



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Summer 1 - 2021

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What a wonderful half term it has been to finally have the vast majority of our children back in school, learning and having fun. The impact of this pandemic has clearly been felt by the whole school community and we continue with our individualised approach to supporting each person through their own journey. We must not lose sight that the virus does remain amongst us and I hope that this newsletter supports your understanding of the very cautious steps we are taking to return to some sort of normality.

I hope that the weather starts to improve soon to enable us all to enjoy our two week half term break which will enable us to feel fully rested for the final, and very busy, last half term of the school year.

Thank you all for your continued support

With the warmest of wishes

Kate

The Pear Tree Road Map

As cases continue to remain low within our community, I am satisfied that we are able to continue forward with our planned relaxation of measures within school.

From Monday 7th June, this will include:

- Disbanding the Community room and Hall bubble. These children will return to their original class base with their personalised timetables incorporated daily. Class teachers will have already spoken to the parents of the children this affects;
- Moving to two pods throughout school – Lower School and Upper School. This will allow us greater flexibility to cover any staff absence if required, however we remain committed to keeping our class bubbles intact whenever possible;
- Masks will be worn by all staff when moving throughout school, if covering staff absence in another bubble and when involved in personal care, moving and handling and food preparation;
- Children from Bay Tree, Maple Tree, Pine Tree and Elm Tree will resume eating their lunch in the school hall;
- Educational visits can commence using the school minibus however all accompanying staff must wear masks whilst on the vehicle;
- Some swimming sessions will commence for a small number of children where it has been identified as an essential part of their EHCP;
- Some travel training sessions will commence for some of the Sixth Form pupils;

All other measures including increased hygiene, regular testing and improved ventilation will continue.



Covid-19 Information

Covid-19 testing information for education settings: for parents

What tests are available:

There are two main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

1. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests are for people with symptoms and must be run through a laboratory to get a result.
2. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests – which are commonly referred to as rapid tests – are for people without symptoms and can yield results within 30 minutes of taking one.

The type of Covid-19 test you should take depends on whether you have any symptoms.

Testing for people without symptoms:

People who do not have any symptoms can test themselves for coronavirus with rapid tests. Free rapid testing is available to everyone in England, with people encouraged to test themselves twice a week.

How to get a rapid test

The main port of call for accessing rapid testing will usually be through your school or college. However, there are a number of other ways you can access rapid testing:

- Order home testing kits online.
- Many business offer workplace testing programmes, on-site or at home.
- You can collect home testing kits at your local test site
- You can collect a box of 7 rapid tests to use twice a week at home at participating pharmacies. Find your nearest site.

What to do if you test positive using a rapid test

If you or your child's rapid test result is positive, you and your close contacts will need to self-isolate immediately and book a confirmatory PCR test via the NHS as soon as possible. You will need to communicate this with your child's school.

Testing for people with symptoms

If you or your child have one or more of the following Covid-19 symptoms you must isolate immediately and book a PCR test via the NHS:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste



What to do if you don't have any classic Covid-19 symptoms

If you or your child have other new or unusual symptoms or if in doubt, **you can still get a PCR test.**

However, you do not need to immediately self-isolate for 10 days.

How to get a PCR test

If you or your child has any of the three classic symptoms, you can get a PCR test here: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/essential-worker>

If you or your child do not have any of the three classic symptoms, proceed through the questions and then tick the box that says: "My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms".

What to do if the PCR test is **positive**

If the result is positive, you and your close contacts must self-isolate immediately for 10 days from the day you took the test.

What to do if the PCR test is **negative**

If the result is negative, you do not need to isolate.

Outbreaks in education settings

In the event of an outbreak of Covid-19 at a school, your child may be asked to self-isolate for 10 days if they have come into close contact with a positive case

Infection Prevention and Control

The Infection Prevention and Control Team have produced a short video for schools with information about hand hygiene ready for the WHO Hand Hygiene day on 5th May 2021. The link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFV0xjK>



Arrival and Departure

To reduce the number of people arriving at and leaving school at the same time, we did introduce a staggered start and end of day. I am hopeful that by September, we will return to our original timings of the school day commencing for all children at 8.50am and ending at 3pm. Whilst I am happy for parents to continue for the remainder of the school year with the staggered starts, some of you may wish to move your child back onto transport to prepare them before the summer holiday. Please contact transport and school if you are planning to do this.



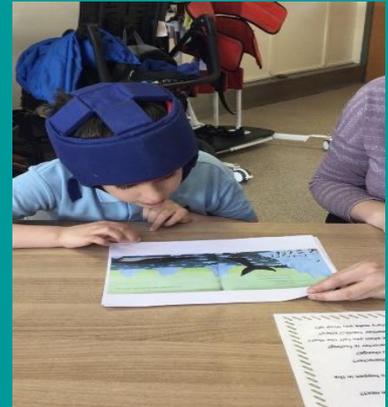
Creative Curriculum overview

This half term our whole school creative curriculum theme has been “Out of the Window.” We have been reflecting upon the past year, focussing upon the positives and looking out of the window at what exciting times are ahead of us. Each student created a piece of art that was a window into their life in the past 12 months, we celebrated new babies being born, special family memories and all of the great things that have come out of a challenging year. This art work has been displayed at the front of school and certainly brings a sense of optimism when it’s viewed.

For Inspiration Day we celebrated the hard work of the NHS by decorating our classrooms as rainbows. We also had a whole class assembly where we went on a ‘virtual’ whole school trip and dropped each class off at an exciting ‘virtual’ destination. All the students needed were a few props they found outside their window and their imagination!

Each class has taken their own view on what out of the window has meant to them, ensuring it remained age appropriate and could fit into their classrooms seamlessly. Maple Tree Class have been reading a story called “The Snail and the Whale”, about a wanderlust snail who needs some support from a Whale to help him see the world. In Pine Tree class, they have been looking out of their window to play eye-spy in phonics. Finally, in Oak Tree Class the pre-formal learners have been looking at seasons and creating art work linked to this, and the formal learners have been focussing upon graffiti and the work of artist Banksy. As you can see, a mixed variety of work has taken place and our students have had lots of opportunity to develop their understanding of the world outside of their window.

It has been a great opportunity for reflection as we slowly return to ‘normal life.’ A chance for the students to process and accept what has come before, but focus upon moving forwards. We are looking forward to celebrating the end of this topic for our Exciting End, as we have tied this into a wellbeing day for staff and students alike, and Will and I will be hosting a ‘Happy Day’ to say thank you and well done for getting through a difficult year in the most brilliant way.



Christmas Party

As, once again, we are unable to hold our annual Ribby Hall Summer Disco for the whole school community, we have decided to work towards a Christmas party to which all pupils, staff, families and friends are invited. This will take place on Wednesday 1st December at Ribby Hall. Further details to follow.



Open Evening

Our Annual Open Evening will this year be a remote event where you will have the opportunity to meet the new class teacher and teaching assistants your son/daughter will be based with next year. This will take place on Wednesday 7th July after school and you will be contacted with further details after the half term break.



Contact over the half term break

As in previous holidays, if any pupil should test positive for COVID-19 during the school holiday, they should email head@peartree.lancs.sch.uk if they became symptomatic or received a positive result within a 48 hour time period of last being in school.

I will be checking my emails once a day to pick up any messages for the first week of the holidays only. I will notify close contacts as necessary.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 21 st May	Happy Day – lots of exciting activities and events during the day for the children and staff. Children can wear clothes that make them feel happy!
Friday 21st May	Break up for half term – 2 weeks
Monday 7 th June	School re-opens
Monday 5 th July	Annual reports go home to parents
Wednesday 7 th July	'Meet the class team' – Parent and class team remote discussions
12 th – 14 th July	Borwick Hall residential visit for some leavers
Thursday 15 th July	Prize Giving Assembly – remote
Friday 16 th July	Leavers' Assembly and Leavers' last day at Pear Tree
Wednesday 21 st July	School closes for summer

