by someone else's.

Whilst gambling is normalised in the UK, harmful gambling is often hidden and not spoken about.



The session will cover:



What different forms of gambling are out there (including activities that may have a gambling mechanism).



What the drivers might be.



When this can become harmful and what consequences or barriers maybe present.



What support you can offer if gambling-related harms have been identified.



Online event
MS Teams



21 October 2026 4.15 – 5.15 pm



11 November 2026 4.15 – 5.15 pm



Please visit our website to secure **your free space**
<https://hscb.event-booking.org.uk/>

Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2



PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES

You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES

For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.



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4

THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the Internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the Internet.



5



MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER

Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

9 Top Tips To Get Smart About

children's devices

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS

Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.



7



DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE

Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

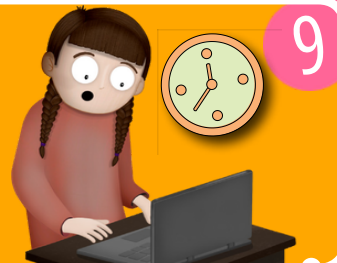
Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



8

9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'context and content' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



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Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At myaccount.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password is protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Dates for your diary

13th October

SEN Family Fun Session
Oak Suite
3.15-4.30

26th October -
30th October

School closed for half term

6th November

Parent/carer coffee morning
Community Room

