



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter

Summer 2 - 2021

In this newsletter

- . Chair of Governors
- . Goodbye and Good Luck
- . Creative Curriculum – Pear Tree Olympics
- . COVID-19 Update
- . Additional Bank Holiday Date
- . Final thoughts

Chair of Governors

Justin Kimber has been a member of the Pear Tree School Governing Body for many years and in the last 3 years has taken over the role of Chair. As his daughter, Antonia, has now come to the end of her Pear Tree journey, he has sadly decided to also step down from his role to focus his attention on her next steps into adulthood. Justin has been a fierce supporter of Pear Tree over the years and has both challenged and supported myself and the school in our decisions to ensure the best outcomes for our wonderful pupils. I will personally miss his support and friendship which has been much needed particularly throughout the recent pandemic. I am sure that he will keep in touch and I know you will all join me in thanking him so much for his wonderful contribution to the success of Pear Tree.

Our incoming Chair of Governors is Will Gale. Will was a previous school advisor for Pear Tree school and now retired is keen to continue his involvement. We are very fortunate that he already has an in-depth knowledge of Pear Tree and I know that he will continue in Justin's footsteps to work in partnership to make our school the best it can be.

We do have a parent governor vacancy and I would invite any of you who are interested in working with a friendly group of people to improve our school even further to register your interest in the new term. We will send out more information in September.

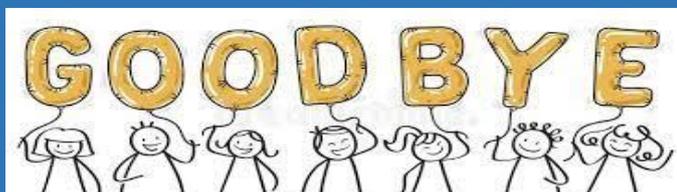
Goodbye and Good Luck

It is that time of year again when we get out our tissues and wave goodbye to some amazing pupils who are now leaving Pear Tree. Megan, Antonia, Bronagh, Dylan A, Sally, Dylan H, Saskia and Hannah will all be very much missed at Pear Tree. They have each played a significant part in the memories of so many staff and each one of them has achieved so much personally. They have all got an exciting future ahead of them and have each got a planned pathway into adulthood, tailor made to meet their very individual needs. I know I speak on behalf of everyone when I say a massive 'GOOD LUCK. WE WILL MISS YOU!'

We also have number of staff who will be sadly leaving us at the end of this academic year. Joan Falder has been at Pear Tree for over 20 years and has made the decision to take early retirement. Joan will be greatly missed by the whole school community for her hard working attitude and passionate approach to ensure that children receive the absolute best education they deserve.

Lindsey Burt, our Seedlings teacher will also be moving onto pastures new with her family who are relocating to Germany. Lindsey has been at Pear Tree for over 10 years with many of those being spent in our Early Years class. Lindsey has provided every child she had educated with the best start to their school life and I know so many families will greatly miss her positive, caring and enthusiastic manner.

Karla Glynn and Lucy Johnson (Teaching Assistants) and Alison Riley (Business Support Officer) have also secured new jobs to continue in their career development. We wish them lots of luck in their new settings.



Pear Tree Olympics 2021

Summer 2 Creative Curriculum Theme – Pear Tree Olympics

This half term's creative curriculum theme has been Pear Tree Olympics. This theme has been incorporated throughout school within various aspects of the curriculum and planned activities. The first week involved classes researching and watching some past Olympic opening ceremonies and gathering ideas and learning all about the Olympics. During the opening ceremony (Inspiration Day) via Zoom classes performed their own interpretation of an opening ceremony which included showing flags from around the world that they had decorated, performing dance routines, unique class Olympic torches being shown, we even had a student 'fly' into their class opening ceremony via the ceiling track hoist and the Pear Tree Olympics was officially declared underway when a class lit the Olympic flame.

Throughout the half term, lessons had been planned with this creative curriculum theme incorporated within activities. During the closing ceremony (Exciting End) on Friday 9th July 2021, classes showcased their learning and activities that they had completed during the half term, before we officially announced the 'Pear Tree Olympics' closed.



Covid-19 Update

In line with the government's proposed relaxation of health and safety measures regarding Covid-19, I will be updating the Whole School Risk Assessment in preparation for the new academic year. As that is still a number of weeks away yet, I will hold off making any final decisions until much nearer the time and look then at the data and information that is available to me. There are a couple of points that I would like to make you aware of:

- All pupils will be required to attend school from 8.50 am until 3 pm. There will be no staggered start times. If you would like to return to school transport you must contact the school transport team asap to arrange this.
- Any pupil who is presenting with coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive will continue to be required to self-isolate.
- All bubbles will be disbanded however we will proceed with caution for large group events
- School will continue to prioritise good ventilation, regular handwashing and thorough cleaning of the environment.

Please check your emails and the school website towards the end of the summer holidays when I will inform you of any further updates.

If your son/daughter should develop symptoms for Covid-19 within 48 hours of last being in school and subsequently test positive, please could you email this information to me head@peartree.lancs.sch.uk.

I will be checking my email on a daily basis up to and including 26th July should I need to inform any close contacts. After this date parents should contact the Government's Track and Trace system to inform them of a positive test and to arrange any contact tracing.



Additional Bank Holiday Date

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the Government have called an additional Bank Holiday. As the additional planned Bank Holiday will take place on Friday 3rd June during our Spring half term holiday break, schools have been advised to choose an additional day to reflect this.

We have decided to take Friday 29th April as a Bank Holiday and school will therefore be closed on this date to all pupils and staff. This is the same weekend as the early May Bank Holiday meaning that all families can enjoy an extended weekend break.



Final thoughts

I find myself reflecting on yet another turbulent year at Pear Tree. At the start of the academic year I was full of optimism that we would be moving forward and out of this pandemic yet there have been so many obstacles thrown in our way. The children have had such a disruptive year and the staff have had to face challenges like no other. Once again, our children have amazed us with their resilience and determination to succeed. It has been no easy feat and I have to take my hat off to this dedicated and committed group of professionals who have had to put their own anxieties aside and come into work each day to provide the top class care and education the pupils deserve.

Staff are now exhausted by this challenging year and I truly hope that they will be able to enjoy a restful summer holidays. They definitely do deserve it. My sincere thanks go out to all of our Pear Tree team who have firmly supported me in some of the very difficult decisions I have made, or restrictions I have had to impose. I am incredibly thankful that our risk assessment has ensured that throughout this whole pandemic, we have had very little transmission across the school.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported us throughout this year. The individual messages of support and appreciation have gone a long way to help us to keep our spirits up, and I thank you all for abiding by any of the decisions we have been forced to make for the safety of all.

I sincerely hope that the new academic year brings us a more settled and calm approach to school life, but whatever it brings, Pear Tree will face it head on!

I really hope to have the opportunity to see you more on a face to face basis next year and increase your involvement in school life.

We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on Thursday 2nd September.

With the warmest of wishes

Kate



