



# Pear Tree Mead Academy

## Newsletter

### May 2020



#### **A message from the Headteacher...**

It has been a very different half term to one that we would normally would have had. Year 2 and Year 6 children would have completed their SATs this half term. We know that many children will have been pleased about this but there will have also been many disappointed children who will have missed out on this part of their life journey. Next half term would have been end of reception assessment, phonics screening for Year 1 and the Year 4 multiplication tests. These are also no longer happening this year. We are sadly going to have to cancel many of the fun events that come after these more formal times. I know that staff and children will be really disappointed about this. As soon as we are allowed we will re-book these events and make sure that coming back to school is as fun as it can be.

At PTM we can't wait to have our school full of children again, we are following all government guidance and will continue to do so. The safety of our children and staff is our highest priority and we will only have the children back when it is safe to do so. This is open to change at any point. We may have children back and then decide that it isn't safe to do so.

Thank you so much to all the parents for their lovely comments and messages of support. We are pleased to know that we have been getting it right for you and your children. We will continue to try and do our very best for you all in our school community.

We know that this has been a really tricky time for everyone. I know that our family support team has been supporting families in many different ways; whether this has been SEND support, home learning help, food-bank parcels, care packages, craft packages, MIND referrals, home visits, liaising with other agencies, learning mentor phone calls, mental health resources or just a phone call to have someone to chat to. If you think you would like some extra support at this time, please do email and ask and we will find someone who can help you or your child.

Stay Safe

Mrs Peden  
Headteacher

#### **Proposed phased return 1st June 2020**

As you will have heard from the Prime Ministers recent speech, the government are hoping to begin a phased return of pupils to primary schools from 1st June 2020. This presents challenges in itself with regards to social distancing, however we have begun planning for this with only Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 6 returning to school initially. Please note that we will also still be providing childcare support for Key worker children. The information regarding this has been communicated to all parents. We continue to await government guidance with regards to when the remaining year groups will be allowed to return to school and we will communicate this information to you as soon as we have been provided with it. Children will be returned to PTM on a reduced part time timetable. This will be until we can be sure that classes are safe to return to 30 children.

## **Reminders/For Your Information**

### **Home Learning**

We are so proud of our children for all their dedication and hard work during this home learning period. They really have been excelling themselves! The teachers have been so impressed with all the work which has been sent through to [celebrations@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:celebrations@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk). Please keep it coming! It is wonderful to see!

Home learning packs will continue to come out to all year groups every two weeks. These should be completed by all children on the days that they are not attending school. If you require a new book you can come to school and pick one up from outside the main office.

Please adapt home learning packs to suit your children's interests and levels. All other year groups packs are on the website if you feel that they need easier or harder tasks to complete. Not all tasks need to be completed as we have offered you choices of activities to complete.

We will be asking children to hand in their home learning work once we have all returned to school and home learning has stopped. This can be in any form and can include all the other wonderful activities you have been up to. There will be no consequences or chasing up any work that has not been completed.

A reminder to logon to our home learning apps and programmes. Teachers are monitoring useage and celebrating successes.

If you need another home learning book they are outside the main office door in a box. Please come and take one.

### **Pear Tree Mead Website**

Please don't forget to make use of our school website. There is a kids learning zone which provides the opportunity for extended learning and new challenges! You can find specific work for your child's year group but also for different subjects. There are also assemblies to watch and the teacher videos! Please explore and enjoy! <http://www.peartreemead.essex.sch.uk/category/kidszone/>

### **Staff Videos**

We hope you have enjoyed watching the staff videos as much as the staff have enjoyed making them for you! Please keep your eyes peeled as we will be providing more videos for you. See if you can spot your favourite teacher! These videos will be posted in the kidzone for you! If you can think of a challenge for the staff, send it through, you never know, we might try it! These can be found on our website

### **Transition Meetings**

Usually in July we hold a meeting to give you more information about new classes. This will be not be able to happen this year in the same way. We will be sending out PowerPoints with this information so that you can help your child with their transition to new year groups.

### **Cancelled Events**

In these unprecedented times, we hope you will bear with us. Unfortunately there are a number of events that we will have to cancel. Please check the key dates section of this newsletter carefully for more information. We are sorry that our Summer term won't be the normal mix of excitement and fun however, we will do our best to continue to create happy memories for the children.

### **Events we are looking at running differently**

Please bear with us, we will try and run planned events if it is safe to do so for pupils, staff and parents. However, we may need to make adjustments to the 'normal' in order for us to achieve this.

This will include new Reception and Nursery Inductions which will be completed remotely. If this applies to you, you will be contacted soon with further information.

### **Friends of PTM Facebook Page**

Please pop over and have a look at our Facebook page. Lots of people are sharing ideas and coming together as a community.

## Reminders/For Your Information

### Class Requests

If you have specific friendship requests for your child for next year, please put your request in **writing** via email ([kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk)) for the attention of Mrs Peden by **Friday 5th June**. We will look at each case individually but cannot guarantee we will be able to fulfil your request.

**Please do not make requests for staff as these cannot be considered**

**At present the class teachers haven't been agreed for September. As soon as we know where teachers will be next year we will let you know.**

### Sharing with us

Please don't forget to share with us what you have been doing at home. This can be through our celebrations email [celebrations@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:celebrations@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk) or via Tapstry if your child is in Early Years.

You can share your child's home learning work or anything else that they have been up to. We love looking at all the work and photos and reading your messages.

### Communication

If you need to get in touch with us please do email Mrs Townsend. [kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kate.townsend@peartreemead.essex.sch.uk).

Mrs Townsend will pass messages on to the correct person and they will get in contact with you if needed.

She can help with—lost passwords for home learning online programmes, contact with Mrs Bartlett for meal vouchers or foodbank vouchers, contact with learning mentors, SEND help through our SEND team, safeguarding concerns, support with behaviour at home, mental health support and anything else that you may need.

### Staff Service

Thank you to the following members of staff for their continued hard work and dedication which has been even more apparent in these testing times.

April	Length of Service
Hayley Chippett	28
Rosemary Newland	24
Maria Rose	13
Katrina Thurgood	11
Lisa Oliver	7
Nicola Riddoch	6
Daniel Thurgood	4
Neil Mann	20
May	
Bex Doyle	8
Jodie Staples	2
Heather Leafe	5



*Thank You*

## **Reminders/For Your Information**

### **Governor Blog**

Hello Everyone,

I hope this blog finds you and your families all safe and well.

At the moment we are all experiencing unprecedented times. The staff at Pear Tree Mead Academy are working extremely hard to make the children and their family's transition in lockdown as smooth as possible.

As you can appreciate, the school has had to find new ways of working to continue to help support children and their education. Staff have used technology to help everyone to stay in touch, through platforms such as Facebook and Zoom.

All parents and children should have received a call from their teacher, teachers are working tirelessly to make sure work/activities are accessible and are able to be completed from home. The school are also advising on daily exercise for children. Curriculum letters for the half term have been sent, with ideas and topics to help with their learning. Teachers are also encouraging children, to bake, laugh, to play outside when appropriate, and share family time together. The school is still open to children whose families are key workers.

The Senior Leadership Team are currently working on their plans for Post lockdown and a return to school for some pupils. Strategies are being put in place around social distancing, phased returns and re-establishing the school routine. The staff are also looking at helping children to transition into their next stage of learning.

The Governors at Pear Tree Mead Academy have also had to think about how we monitor the school. We too have started to use Zoom for our Governor meetings, we have also continued to complete essential monitoring of school life around Mental Health, SEND and Safeguarding.

The Governors would also like to thank the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Teachers, TA's/Learning mentors/FLO/FST, Admin and Finance Staff, MDA's, Cleaners and of course our Site Manager for all their hard work during this current time. We have written to all of them to say thank you. We have also written to all the staff's children to say thank you to them as well.

Wendy Beckett

Chair of Governors

### **Year 6's**

Please bear with us, whilst we try and plan for the Year 6 children who will be leaving us in July. We will be looking at what we can do with the children at this difficult time. We will still be having leavers hoodies if you want to order one. (more information on this has already come out) We will be working out how we can do shirt signing and leavers books in a socially distanced way. We will also be looking at transition to secondary school and how we can help children with this at school. We will be looking at a leavers event for the children in a socially distanced manner at school. At the moment I have no more information about any of these events, but we will be in contact as soon as we know any more.

## Reminders/For Your Information

### Key Dates Information

DUE TO THE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES THAT WE FIND OURSELVES IN ALL DATES BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.		
25 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Half term week	Whole School
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020	All month – Yr 4 New Government Multiplication test <b>CANCELLED</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Non Pupil Day – SCHOOL CLOSED 2 <sup>nd</sup> Back to School for phased children and keyworkers 4 <sup>th</sup> Induction Meeting 9.00am <b>CANCELLED-will be completed remotely</b>	Yr 4 pupils Whole School Whole School New Reception parents
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	All week – Year 1 Phonics Screening check <b>CANCELLED</b>	Yr 1 pupils
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	18 <sup>th</sup> Induction Meeting 9.00am <b>CANCELLED</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Induction meeting 9.00am <b>CANCELLED-will be completed remotely</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Father's Day Afternoon <b>CANCELLED</b>	New Nursery parents New Nursery parents  Year 1-2 male adults
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020	25 <sup>th</sup> Nursery Sports Day <b>CANCELLED</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Reception Sports Day <b>CANCELLED</b> <b>(These may be run in school if manageable but not for parents)</b>	Nursery Reception
29 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	All week – dates to be confirmed – Book look with children and parents and new teacher presentations to parents. <b>CANCELLED</b> <b>(Presentations will be sent home via email and app before the end of the term)</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Early Years Reports home 1 <sup>st</sup> Year 6 End of year play 9.30am (tickets needed) <b>CANCELLED</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Changeover Day all day - <b>CANCELLED</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> (12-4.30pm) and 1 <sup>st</sup> (3.30 – 5.30pm) Pre-school / Reception and Nursery Parent's Evening (small hall) <b>CANCELLED-will be completed over the phone</b> Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July – School Summer Fete FOPTM <b>CANCELLED</b>	New Yr 1-6  Early Years Yr 6 parents Whole school Early Years  All welcome
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	8 <sup>th</sup> Year 2 Graduation Play at 9.30am and 2.00pm - Tickets will be sent to you. <b>CANCELLED</b> Swimming Gala – all week <b>CANCELLED</b>	Year 2 parents  Whole school
13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	15 <sup>th</sup> End of term results and attendance records <b>N/A</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Yr 6 Southend Trip (TBC) <b>CANCELLED</b> Cross class house competitions this week <b>CANCELLED</b> Class parties <b>CANCELLED</b>	Whole School Yr 6 Yr 1-6 Whole school
20 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	21 <sup>st</sup> Yr 6 Leavers Presentation Event 9.30am (Tickets needed) <b>CANCELLED</b> <b>Another event will be arranged – if social distancing can be agreed.</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Break the rules day FOPTM <b>CANCELLED</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Last day of term @ 1.30pm	Y6 parents  Whole school Whole school



**We wish you all a restful and  
relaxing Whitsun holiday.  
Please stay in and stay safe  
We look forward to seeing you all  
again very soon!**

