



Pear Tree School

Achieving the Best We Can in Everything We Do

Newsletter Autumn 2 - 2018

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World of Work Week 2018

What an amazing week we have had with some fantastic opportunities for our students to learn lots of new skills in their school day. The whole of Upper School has been involved in this fantastic week and we have had plenty of opportunity for work experience and to sample new college sessions both in school and out in the community.



Several sessions of hair and beauty took place with students being able to learn techniques from the professionals and then have the chance to practise these on each other. Lots of fantastic hair styles were seen all around Pear Tree; we definitely turned some heads!

Lytham St. Anne's High School came in and delivered a fantastic drama session to a group of our students. It was lovely to see the inclusive opportunities with the students working alongside one another in small groups to develop short drama pieces to deliver to the rest of the group. Some fantastic dramatic performances were seen when the whole group delivered a collaborative tale of "The Grinch".



Lynne Worden delivered a lovely session on floristry. The students each had the opportunity to make a winter door hanger display, choosing their own greenery and ornate extras to make their display look fabulous.

A Joinery session was delivered by Ian where each class had the opportunity to input into the long process of constructing the various parts needed to make a wonderful bird box. The students learnt some useful skills and were also really good at managing the risks whilst using the various tools.



Mark organised some fantastic days out on the trains for some of our students which saw lots of new opportunities to take a "behind the scenes" look at how our trains work every day. We would like to thank everyone who has given so much to help make this week such a roaring success both in school and in the community. We can't wait until next year!

New Arrivals

I am so pleased to be able to announce the safe arrival of two new babies. Leah Birchall (Oak Tree class) and her husband James welcomed Connor Eric into the world over the half term holiday and Sam Griffin (Compass Centre) and his wife Laura have welcomed Rosie Mavis. Both babies are absolutely delightful and have already brought so much joy to their families.

Prince William Award

We have all been working extremely hard on learning new skills in the Prince William Award sessions since September. The students are learning to work as part of a team, build resilience skills and develop their 'dare to be the best' attitudes. We learnt about remembrance and what skills the soldiers would have needed linked to the new skills we are learning including trusting others and showing confidence. We made a weeping wall of poppies and talked about what this signified, had a turn at being a soldier by wearing our instructor's beret and medal and made a lovely display of our work that was featured on the Skills Force twitter page! James and TJ were our certificate winners for great participation this term.



Wellbeing Award for School Update

We are well under way with gathering and inputting evidence for our Wellbeing Award. We have trained all staff in the first part of the Youth Mental Health First Aid which will help them to support our students experiencing difficulties with anxiety or depression and have a further session planned for the spring term. We are focussing on worries in the spring term and the students will be learning about how to express and manage worries effectively. Our student council will be filling in questionnaires about their understanding of how we support our students' wellbeing and mental health and making suggestions on how we can further improve this.

Blogs

Our class blogs are now up and running. Thank you for being so patient with us! Please take time to read about the exciting learning activities taking place each week and feel free to place a comment. The classes love reading the different comments during their news sessions.

Attendance

Thank you to all our families who work tirelessly to ensure that children come to school every day. As a school we have always been extremely proud of our attendance data and have always achieved above average rates of attendance. The very complex needs of some of our pupils does unfortunately mean that time away from school is a necessity and at times may involve very lengthy hospital stays. Understandably this will bring down attendance but school work creatively with yourselves and health professionals so that learning can still take place, where appropriate, no matter the environment the pupils find themselves in.

Recently attendance levels for the school have dropped quite significantly and I have been looking at ways in which we can support our pupils to attend school more regularly. Any holiday from school should be taken during school holidays except in exceptional circumstances. I do recognise that for some of our pupils taking holidays during general school holidays can prove difficult, therefore I have slightly changed our school holiday schedule for academic year 2019/20 which accompanies this newsletter. As you will see, we will be taking a full two week break at the end of May 2020. During this time the Holiday Club will be open for the first week and there will be a complete shutdown of school for the second week. In addition to giving our wonderful staff a well-earned break, it will also provide our families with a quieter time of year to go on holiday. I thank you for your support on this matter.

Parent Partnership Events

Open Afternoons

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the open afternoons in November. I received very positive feedback and I know that the pupils enjoyed sharing their learning experiences with their families. We will organise another open afternoon in the Spring Term. Details to follow.

Parent Discussion Evening

I would like to introduce a parent discussion evening in the New Year. This will be an opportunity for parents to come into school and work with the Senior Leadership Team on school improvement matters. I look forward to sharing more details about this event shortly.

A Miracle in Town

This half term lower school have been rehearsing for our Christmas nativity 'A Miracle in Town'. The children have told the story of the first Christmas and they have worked very hard to learn dance routines, lines and songs for the show. The story tells the tale of Mary and Joseph as they are told they are about to have a new baby and take the long journey to Bethlehem with their trusty donkey. Along the way we meet an inn keeper and his wife, farm animals, shepherds, sheep, angels, three kings and King Herod. Both the staff and the children have worked extremely hard to put together this fantastic production and it has definitely put us all in the Christmas spirit.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and I can't wait to see all our wonderful pupils back with us in the New Year.

Thank you for your continued support.

With the warmest of wishes.

Kate



Holiday list 2019 – 2020

Autumn Term

Open	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Close (Half Term)	Friday 18 th October 2019
Open	Monday 28 th October 2019
Close	Friday 20 th December 2019

Spring Term

Open	Monday 6 th January 2020
Close (Half Term)	Friday 14 th February 2020
Open	Monday 24 th February 2020
Close	Friday 3 rd April 2020

Summer Term

Open	Monday 20 th April 2020
May Day Closure	Monday 4 th May 2020
Close (Half Term)	Friday 22 nd May 2020
Open	Monday 8 th June 2020
Close	Tuesday 21 st July 2020

Staff Training Days

Monday 2nd September 2019
Friday 3rd January 2020
Wednesday 22nd July 2020
Thursday 23rd July 2020
Friday 24th July 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 21st December 2018	School closes for Christmas
Monday 7th January 2019	School re-opens
Thursday 17th January 2019	Parents Drop In morning
Thursday 7th February 2019	Parents Drop In morning
Friday 8th February 2019	Maple Tree Class Assembly – Parents invited
Friday 15th February 2019	School closes for half-term break