



# **PEEL COMMON** *Community Junior School*

The Drive ♦ Gosport ♦ Hampshire ♦ PO13 0QD  
Telephone (01329) 281206 ♦ Fax (01329) 230811  
Website ♦ [www.peelcommonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.peelcommonjuniorschool.co.uk)

**Headteacher** : Mr Andy Clarke  
**Deputy Headteacher** : Mr Warren Beadell  
**Administrative Officer** : Mrs Tracy Barker

**PCJ Current Attendance 95.92%** (94.45% last year)  
Sessions missed this academic year **1806**  
**335** late arrivals (538 last year)  
Approximately 5420 hours of learning missed so far

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents

Today I was lucky enough to be invited to the opening of the STEM centre at Bay House School. Opening the centre were the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Honourable Damien Hinds MP and our own local MP, Mrs Caroline Dineage. I was proud to be sitting there as they extolled the many benefits of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum and about providing opportunities for all young children to be encouraged and inspired by what this approach has to offer. I was proud because as a school, Peel Common Juniors is already forward thinking in responding to the STEM approach. We have our very own STEM club that Mrs Hamer runs every other Tuesday. We have a range of STEM activities in school, such as the Glider Design competition in which we reached the national finals last year, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the country and for which we have just qualified again for the national finals for this year. And we are already thinking about how we can formally shape our curriculum to include even more STEM initiatives in a coordinated approach in the near future.

As much as we are forward thinking, we are also reflective of what we can learn from the past, and on Monday Year 3 invited, back from Roman times, a real-life Roman soldier into school who inspired, engaged and in some cases, frightened the living daylights out of our young learners!

As well as looking forward and reflecting back, we also look up for inspiration as captured by our year 5's who next week will visit the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth as part of their Brazil project?!? Don't ask ... but it does present the children with a contrasting locality to compare with Brazil!

Speaking of the Year 5's and their Brazil project, can I just take this opportunity to thank you year 5 parents for your support in helping your child with their Amazon River project over half-term – they all look fabulous and we have used them in a stunning display in the Field End practical area, which you can enjoy when you visit for parents evening in a couple of weeks.

I finish my newsletter with some bittersweet news; Miss Pascoe will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has decided to take this opportunity in her life to travel the world, which we wish her the best of luck with and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her contribution to our school. I'm sure, in the not-too-distant future, she will return to the teaching profession and once again help transform children's lives for the better.

Right, I'm off up Portsdown Hill for our last league race of the cross country calendar. Good luck to all you quizzers helping to raise money for Mr Pearce tonight and don't be too disappointed if the teachers beat you – in many ways you should be glad of that fact.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

World Book Day

Year 5 Southsea Trip

Film Club – 'Sing' (U)

Parents Evening (letter to follow)

Parents Evening (letter to follow)

Class Photographs

Red Nose Day

Roman Day (Year 3)

Harry Potter Trip (Year 4)

Last Day of Term

Yours sincerely



Mr A Clarke  
Headteacher

