

## ROCHDALE OBSERVER

News

# REVEALED: THE ROCHDALE-BORN GIRL WHO'S THE VOICE OF PEPPA PIG

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Harley Bird (right) is the voice of cartoon character Peppa Pig

Her name and face may not be familiar – but the voice is recognisable to millions of children across the world.

Rochdale-born Harley Bird is the voice of hugely-popular cartoon character Peppa Pig. The 10-year-old has starred in more than 100 episodes of the show, which is broadcast in 180 countries.

Harley, who was born in Bamford but now lives in Buckinghamshire, said: "It is so funny that my voice can be heard across the world and my friends think it is very cool.

"They sometimes ask me to speak to them in character as Peppa Pig.

"And I think it is really sweet that my voice is the voice of the toy.

"Toys R Us has a whole aisle of Peppa Pig toys and I once spent the afternoon pressing the buttons."

In November she won a Bafta award for her role – and proved a big hit with her fellow nominees

Harley said: "It was absolutely amazing to win a Bafta. I enjoyed meeting people like the goblin from Harry Potter, Dick and Dom and Mr Tumble.

"It was quite weird because I would usually go up to famous people to ask for autographs but everybody was asking me."

She added: "Winning the Bafta is the highlight of my time as Peppa.

"I keep it at home and sometimes my dad puts it in front of a door to keep it open."

Last year Peppa Pig, which is shown on Channel Five and Nick Jr, made £200m in the UK through merchandising alone.

And one of the perks of her success means she has been given a season ticket for Peppa Pig World, in The New Forest in Hampshire, so she can visit the theme park any time she likes.

In December she was interviewed as Peppa on Radio One's Chris Moyles breakfast show.

But there is one celebrity that she Harley would love to meet – her heroine, comedienne Catherine Tate.

She said: "She is my idol. I think she is a very talented and I would love to be a comedienne one day too."

Harley's mum Gill Riley, owner of the construction group GGR, says: "At the Baftas famous people who have children were coming up to her saying 'it's Peppa Pig!'

"People approach her a lot more now that she has won the Bafta because they recognise her as well as her voice.

"She has always liked the show and people ask her to speak to the phone to their children as Peppa.

"I thought they would dub her voice over with an American accent for the show in America – but that is Harley's voice."

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