



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Summer 1 - 2019

In this newsletter

- . Parent Partnership
- . Leavers Assembly & Prize-giving
- . New Arrival
- . Apprentices
- . Blogs
- . Tropic Pamper Party
- . Dates for you diary

It doesn't seem two minutes since I was writing my previous newsletter to you all. This has been an incredibly short half term being only 5 weeks long and 2 of those weeks only being 4 day weeks. This has made us all work even harder as we have been trying to cram 6 or 7 weeks of learning into 5 short weeks.

Now the weather has finally improved it has been lovely to see the children accessing more outdoor learning. I thoroughly enjoyed observing our pupils in an outdoor PE session and I know they are all looking forward to sharing the work they have been doing with you at our Sports Festival.

In this final week, some of our older students from the Sixth Form and Compass Centre have attended a residential visit to Borwick Hall. Whilst there they were able to access a range of outdoor activities including caving, ghyll scrambling, the 'leap of faith' and canoeing. Have a look at some of the pictures below which shows them all having such a wonderful time. A lot of hard work goes into planning and running these sorts of experiences and I am once again indebted to our wonderful staff who enable these educational visits to take place.

I hope you all have a fabulous Spring Break and hope that the weather stays fine for you all.

Thank you for your continued support

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



Parent Partnership

Thank you to all who were able to attend our two parent partnership discussions. Those who did attend gave very positive feedback about the meeting and gave me some great contributions and ideas which I have considered as part of the new School Improvement Plan.

For those who would have liked to but were unable to attend, I did assure you that I would feedback the key points from the meetings in relation to the outcomes of the parental questionnaires.

The Parental Questionnaires were completed by 68% of parents which is an increase of 15% from the previous questionnaires two years ago. It is also worth noting that we were one of only four Lancashire special schools who chose to participate in this exercise.

When asked what were the biggest strengths of the school, you overwhelmingly identified the staff and I have to totally agree with you. Our amazing staff are what makes Pear Tree stand out from the crowd. Their dedication, passion and absolute love for all the children ensures that fabulous relationships are developed with the whole family so that, ultimately, the children are able to make the most progress they are able to. They make our outstanding facilities and provision come alive.

The areas which were identified by more than one of you as ways we could further improve included parking, after school clubs, helping parents to support their child's learning at home and also keeping parents well informed of their child's progress.

Parking - We have significantly increased the number of spaces available in the last 3 years by providing extensive parking to the rear of the school. Our site is limited and therefore we do not have any more available land on which to provide parking.

After-school clubs – A few years ago PIP (Play Inclusion Project) did run a weekly after school club, however due to low attendance it was not viable to continue with and so was closed. Transport was an issue as the high majority of our pupils are transported to and from school which could not be catered for following an after school club. We also ask for commitment from our teaching assistants to work at some point in our Holiday Club which is available to many of our children. I have to consider the well-being of our staff and do not want to stretch them so far that it starts to impact on the provision we are able to offer in school.

However, I am always open to ideas around this and if anyone can think of a solution and knows of any private groups who may be interested in this, then please come and speak to me.



Helping parents to support their child's learning at home – This is an area we are always working on and looking at ways in which we can improve. Currently we offer weekly homework, which I am aware varies in consistency across the school and I have put it as a school improvement action moving forward. We had a mixture of some very positive comments about the homework received and some parents were able to give suggestions as to how it could be further improved.

Next year we plan to share with parents our new ways of evidencing pupils' work and achievements. This will be through a program called 'Evidence for Learning'. It is a similar program to 'Tapestry' which is used within our Early Years department and provides regular photo updates to parents around their son/daughter's progress and achievements.

In addition to this, Social media is going to be introduced at Pear Tree next year which I know will please so many of you who have regularly requested this from the school and it will be yet another way in which we can share with you what is happening during our school day. I hope that by opening up our classrooms for our open afternoons has also helped you to gain a further insight into school life.

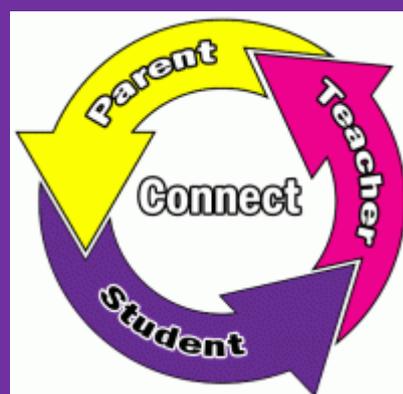


Keeping parents well informed about their child's progress – Again we had both positive comments about this and some parents who thought it could be even better. We currently give you formal feedback on progress annually at the Annual Review and then more regularly via IEPs (Individual Education Plans). In addition to these formal methods we offer home visits, home school communication diaries, phone calls, extraordinary assemblies to name but a few. I recognise that as a parent, some may appreciate more detailed communication in the home school diary. Class staff have to balance how much time they give to writing daily in diaries as it does take them away from working with the children, however, again I have put it as an action for our new School Improvement Plan to identify how we can further improve our communication and will share our ideas with you in the new school year.

I appreciate that this has been a lot of feedback and if you have got to the end of my report – Well Done!

I wanted to reassure you all that we do take your comments and feedback very seriously and as you can see, many of your suggestions will form part of our new School Improvement Plan to help us further improve our wonderful school.

I plan to hold another of these events in the new school year as it was great to hear directly from you as parents and I would urge as many of you who are able to, to attend so that we get a range of responses and ideas.



Leaver's Assembly & Prize-giving

In previous years, we have held our leavers' assembly in conjunction with the whole school prize-giving celebration. It is a wonderful event and is attended by many families and invited guests. This year there will be 13 students leaving Pear Tree and as such we have decided to hold the two events separately to accommodate the increase in numbers and to ensure each of our leavers get sufficient time to share their achievements.

Therefore, our whole school prize-giving celebration will take place on Wednesday 17th July at 9.30am and invites will be sent out to the families of all the prize winners in due course.

The leavers' assembly will take place on Thursday 18th July at 9.30am and the families of our leavers will be invited to this event. Further information regarding the celebration will be sent out shortly but I would also like to remind parents that Thursday 18th July is also the leavers' last day at Pear Tree School.

New Arrival

Layla Taylor-Eccleston and her husband Robert have welcomed baby Chester Robert weighing 6lb 6oz. We wish them well.

Apprentices

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we appointed 5 Teaching Assistant Apprentices prior to the Easter Holidays. They have been with us for a month now and Chloe, Emily, Lisa, James and Dana have settled in so well, it's like they have always been with us. They have each been based in a class for this half term and next half term will be moving around different classes across the school so that they get the opportunity and experience of working with a range of pupils.

Blogs

I hope you are all still enjoying reading the weekly blogs that classes put on the school website. They really effectively demonstrate the exciting learning activities taking place each week.

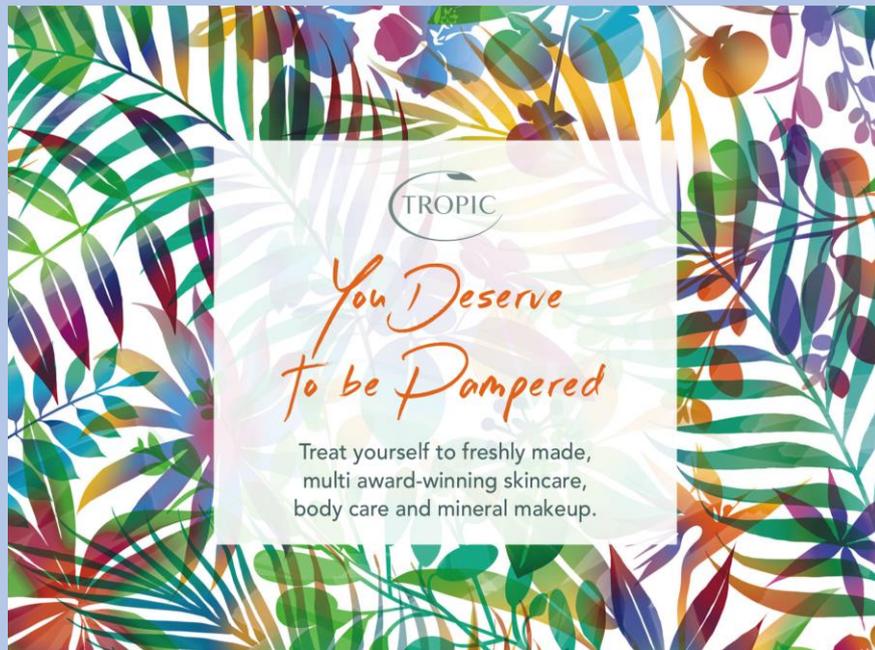
Please make comments on the blog as the children love to read and hear you thoughts.



Come and be pampered with Tropic at Pear Tree School

Tropic by Fee will be pampering us on June 26th 6-8pm

All money raised will be donated to the school
Come along and have a free facial while having a browse of this award winning range



Come and see this freshly made, award winning and natural skincare, body care and mineral makeup range. Tropic is vegan, cruelty-free and contains no toxic chemicals. It is eco-friendly and one of only 50 companies in the world to be carbon negative.

Everyone who comes is invited to enjoy a free facial and sample the body and makeup range too, so don't be shy why not bring a friend?

There will also be a chance to win some Tropic goodies in our raffle.

All proceeds will be donated to Pear Tree School.

It's a lovely few hours where you can relax and unwind while being pampered.

To find out more about Tropic go to:

www.fionafrise.com which takes you to Tropic by Fees personal page and tells you a bit more.

If you can't make it on the night don't worry you won't miss out - you can enter the raffle at school and also place an order if you fancy.

Have a browse through the brochure here:

https://issuu.com/tropicskincare/docs/2019_p_catalogue_issue14_lounge?e=29785623/68476589

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 24 th May	Finish for half term
Monday 3 rd June	Back to school
Monday 1 st July	Reports go home to parents
Wednesday 3rd July 5-7 p.m.	Open Evening – a chance for the whole family to attend and meet the staff your son/daughter will be working with next year.
Friday 5 th July	Seedlings Graduation
Tuesday 9 th July	Sports Festival
Thursday 11 th July 7-10 p.m.	Ribby Hall Family Disco – Everyone welcome
Wednesday 17 th July 9.30 a.m.	Prize-Giving Assembly
Thursday 18 th July 9.30 a.m.	Leavers' Assembly
	Leavers' last day
Friday 19 th July	Finish for the summer holidays

Further details of some of the events above will be sent out in due course.