



# Pear Tree School

*Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do*

## Newsletter Spring 1 - 2019

### In this newsletter

- . New Arrivals
- . Parental Partnership Events
- . Independent Learning
- . Final Comment
- . Dates for your diary

# New Arrivals

The baby boom continues at Pear Tree. Lauren (Sixth Form) has recently given birth to a beautiful little girl, Thea and Emily (also in Sixth Form) has this week given birth to a lovely daughter, Martha Rose.

I would like to wish them both many happy times with their new families.

Other related news is that Lindsey Burt (Seedlings class teacher) will be returning to school following her maternity leave prior to the half term break and we are all very excited to welcome her back into school.

# Parent Partnership Events

## Open Afternoon

Following the huge success of our open afternoons in the autumn term, we would like to invite all parents into school on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. The afternoon will run from **1.30pm until 2.30pm**, after which you are welcome to join us for a coffee and a chat in the Meeting Place.

Feedback from the previous session was overwhelmingly positive and parents reported that it gave them a real insight to how the class is structured and the different activities that are on offer. It is also a fantastic opportunity for parents to meet the whole class team.

## School Improvement Evening – Parent Voice

I am always very keen to find out the views of all our parents and work with you to plan ways in which we can further improve our wonderful school. Therefore I would like to introduce a School Improvement Evening – Parent Voice event on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 6pm until 7pm**. This will be your opportunity to work alongside members of the Senior Leadership Team to shape School Improvement initiatives for the future of our school. I will send out a letter to all parents after the half term break to determine how many of you would be able to attend the evening. The reply slip will also give you the opportunity to suggest areas for discussion during the evening in addition to the feedback I will be giving from the latest Parental Questionnaires. I look forward to seeing you all there.

# Independent Learning

One of our School Improvement Plan priorities this year has been to further develop independent learning opportunities for all pupils across the school. Below are examples from each class demonstrating how the pupils are working towards this life skill.

## Seedlings Class



In Numeracy this half term we have been learning about shapes and developing independence skills in lots of different ways through reaching out for, exploring and matching shapes. Here Luke is completing his numeracy target of finding different shapes and then matching them to the correct 'Alien Shaped Saucer.' Luke understands what is being asked of him and will independently match each shape to the correct card, naming what each shape is as he does so. Luke now only needs minimal verbal prompts from a familiar member of staff to help him achieve this and shows a high level of motivation from numeracy based activities.

## Bay Tree Class



In PSD we have been learning about 'personal hygiene' and the importance of keeping clean and the different ways we can do this. During all our learning we focus on independent learning, but during this particular topic we discussed the different ways of keeping clean such as brushing our teeth, washing and wearing clean clothes, having a bath or shower, washing and brushing our hair and washing our hands and learning about the different items we need to complete these different routines. Each group completed different personal hygiene routines in their own way and as independently as they could. Prior to this photograph the group had been presented with a selection of different items and following an adult saying "What do you need to clean your teeth?" The pupils in this group identified the relevant items and independently used these items to clean their teeth.

## Maple Tree Class



In PSD we have been learning about how to keep our bodies fit and healthy. We learnt about how different parts of the body could be affected when we take part in exercise. We were able to feel where our own hearts were on our body and felt our hearts beating before and after exercise.

As part of a group activity the pupils were able to work independently and support each other to complete a jigsaw to show the different parts of the body. They each looked for areas of the body and helped each other to match the correct pieces. The group of pupils didn't need any adult support to complete this activity and were able to work together to communicate and complete the task.

## Pine Tree Class

In science we have looked at the many different ways in which we use electricity. Pupils have used a variety of different electrical appliances and had the opportunity to explore and observe their functions. Pupils were given the necessary tools to create a smoothie before being allowed to independently create their own recipe without adult support. Pupils used the blender, a chopping board and knives, as well as different fruits and vegetables in various ways to create unique flavours to share with their friends.

In our PSD lessons we have been looking at the different ways to make money. Pupils have explored job roles and been allowed to independently carry out various tasks and jobs throughout the school in order to earn money. They have then exchanged their earning for a chosen reward at the end of each lesson. Curtis has particularly enjoyed taking on the role of a cleaner.



## Elm Tree Class



In science this half term, we have been looking at completing a range of experiments linked to solids, liquids and gases. Some of our students have been exploring a range of small reactive experiments such as, exploring bath bombs and warm water; the students were able to hold the bath bombs and feel the air bubbles as they escape from the ball during the reaction!

Other than exploring bath bombs, some of our students in class have been working hard to follow instructions as independently as possible when creating their own exploding volcanoes. Our students were able to use their prediction skills to explain what affect each component would have on their experiment and with a few verbal prompts, they carried the experiment out individually and with minimal staff support.

This was a hugely motivating activity that showcased our student's inquisitive nature when given the chance to be as independent as possible and explore a safe experiment!

## Oak Tree Class



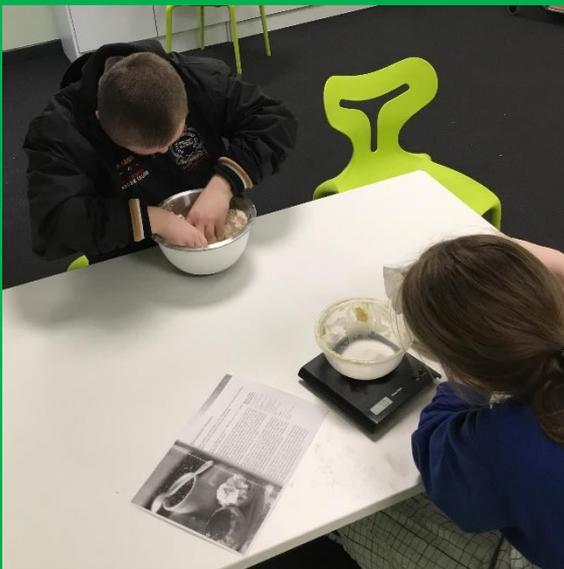
Oak Tree class have been learning about catering and food hygiene in Vocational Education and Independent Living Skills. We have also been to Blackpool and Fylde College to take part in catering sessions. The focus at college has been to independently follow an unfamiliar adult's instructions to make different foods. Once the adult had modelled what to do at each step our pupils had to remember what to do. We have also been trying to wash up and clean the utensils we have used as independently as possible too.

## Sixth Form



We have had a big push on independence within the Sixth Form in preparation for adulthood. Part of this has included students taking ownership of their development of skills for life at home. This has involved learning within various activities such as preparing healthy drinks and snacks, developing an awareness of hazards and food safety as well as washing up.

## Compass Centre



This term in our meal preparation sessions the pupils have been learning how to follow a recipe to make a cake. They have been focusing on being able to follow simple kitchen hygiene routines and then complete a task with minimal adult support. The pupils have had to read the recipe, find the equipment and ingredients and then follow each step independently. This has been a huge success and you can see how the pupils' confidence and self-esteem has grown when given the opportunity to complete the task on their own. The pupils had to work together to complete the recipe and have continued to develop their communication skills during the task. The cakes turned out really well and were delicious!

## Final Comment

Thank you for all your support this half term and for everything that you do for school. We all really do appreciate it and look forward to continuing to work closely with our families throughout the school year.

With warmest of wishes

Kate

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>      | Finish for half term                                   |
| <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>      | School re-opens  |
| <b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>     | Whole school open afternoon – 1.30pm – 2.30pm          |
| <b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>        | Parent Drop-in – Home Start                            |
| <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>        | School Improvement Evening – Parent Voice – 6pm-7pm    |
| <b>Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b> | Whole school MADD week (Music, Art Drama, Dance)       |
| <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>       | Parent Drop-in – Children and Family Wellbeing Service |
| <b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019</b>         | Pine Tree class assembly – 9.15am                      |
| <b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>        | Parent Drop-in – Ncompass                              |
| <b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>          | Finish for Easter                                      |