



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter Spring 1 - 2020

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Parental discussion event

I am looking to hold some parental discussion events after the half term break. They will be held on Tuesday 10th March at 1 p.m. and Monday 16th March at 6 p.m. covering the same topics at each session.

So far, I intend to cover:

- The new health and relationships curriculum
- Home School Communication
- Whole school ethos and values

If you have any other ideas for discussion, please contact me with your thoughts. I will send out a letter of interest following the half term break and I really look forward to seeing you at one of these events.



Hello/Goodbye

It has been a real mix of emotions this half term as we have had to say our goodbyes to some members of staff who have been at Pear Tree for such a long time. Amanda (Seedlings), Susan (Maple Tree), Jo (Oak Tree) and Melissa (Compass Centre) will all leave a huge gap here at school. Their passion, commitment and dedication over the years will be greatly missed and I know I speak on behalf of the whole school community when I wish them all the very best of luck with their new ventures. Exciting times ahead for them all.

The vacancies this has created has meant that we have been able to employ all 4 of our outstanding Apprentice teaching assistants as TA2s. Chloe, Dana, Lisa and James have had the best training possible from the Pear Tree Staff (biased, I know!) and we look forward to seeing them continue to develop their skill set as permanent members of staff. In addition to the apprentices we have also employed Rebecca (TA3), Gemma (TA2) and Rachel (Welfare Assistant). Hopefully you will have all seen sight of the new class list I sent home as this change of staffing has meant some minor changes within the class teams.



Young Voices 2020

What an amazing experience our pupils gained throughout the Young Voices process. This year, rehearsals were open to any age of pupils and all those that participated in the rehearsals were able to perform in a school concert to an audience of parents and the rest of the school. On Friday 31st January, students from upper school had the opportunity to perform in the national Young Voices concert at the Manchester Arena alongside thousands of other school children. I was so privileged to stand and sing alongside 12 Pear Tree pupils who sang their hearts out and did school and their parents proud. Thank you to Alex and the team for enabling this experience to happen.



The Creative Curriculum – Our World Theme



Learners from across school started the theme with an inspiration day. Each class was assigned a colour and tasked with taking photographs of this both in the hall and the local community to truly explore the worlds that are personal to them. This provided opportunities for learners to understand the need to ask permission before taking photographs of people and apply their ICT skills to the practical task of holding a camera steady and taking the photograph. These photos were then added to a template of the school logo.



Some of the older learners have applied the knowledge of their world to the importance of recycling. They now know the importance of this and the negative impact that plastics can have on the environment as well as how they can play a role in making a difference to the wider world. In contrast, some of the younger learners have been expressing themselves to create their own worlds linked to the literacy text they have been learning about.

The theme's exciting end will tie in to a national online safety day with a plethora of activities for everyone to access in the hall next week. All pupils will learn about being yourself and expressing individuality in an online world as well as how to keep themselves safe. As part of the activities on offer, students will be adding to the national campaign for online safety with an image posted to our social media page alongside the hashtag #freetobe.

Annual Reviews

Every child with an EHCP is required to have an annual review. We set all Annual Review dates at the start of the academic year as certain year groups require their reviews to take place by a certain date.

This academic year we have seen an increase in the number of reviews being cancelled at short notice and some where parents have not turned up. Whilst we understand that emergencies do occur, I would politely request that as much notice as possible is given if you are unable to attend on that date.

Moving forward, I will release dates for annual reviews when we set them towards the end of the academic year for the following year. You will still get a reminder letter of the date 6-8 weeks prior to the review.

Chairing annual reviews is one of the best bits about my job and I know you love attending them to find out more about your son/daughter's achievements.

Dates for diaries

Friday 14th February	School closes for half term
Monday 24th February	School re-opens
Tuesday 3rd March 1 p.m.	PTFA meeting (all welcome)
Tuesday 10th March 1 p.m.	Parental discussion event
Friday 13th March 9.15 a.m.	Maple Tree class assembly
Monday 16th March 6 p.m.	Parental discussion event
Wednesday 1st April	Upper School Production of Grease
Friday 3rd April	School closes for Easter break (2 weeks)

Thank you for your continued support.

With the warmest of wishes.

Kate

