



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Autumn 2 - 2021

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Another busy half term is drawing to a close and I know all the children are now very excited that Christmas is just around the corner. It has remained a challenging time in school to try and keep everyone as safe as we possibly can and I would like to thank you all for supporting us with the different measures we have had to introduce. I long for the day when we can all ditch the masks and spend time in large groups, but just for the time being, we need to proceed with caution. Towards the end of the Christmas break, I will update our Risk Assessment as necessary and share this with you all on the first day back.

I hope you have all enjoyed the various Facebook posts recently, particularly our daily advent calendar. We have had a lot of fun putting that together and it really helps to keep the Christmas spirit alive.

I hope you are all able to enjoy a very happy family Christmas without too many disruptions and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



Goodbye

One of our long standing members of staff, Anna Glendinning will be leaving Pear Tree at the end of term. Anna has been a fabulous teaching assistant over her 15 years with us, but she now feels the time is right to move on. We wish her lots of happiness in the future and she will be missed by us all.

New Arrivals

Many congratulations go to Alex (Compass Centre) and his wife Sophie on the recent birth of their daughter Olivia and also to Hannah (Teaching Assistant) and her husband Steven on the safe arrival of Charlie. Some lovely baby news!

Congratulations

Will Norris (Assistant Head and Pine Tree class teacher) is due to get married over the Christmas break to the lovely Nichole. We would all like to wish Will and Nichole the very best for a wonderful wedding day and future life together.



Creative Curriculum - Health

As part of our Creative Curriculum topic this half term, classes have been focusing on and learning all about how to be 'Healthy'. This has included healthy eating, a balanced diet, participating in exercise classes and also ways we could improve our own mental health.

In the Compass Centre, we have been lucky enough to have two personal trainers from Your Gym come and join us on a weekly basis to support a small group of pupils in engaging in a fitness class. As well as supporting the group to engage in the session, they have also been teaching the group about the benefits of exercise and why it is so important to participate in it for up to 60 minutes a day.

Classes have also been participating in the Lancashire Active Mile during this half term. They had the opportunity increase their daily miles by walking, running, skipping, hopping, cycling or by any other way that they could imagine. We joined lots of other school in Lancashire to be able to walk enough mile to reach Wellington, New Zealand, which is the furthest Commonwealth capital from Lancashire. This was a massive 11,541 miles that we had to cover.

Finally, classes have been learning all about what foods are health or unhealthy and have had the opportunity to try these. Pine Tree learnt about different fruits and even had the opportunity to make fruit kebabs, which I think went down a treat. With Elm Tree learning about how to swap different foods in order to make healthy pizza, which looked delicious.

We have all had a fantastic time this half term learning how and why we should be health in order to improve our own wellbeing and to become healthier!



Sad news

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news about the recent death of an ex-pupil. Antony McCracken was a pupil at Pear Tree from 2004 until 2019 when he left slightly early to move into his supported living home. Antony will be remembered by everyone who knew him for his determined nature, quick wit and cheeky smile. He has made a lasting impression on all who knew him, and our deepest sympathies go out to his loving family at this very sad time.



Lateral Flow Device Testing

A major part of our control measures in school has been the twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing which has uncovered many asymptomatic cases across the school and meant we were able to act fast with our risk assessment. As we return from the Christmas break, I would like all eligible pupils to test on the first day back. This will be undertaken on the first morning back and supported by our school staff. A letter to all eligible pupils has already been sent out and I would strongly urge that all pupils in Year 7 and above, are given permission for us to carry out the test.



Contact Tracing

If any pupil should test positive before 20/12/21, please could you contact me directly at head@peartree.lancs.sch.uk so that I can advise any close contacts to go for a PCR test.

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

Preparing for Employment and the Future

As our annual World of Work Week comes to a close, I wanted to share some of the fantastic experiences our young adults have had.

Before the week began, pupils across the upper school department completed simple application forms for a range of jobs, from working in local schools, train services, shops, and holiday parks. These were then read by staff and pupils were assigned employment opportunities within the community to best suit their ambitions.

Elm Tree pupils focused on trying out a range of vocational taster experiences within the classroom. They've learnt about working together as part of a team to care for animals, how to be healthy and safe within a kitchen, and the importance of following instructions from less familiar people, such as our visiting scientist.

Oak Tree pupils have started to access placements around school and in their immediate environment, such as cleaning the minibuses and supporting lower school pupils with some of the sports sessions. This gave them a feeling of responsibility, where they not only had to follow instructions as they are used to doing within a classroom, but also giving instructions to others to help them to learn too.



Sixth Form students have begun applying these employment skills further afield, for example catching the bus to Ribby Hall to work in areas such as the Spar shop and their banqueting department. They have also applied time keeping skills to ensure they returned from breaks promptly, and set off in time for a return bus to school.



Within the Compass Centre, students have worked hard to apply skills in following instructions from members of staff they are working with in school to new environments. Students worked particularly well in the local library, for example using the date stamp to mark a selection of books.

There has also been lots of work experience opportunities which have been provided for us by Northern Rail and Community Rail Lancashire, who have given opportunities for our students to operate ticket barriers, check tickets and pass messages on to employees.

On behalf of the students, I'd like to thank all of the staff and local businesses for supporting work placements across the school and wider community. It has not only provided opportunity to apply skills learnt in the classroom to the world of work, but also inspired our young adults to achieve the best they can in everything they do, to ensure that one day in the future, they can gain supported employment.



Future dates

Friday 17th December

School closes for Christmas break

Tuesday 4th January

School re-opens

Tuesday 4th January

On-site LFD testing for all eligible pupils with given consent

Friday 4th February 9.15am

Oak Tree class assembly

Wednesday 9th February

Young Voices at the Manchester Arena

Friday 11th February

School closes for half term break



