



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Spring 1 - 2021

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Once again I find myself putting together a newsletter whilst the whole country is in Lockdown. This has been a very testing time and a time in which the whole school community has had to pull together and support each other. The dark and cold days do not help our mood, but we must try and remain positive and take our vitamin G daily – G is for Gratitude.

I remain so thankful that I am fortunate enough to be Headteacher of this wonderful school. I am thankful for the pupils, their families and the fabulous staff. I am so lucky!

I am continuing in my plans for a full re-opening of school on Monday 8th March and will be listening with great interest to the Prime Minister's update on 22 February. Following this, I will of course update you with my plans, when hopefully we can welcome all the children back into school once more. Keep going, we're nearly there!

Remote Learning

This has been a challenging time for both the teachers and parents. Our teachers have had to be very creative in how they deliver their lessons, so that they are accessible for both the pupils in school and those learning at home. It is also a very challenging time for parents too, particularly when our pupils crave the routine and structure which school offers. Thank you to all of you who are supporting our home learning; you are all doing a fabulous job. Thank you also for taking the time to complete our remote learning survey, as this will help to improve our offer and provision. I really appreciate (as do the teachers) the many emails of thanks and support we have received relating to remote learning. It really gives us a lift!

If you would like to read our Remote Learning Policy, it is available on the school website in the COVID-19 section.



Testing and Vaccinations

All staff are now being tested twice weekly, which gives the whole school community further reassurance. I was also blown away by how brave our upper school pupils were when they came to be tested. I thought I would be able to count on one hand the number of pupils who would consent to the procedure, but in reality it was only a very small number who refused. Well done to you all!

Fabulous news is that staff working in a special school supporting pupils with complex needs in Lancashire have now been prioritised for vaccination. This is amazing and we are now one step further in the fight against this terrible disease.

Wonderful Worlds Creative Curriculum Theme – Spring 2021

Following on from our 'inspirational people' creative curriculum theme, we decided to move away from the reality of our own world and escape to somewhere new and exciting. With this in mind, the theme 'Fantastic Worlds' was created.

At the start of the new term, classes were allocated a focus text set in an imaginative, wonderful world. Prior to reading this text, classes took part in many exciting and creative tasks to enhance their current understanding of 'fantasy fiction'. One of these tasks that pupils took part in was a series of 'divergent thinking' activities. During these sessions, pupils were encouraged to develop their creative thinking skills through exploring a range of mystery items using a multi-sensory approach, before suggesting what they could be. Pupils throughout the school demonstrated real imagination and fantastic creative thinking skills throughout all sessions. Pupils developed their understanding of familiar settings, characters and creatures typically found within this style of fiction, which would ultimately support them with later creative thinking tasks.



Pupils then arrived at school on the morning of our inspiration day to find their classroom's transformed into a new and exciting setting. It was then that pupils were introduced to their focus text for the half term. One class for example read *Alice in Wonderland*, whilst another began to read *Peter Pan*. This text was then read over the following weeks to allow pupils to become familiar with the typical conventions of 'fantasy fiction'. It was then, after a few weeks, that pupils throughout the school were tasked with changing aspects of their story using their developing creative thinking skills. Finally, after reading the familiar story and writing their new unique versions, pupils then developed their speaking and listening skills when participating in re-enactments of their own, adapted tales.

To end our creative curriculum theme, pupils were able to take part in a 'Zoom' party in order to share the fantastic work they had completed over the previous few weeks. Each class hosted their own party and invited all pupils working from home. During these parties pupils were able to play themed games whilst demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of 'fantasy fiction'. Throughout the half term pupils have developed a good understanding of this particular form of fiction, whilst also demonstrating great creative thinking skills. We look forward to continuing our work over the next half term when carrying out sessions linked to our new creative curriculum theme.



Hello and Welcome Back

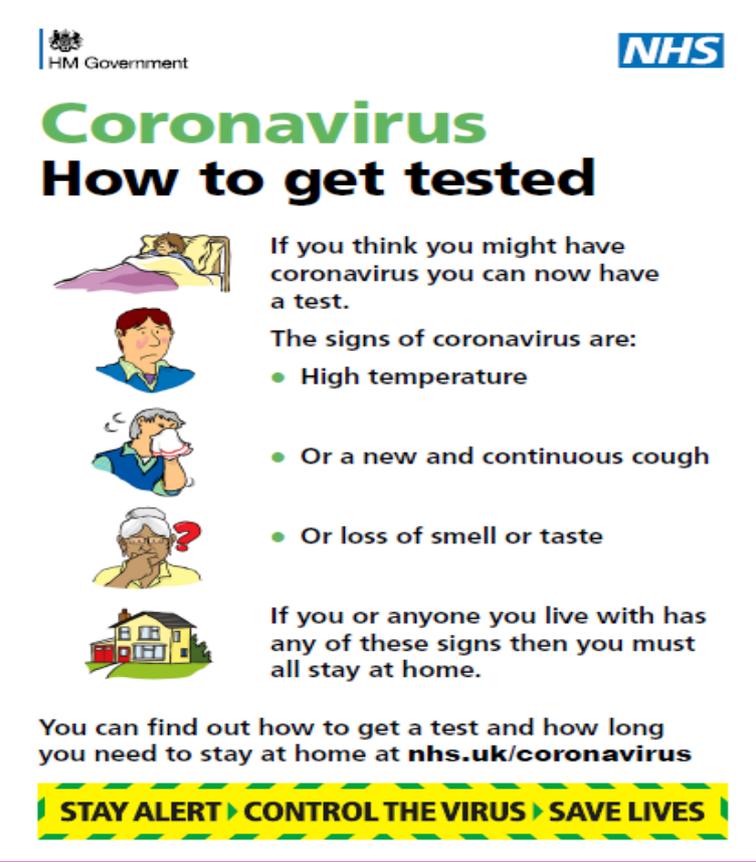
It has been lovely to welcome some new staff and pupils to our school community this term. Amy (TA2) and Harry (pupil) have joined Bay Tree class and Michelle (TA2) and Rio (pupil) have joined Pine Tree class. I hope they will all be very happy here with us at Pear Tree.

We also look forward to Jemma Manning (teacher) returning following her maternity leave. Jemma will be teaching in both Pine Tree and Elm Tree to release our two Assistant Headteachers to support me with some school improvement initiatives for part of the week.

Risk Assessment

Please can I ask all parents to ensure they understand the guidance around pupils coming into school if the pupil or a member of their household is displaying symptoms of coronavirus. This is clearly explained in our risk assessment however, unfortunately we have had a small number of children arrive at school only for us to later find out that members of their household are either symptomatic and in some cases, have already tested positive. This has resulted in us unnecessarily having to close down bubbles and on occasions, advise those within that bubble to self-isolate.

Thank you to the vast majority of you who are following the guidance.



HM Government **NHS**

Coronavirus

How to get tested

 If you think you might have coronavirus you can now have a test.

 The signs of coronavirus are:

- High temperature
- Or a new and continuous cough
- Or loss of smell or taste

 If you or anyone you live with has any of these signs then you must all stay at home.



You can find out how to get a test and how long you need to stay at home at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

