



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter Spring 2 – 2019

In this newsletter

- . Goodbye and Hello
- . New Arrivals
- . Geography /MFL Day
- . Teaching Assistant Apprentices
- . Parent Partnership
- . MADD Week
- . Dates for your diary

We have had yet another very busy and exciting half term with lots of opportunities for engaging learning activities throughout the whole school. I have been very fortunate to have been shown some fantastic writing skills from some of the pupils in Bay Tree class and they have blown me away with their early writing skills and letter formation.

There have been some theme days taking place this half term. The whole school participated in our MFL/Geography day which enabled all the pupils to immerse themselves in traditions, activities (and lots of food!) linked with various countries.

Our MADD week focus this year was on positive mental health and the children and young people were offered a range of music, art, drama and dance activities in which to develop their own self-esteem and focus on developing a positive mindset.

The whole staff team have gone above and beyond to plan and deliver these amazing opportunities and I once again thank them all for their passion and dedication.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming all the children and young people back into school on Tuesday 23rd April.

With the warmest of wishes

Kate

Goodbye and Hello

During the last half term we have said a fond farewell to Wendy and Karla from the Compass Centre who have both moved onto pastures new, also a bye-bye for now to Abbie and Layla who have temporarily left school to begin their maternity leave – exciting times.

We have welcomed Adrian and Gemma into the Compass Centre and Kirsten into Elm Tree class. They have all settled in well and we are enjoying having them as part of our school family.

New Arrivals

Abbie (Maple Tree class) has given birth to a very healthy (all 9lb 10oz of her) baby girl on Saturday 23rd March. Welcome to the world Poppy Isla!

Geography/MFL Day

This term at Pear Tree we held a fantastic Geography and Modern Foreign Languages day with each class participating and immersing themselves within the experiences provided. Classes represented a different country from around the world and enjoyed expanding upon their current understanding of their chosen country.



In the morning classes took part in a range of different activities

relating to their countries. Students learning all about India had the opportunity to make a traditional Indian chickpea curry, which went down a treat! Whilst in Spain, pupils took part in traditional Spanish games and activities, having a go at making Spanish foods and

making their very own piñata. Pupils in France made French flags and thoroughly enjoyed a French food and drink tasting session. In addition to these class based activities pupils also took part in a music session, having the opportunity to explore and play a range of instruments from around the world. Our more sensory learners took part in an interactive story, experiencing a range of different foods, smells and other sensory items from various cultures around the world.

In the afternoon, pupils visited the other classes and their countries, stamping their passports as they went. Pupils also participated in activities and shared their own knowledge of their given country. When visiting Italy, pupils were able to make pizzas, learn simple words and phrases and attempt to become the next Leonardo Da Vinci by making their own self-portraits. In China, pupils thoroughly enjoyed wearing traditional Chinese clothes whilst practising their skills in using chop-sticks. Finally, pupils in Brazil took part in a traditional Brazilian carnival! All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and are looking forward to learning even more about the different countries within their fantastic Geography and MFL lessons!



Teaching Assistant Apprentices

We have very recently appointed 5 teaching assistant apprentices to the school. The standard of applicants was extremely high, and we look forward to welcoming them to Pear Tree to begin their training after the Easter holiday. What a fantastic opportunity for both us and them.

MADD Week

This half term we have held our bi-annual music, art, dance and drama (MADD) week across school with our theme being healthy inside and out. Our sensory room was transformed into a zen garden focused around the senses, whilst Greg hosted some aqua-aerobic sessions in the swimming pool and we had a range of activities delivered by external practitioners from belly-dancing to yoga sessions, it was great fun!

The week kicked off in style with a wonderful whole school assembly which saw us focus upon things that are special to us; so many of our wonderful students brought in a range of items that were special to them, all unique and equally as lovely as the next. We held a healthy eating competition in which the classes each produced some marvellous healthy treats, judged one of our lovely governors, Karen Kin and with the assistance of Rebecca Warnock. We even displayed our art work in a pop-up gallery for parents to come and peruse around at their leisure.

Across school there was a wonderful buzz and a variety of activities to promote and develop the students' skills. The week finished in all its usual glory when John Morrow and his band came in to perform some jazz music, which our students loved and danced away to; a fantastic way to end the week celebrating all the hard work and achievements that took place on the busiest of weeks. After all they don't call it MADD week for nothing!



Parent Partnership

Thank you to those parents who attended our first School Improvement Evening – Parents' voice event. Those who came were able to give their opinions on the topics raised and as such have had an impact on whole school development. As I have previously mentioned, attendance was rather low and therefore we were only able to hear the voices of a select few. I have arranged to repeat the event on Thursday 25th April at 2pm so that I can gather more views and would encourage as many of you as possible to attend.

We continue to run a twice monthly parent drop-in session. Over the last couple of sessions participation has been extremely low and on some occasions, there have been no parents present. Lindsey invites different agencies to speak at the various sessions and it is a shame that not many of you are getting to hear their advice and support on offer. During the parental questionnaire, many of you asked for increased parental groups and I would ask you to let me know why our current offer has not been very successfully received.

Would parents appreciate a different format to the drop-ins? Please let me know so we can assure that more parents can benefit in the future.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 5th April	Finish for Easter
Tuesday 23rd April	School re-opens
Thursday 25th April	School Improvement Afternoon – Parent Voice – all welcome
Monday 6th May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Friday 17th May	Elm Tree class assembly – parents welcome
Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May	Post 16 residential visit to Borwick Hall
Friday 24th May	Finish for half term

