



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Spring 1 - 2022

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From all of my emails and letters this half term you will know that this has been an incredibly difficult half term for the whole of our Pear Tree community. COVID-19 has hit us very hard and at one point we had a quarter of the entire school absent, due to testing positive. As I write this newsletter I am more hopeful that the worst is behind us for now, and I can begin again to look towards a more positive remainder of the school year. Thankfully, the vast majority of symptoms in the children seemed to be mild, however many staff members have been very poorly although, luckily, no one has ended up in hospital because of it.

There has been some necessary disruption to many classes and although we have tried to minimise this, on occasions, I was left with no other alternative but to completely close classes. Thank you so much for your understanding on this matter. I have found these decisions extremely difficult to make, but safeguarding the class will always be my number 1 priority.

One fantastic opportunity this term was that I got to do 2 whole assemblies face to face with the children. Everyone was commenting how lovely and uplifting it was to be able to get back together in the hall, and I hope that we can return to this after the half term break. Hopefully soon, we will be able to start inviting parents back into our extraordinary assemblies too!

I do miss seeing you all face to face and have appreciated the many emails and phone calls of support which I have received this half term – thank you.

I hope you all enjoy a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing all the children on their return on 21/2/22.

With the warmest of wishes,

Kate



Hello and Goodbye

At the start of this term, we welcomed some Teaching Assistant Level 1's to school:

Jemma – Maple Tree

Matt – Elm Tree

Kim – Oak Tree

Sammy – Compass Centre

Sam – Compass Centre

Viktoriia – Sixth Form



We also have a new Site Manager in the school. Dale joined us on 7/2/22 and is looking forward to his new challenge ahead.

Just after the half term break, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Hilary in the school office. Many of you will have very fond memories of Hilary whether that being through your interactions on the phone, or maybe during the Holiday Club times. Hilary will definitely be missed at Pear Tree, and we would like to wish her so much love and luck for the future.

Heroes and Villains

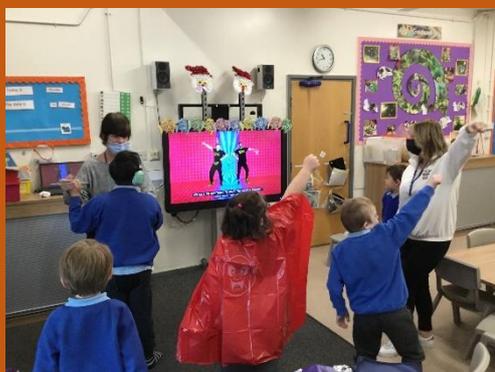
We all know how amazing our pupils are and they certainly are heroes in our eyes!

For this half term's theme we wanted to celebrate this and all of the other heroes out there. As well as developing our understanding of villains too of course, and how to protect ourselves against these!



As part of this we've seen Internet Safety Day where pupils across school have focused on how to make our Internet safe and secure, protecting ourselves and others from the potential dangers the Internet can pose. Please remember to support the application of this learning at home too, by checking your home broadband settings and wireless devices are set up correctly, discussing safe Internet use and asking us for help if you need any further support or advice.

In addition, pupils in lower school have been using their talk for writing skills to develop their understanding of what makes a hero. They have read different stories all linked to the theme 'heroes and villains' and have gained a good understanding of what it is that makes them a hero, through taking part in lots of different themed activities. Some pupils have designed their own hero costumes, whilst others have taken part in a 'hero boot camp' to develop their physical skills. Other pupils have created hero artwork, whilst others have made their own hero themed mini-movies. Finally, all pupils have developed their own creative writing skills through changing aspects of these familiar stories, using their own understanding of heroes and villains. Pupils have used their imaginations to think of new characters and events to make these familiar stories even more exciting! We have then enjoyed sharing our own stories with our friends whilst developing our speaking and listening skills.



In addition, some of our upper school learners have been using green screen technology to transform themselves into heroes before extending this in writing, through developing their own versions of comic books. Overall, all pupils have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the wide range of activities linked to this half-term's theme. We look forward to continuing our learning next half-term with our new creative curriculum theme, centered all on 'growth'.



Congratulations

Amy (Bay Tree TA) got married to Dave earlier this month and we would like to wish them both a lifetime of happiness.

Just Married

Emma Cross (TA) gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Ayda Louise. Congratulations go to the whole family.



Careers

As we nearly reach the half way point of the year, I thought it might be worth reflecting upon and celebrating all of the Careers opportunities taken place in school since the start of the year. In the last newsletter, you heard all about our annual world of work week, but that is just one week of focus and we have had so many more opportunities within our curriculum.

In the Sixth Form, we have added in Employability sessions to our curriculum this year, our formal learners focus upon understanding their strengths and limitations and focus upon how to build these skills to make themselves even better. This session has also seen us engage in workshops with other SEN schools across Lancashire to understand what skills employers are looking for and how to develop these. Within these sessions our students have been looking at the 8 skills in the Skills builder framework and how to develop these, trying out different job roles to stretch themselves.



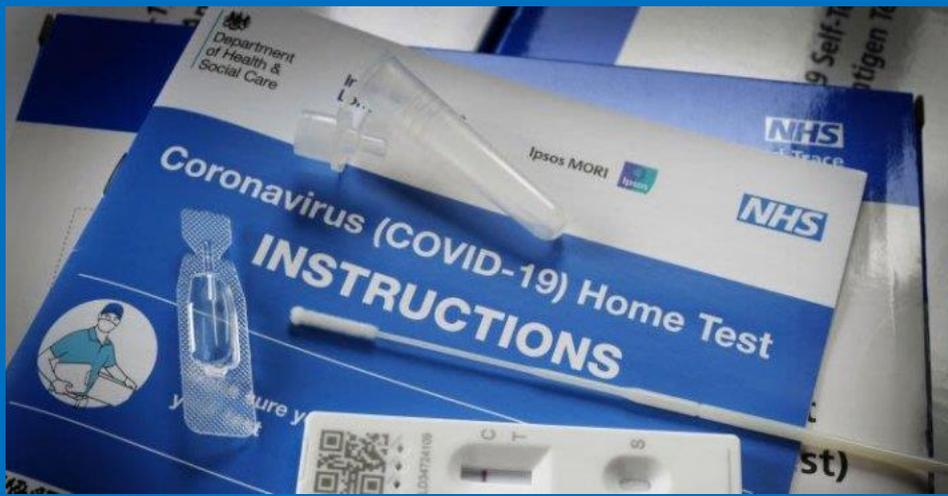
All of the Sixth Form students have begun to develop these skills in our Enrichment opportunities this year, making a choice of attending AFC Fylde sessions, or our new Bistro session. In AFC sessions, the students sample a range of different physical skills from dancing to archery; working as part of a team, developing leadership skills and those all-important communication skills. In Bistro our students have been running a pop-up takeaway coffee service, again communication skills have been pivotal, but with COVID limitations, it has also required a lot of creativity from staff and students alike as to how to safely run this service!



In Oak Tree Class, the students are introduced to the world of vocational education, by experiencing a taste of a new vocational topic each half term. So far this year, Oak Tree have had experiences in Hair & Beauty sessions, ICT & Media and Catering. A real variety to suit our unique pupils and their interests.

Lateral Flow Device Testing

A major part of our control measures in school has been the 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. In the last 2 weeks, many of you have given permission for staff to daily test your son/daughter, and I sincerely thank you for this. As we return from the half term break, class staff will no longer be daily testing the pupils, and I would request that pupils return to doing twice weekly tests at home and report positive results to school as well as via the government website. This relates to all pupils in Y7 and above.



Future dates

Monday 21 st February 2022	School re-opens for all pupils
Tuesday 22 nd March 2022	COVID-19 vaccinations in school for any pupils aged 12-19 who have not yet had their vaccinations. Further information to follow.
Friday 25 th March 2022	Bay Tree Class Assembly
Friday 1 st April 2022	School closes for Easter

